

# Virginia Master Naturalist Program Basic Training

## Virginia Biogeography

### Assessment Ideas

#### Written assessment question ideas:

1. List Virginia's physiographic provinces. For each one, list at least one natural community that occurs there.
2. Virginia is relatively biologically diverse. What are three environmental factors that contribute to this diversity?
3. What do the rapids of the James River in Richmond, Great Falls in the Potomac River, and the rapids of the Rappahannock River west of Fredericksburg all have in common?
4. Approximately 12,500-15,000 years ago, Virginia was dominated by pine-spruce and boreal forests. Today, spruce trees are uncommon in Virginia, occurring in abundance at only the highest elevations. Why did this change occur?

#### Practical assessment activity ideas:

1. Use the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Virginia Conservation Lands Map (<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/clinfo>) to identify managed conservation lands in the vicinity of your VMN chapter. Name at least one that has public access.
2. Give a 2-minute informal talk about any aspect of Virginia's biogeography (e.g., five physiographic provinces, a specific natural community, ways that climate varies across the state, etc.)

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