REGIONS OF VA AG PRODUCTS

MATERIALS: All materials are located in bin in Sprouse’s storage unit on the shelves on the left side. Get treasure chest on top shelf on left side of storage aisle to put the ag products.

TEACHING:

Lay out large map on the ground.

1. Look at this map of the state of Virginia. Which way is north? Which way is south? Which way is west? Which side is east?
2. Virginia is divided into 5 regions:
* Appalachian Plateau (Black and White checks – coal major industry) A plateau is an area of elevated land that is flat on top)
* Valley and Ridge (Green – farming is major industry) A valley is an area of low land between hills or mountains. A ridge is range of hills or mountains. The Blue Ridge Mountains and the Valley and Ridge regions are all part of a huge mountain system that stretches almost 2,000 miles from Newfoundland, Canada in the North to Alabama in the South. These are the U.S. states that the Appalachian Mountains run through: **Alabama**, **Georgia, Kentucky**, **Maryland**, **Mississippi**, **New York**, **North Carolina**, **Ohio**, **Pennsylvania**, **South Carolina**, **Tennessee**, and **Virginia**
* Blue Ridge (Red) Industry here is recreation and farming. This region is the source of many rivers including the James River which is the largest river in Virginia. We live in the James River watershed which is also part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed since the James River dumps into the Chesapeake Bay. You cross the James River every time you go to Scottsville, Fluvanna or west on 60 to Amherst.
* Piedmont (Black). This is the region that we live in and is the largest region in Virginia. The word Piedmont is French and means foot of the mountains. This region’s industry includes federal and state government, farming and the horse industry. Piedmont is west of the fall line.
* Fall Line – the natural border between the Coastal Plain Region and the Piedmont regions is called the fall line. This is where waterfalls prevent further travel on the James River.
* Coastal Plain (yellow) – This is flat land located east of the fall line. The Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay touch the edges of the Coastal Plain. Industries include shipbuilding, tourism and military bases.

Now let’s play a game. In this treasure chest are things which represent agricultural products in Virginia. When it is your turn, go to the chest, pick a bag and show the class the product. Then lay your product down in the region of Virginia that you think produces it. Some of these products have more than one region, but place the product in one of the regions and we will mention the other regions that produce the product as well.

Answer key:

Apples (2) Valley and Ridges/Blue Ridge

Chicken Valley and Ridges

Coal Appalachian Plateau (Black and White checks)

Corn Piedmont

Cotton Coastal Plain

Cow (Beef) Valley and Ridges

Cow (Dairy) Valley and Ridges

Eggs Valley and Ridges

Horse Piedmont

Peanuts Coastal Plain

Pig Coastal Plain

Sheep Valley and Ridges

Star Capitol – Richmond Piedmont

Seafood (fish) Coastal Plain

Seafood (oyster) Coastal Plain

Seafood (clams) Coastal Plain

Tobacco Piedmont

Wheat Piedmont