



Explorers of Western Virginia

Objective: Students will understand the contributions made to Western Virginia by various explorers.

GRADE LEVEL

Eighth Grade

TIME REQUIRED

Two to three class periods

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Who were the explorers that contributed to present West Virginia?
2. How did the various explorers contribute to present West Virginia?

STRATEGIC VOCABULARY

Gabriel Arthur

Morgan Morgan

Batts and Fallam

Louis Michel

Celoron de Blainville

Needham and Arthur

Patrick Gass

John Peter Salling

Christopher Gist

Alexander Spotswood

Joist Hite

Thomas Walker

John Lederer

Abraham Wood

Marlin and Sewell

LESSON ACTIVITIES

Materials needed: Construction paper, colored pencils, markers, copy paper (four sheets per student), graphic organizer, articles from *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

1. Print a copy of the following articles prior to class:
 - Gabriel Arthur: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/297>
 - Morgan Morgan: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2047>
 - Batts and Fallam: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/408>
 - Louis Michel: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1774>
 - Celoron de Blainville: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1033>
 - Needham and Arthur: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1620>
 - Patrick Gass: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2085>
 - John Peter Salling (Salley): <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/167>
 - Christopher Gist: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2113>



- Alexander Spotswood: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/537>
 - Joist Hite: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/429>
 - Thomas Walker: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/883>
 - John Lederer: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1332>
 - Abraham Wood: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1335>
 - Marlin and Sewell: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1508>
2. Place (glue/tape) each article onto a larger piece of construction paper/poster board. The articles are short and can be combined with another explorer. Also, by combining explorers, the number of groups will be shortened as well. Number the pages/articles to help facilitate “rotation” of information. Suggested numbering system: 1, 1A; 2, 2A; 3, 3A; etc. Articles concerning Morgan, Hite, Marlin, and Sewell should be placed together as they represent a common time period.
 3. Begin the class with a general discussion of exploration and the settlement of Virginia. Introduce the idea of how exploration shaped West Virginia.
 4. Divide the students into groups—one group for each set of numbered pages. There should be seven groups in total.
 5. Rotate the articles through the groups, allowing them to work together to complete the attached graphic organizer. Appoint a reader for the group to read the articles aloud. This task may rotate through the group.
 6. Allow approximately seven minutes for article readings. May use a timer/stopwatch or download timer from Internet to install on computer.

The rotation schedule for each group/articles should look like this:

Group 1	1, 1A	2, 2A	3, 3A	4, 4A	5, 5A	6, 6A	7, 7A, 7B
Group 2	2, 2A	3, 3A	4, 4A	5, 5A	6, 6A	7, 7A, 7B	1, 1A
Group 3	3, 3A	4, 4A	5, 5A	6, 6A	7, 7A, 7B	1, 1A	2, 2A
Group 4	4, 4A	5, 5A	6, 6A	7, 7A, 7B	1, 1A	2, 2A	3, 3A
Group 5	5, 5A	6, 6A	7, 7A, 7B	1, 1A	2, 2A	3, 3A	4, 4A
Group 6	6, 6A	7, 7A, 7B	1, 1A	2, 2A	3, 3A	4, 4A	5, 5A
Group 7	7, 7A, 7B	1, 1A	2, 2A	3, 3A	4, 4A	5, 5A	6, 6A

7. All groups will read the articles and complete the graphic organizer for each set of explorers.
8. Once all groups have read the articles and completed the graphic organizer, lead a discussion regarding the various explorers.
9. Distribute four 8½ x 11 sheets of paper to each student. Have students fold these papers in a book fold. (The following portion of this assignment may be given as homework, if desired.)
10. Students are to create a book entitled “Explorers of West Virginia.” Use the front page to design a cover for the book. Be sure that students put their names on this title page as well.
11. Create one page for each explorer, using information from their graphic organizer to complete the page. Included on each page should be a picture of something that would remind the students of this explorer (not necessarily a person). These books may be displayed in the classroom, library/media center, or in the hallway.
12. Ticket Out The Door: Students are to name three of the major explorers of present West Virginia and their contributions.



WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES

SOCIAL STUDIES

SS.8.20: Demonstrate an understanding of the settlement of Western Virginia and the United States by Native Americans and Europeans.

- Differentiate between the cultures and daily life of the Native Americans.
- Summarize the history of European exploration and settlement in western Virginia from the first endeavor of John Lederer through the settlement period including Morgan and other important explorers and settlers.

Explain the role of western Virginia in the French and Indian War.

Lesson Plan Created by Paula Meadows, Sherman Junior High School, pmeadows@access.k12.wv.us.



Name: _____

Date: _____

EXPLORERS OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXPLORER	TIME PERIOD	BEST KNOWN FOR	AREA EXPLORED	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Arthur, Gabriel				
Batts and Fallam (Thomas Batts, Thomas Wood, and Robert Fallam)				
de Blainville, Celoron				
Gass, Patrick				



Gist, Christopher				
Lederer, John				
Michel, Louis				
Needham and Arthur Expedition				
Salling, John Peter (Salley)				



Spotswood, Alexander				
Walker, Thomas				
Wood, Abraham				
Morgan, Morgan				
Marlin and Sewell				



Name: _____

Date: _____

EXPLORERS OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXPLORER	TIME PERIOD	BEST KNOWN FOR	AREA EXPLORED	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Arthur, Gabriel	May 1673-1674	Believed to be the first white man to see the Kanawha Valley; traveled with Needham to explore western lands; continued travel with Indians after Needham was killed.	Spanish West Florida (present day Alabama); Ohio Valley.	Needham and Arthur had been sent out by Abraham Wood.
Batts and Fallam (Thomas Batts, Thomas Wood, and Robert Fallam)	1671	Discovered the Woods River (Now called the New River).	Set out from Petersburg, Virginia, to explore the land west of the mountains; land in and around present day Fayette County.	Hoped to locate a trade route across the continent; the Batts and Fallam exploration was used in treaty negotiations to bolster England's claim to the Ohio Valley in negotiations following the French and Indian War.
de Blainville, Celoron	1749	Buried a leaden plate at the junction of Wheeling Creek and the Ohio River, claiming all territory drained by the streams in the name of Louis XV, king of France; buried an additional plate at the mouth of the Kanawha River (Point Pleasant)	Traveled the Allegheny and Ohio rivers; claimed land for France.	Buried a total of 4 leaden plates; land claimed by France was gained by a victorious Great Britain following the French and Indian War.
Gass, Patrick	1803	Traveled with the Lewis and Clark expedition into the western United States; provided a written record of the expedition	Western United States	Provided the only documented published account of the expedition until 1814; fought in the War of 1812 and was present at the British assault on Fort Erie.



Gist, Christopher	1750s	One of the first white men to explore present day West Virginia.	1 st Expedition—Chosen by the Ohio Company to explore and survey the frontier west of the Alleghenies—traveled much of Western Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and the Ohio Valley; 2 nd Expedition—traveled through much of present day West Virginia.	He was an Indian trader, coroner, surveyor, and road builder, and considered an educated man for the time; guided Washington’s unsuccessful mission to warn the French away from lands the English claimed in the west; guide for Braddock’s disastrous military campaign against Fort Duquesne.
Lederer, John	1670	First European to journey into the mountains of Virginia; first European to see the Shenandoah Valley; charged with finding a “shortcut” through the Appalachian mountains.	Mountains of Virginia, North Carolina.	German physician that was interested in trading with the Indians; made three excursions into the mountains of Virginia looking for a way around the Appalachian mountains; Discoveries helped open up trade with the Indians.
Michel, Louis	1706	Michel and other explorers visited present day Harpers Ferry and established at least a temporary settlement there; as a result of this trip, Michel produced and later published the first map of the region.	Harpers Ferry region.	Explorer and land speculator; from Bern, Switzerland; was among the earliest advocates of Swiss settlement in Western Virginia.
Needham and Arthur Expedition	1673	Sent by Abraham Wood of Fort Henry, Virginia, to explore the southwest interior from Virginia.	Traveled southwest from Fort Henry, the site of present Petersburg, Virginia, into North Carolina and Georgia; after Needham’s death, Arthur continued on in the company of Indians and traveled into the Big Sandy River area of Kentucky/WV.	Marked the last sponsored expedition by Abraham Wood.



Salling, John Peter (Salley)	1742	Discovery of coal at Peytona—Big Coal River.	Started a few miles east of the Natural Bridge (Virginia) on a journey to the Mississippi River; followed the New River to the Kanawha and Ohio rivers to the Mississippi; Big Coal River (Boone County).	Salling's account of his adventures provided Virginians with their first information about previously unknown regions, including present West Virginia; was held for approximately two years in New Orleans (treated as a spy); Escaped from captivity and returned home to Virginia.
Spotswood, Alexander	1716	Gave a small golden horseshoe to all members of his expedition to commemorate the event of crossing into the Shenandoah Valley; members were then known as Knights of the Golden Horseshoe; horseshoe was inscribed with the following: "Sic juvat transcendere montes"—Thus, let him swear to cross the mountains; Golden Horseshoe Test for 8 th grade students.	Followed the Rappahannock River; crossed over the Blue Ridge by way of Swift Run Gap into the Shenandoah Valley.	Lieutenant Governor of Virginia; keen interest in exploration and land speculation which inspired him to lead an expedition westward; hoped that English settlements west of the Blue Ridge would prevent the French and Indians from expanding into the Valley of Virginia.
Walker, Thomas	1748/1750	Located and named the Cumberland Gap.	Explored Virginia's New River Valley on a journey that took him on to the Holston River in present Tennessee; led the first recorded expedition into Kentucky and named the Cumberland Gap and Cumberland River; return route through present southern West Virginia crossed the headwaters of the Tug Fork, traversed the confluence of the New and Greenbrier rivers at present Hinton, and ascended most of the Greenbrier.	He was a physician, explorer, land speculator, farmer, merchant, legislator, and friend of famous Virginians; was an investor, agent, and surveyor for the Loyal Company of Virginia.
Wood, Abraham	1650	Was associated with three of the four 17th-century explorations from Virginia.	See John Lederer, Batts and Fallam, and Needham and Arthur.	Explorations are often confused with trading expeditions, but they were seeking a way through the Appalachian Mountains and to the South Sea.



Morgan, Morgan	1735	Traditionally considered to be the first white settler of West Virginia (Berkeley County).	Berkeley County area of West Virginia (western Virginia).	Received an original land patent for 1,000 acres in the Bunker Hill area of present Berkeley County; helped to establish Christ Episcopal Church in what is now Bunker Hill, along with fellow early settlers; sons were prominent pioneers of the area as well—David—a renowned Indian fighter in the Monongahela Valley; Zackquill—founder of Morgantown, and Morgan Morgan II was a prominent minister.
Hite, Joist	1731	Credited with starting the first settlement on Opequon Creek in Berkeley County.	Berkeley County area of West Virginia (Western Virginia).	Immigrated from Germany; given land grant of 100,000 acres; later, the king confirmed Lord Fairfax's title to local lands, calling into question surveys and land sales Hite had made. After decades of legal battles, Hite's side won, but not before both he and Fairfax were dead.
Marlin and Sewell	1749	First white residents of the Greenbrier Valley.	The mouth of Knapps Creek, the present site of Marlinton, Pocahontas County; Greenbrier Valley.	Marlin and Sewell had built a cabin together but later argued over religion and separated. By the time the Lewises (surveyor John Lewis and son Andrew) found them, Sewell had moved from the cabin to a nearby hollow sycamore tree as the best way to avoid further dispute and preserve his friendship with Marlin.



