CARDINAL COMPASS - CIVICS NO. 9 - HANDS-ON LEARNING - WITH CARL THE CARDINAL

Virginia and the Fifty States with Carl

VOL. 9

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Our State, Its Neighbors, and the Whole Country. Where do we live, and how is our state like and unlike its neighbors?



Cover illustration: an outline map with Virginia in gold, its Eastern Shore across the Chesapeake Bay, and its neighbors outlined around it.

Read together | **Do together** | **Grown-up with you**



Meet Carl - Traveler Carl

Carl the Cardinal is your guide. For this book, Carl carries a folded map and a small suitcase, and he points to Virginia, his home. Carl is learning how his one state fits among fifty. His green neckerchief and gold compass medallion stay on. Color your own Carl on the last page.

How to use this book

Read pages 2 to 5 together first. Then do the map work on page 6, compare two states side by side, and invent a pretend state of your own.

You will need: colored pencils or crayons, a pencil, and plain paper. The map you need is printed on page 6. Draw your star on it: no purchase is needed. Stickers are optional, only if your family already has them. An atlas or globe is nice to have if your family has one.

One state among fifty

What you already know: In Book 4, you met your city and county. In Books 5 and 6, you followed the country's Congress and courts. This book focuses on the state level: your state, and the forty-nine others.

State: one of the fifty parts of the United States, each with its own constitution and its own government under the Constitution.

Capital: the city where a state's government meets. Virginia's capital is Richmond.

General Assembly: Virginia's lawmaking body, with two houses: the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia.

Governor: the elected leader of a state and the leader of its executive branch, the part of government that carries out the laws. The governor leads one branch and is not the boss of the lawmakers or the courts. In Virginia, the governor can sign a bill into law, veto it (send it back), or recommend amendments (changes) for the General Assembly to consider. Virginia's process is like part of the President's job, but it is Virginia's own, not an identical copy.

Neighbor state: a state that touches yours.

Three levels, one country: your city or county, your state (Virginia), and the United States.

Sharing the work: federalism. Federalism is the sharing of government work between the country and the states. Each state has its own constitution and its own government. The United States Constitution divides the work: it gives some powers to the country's government, limits what every government may do, and protects people's rights. Powers the Constitution does not give to the country's government, and does not forbid to the states, are reserved to the states or to the people. So a state is a real government of its own, not just a neighborhood office of the country.

Virginia facts

Our state: the **Commonwealth of Virginia**. Commonwealth is part of Virginia's name, a title it shares with Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. It does not make Virginia a different kind of state. **Capital:** Richmond. **Lawmakers:** the General Assembly. **Leader:** the Governor, who leads the executive branch. **State bird:** the cardinal, Carl's own kind (Book 7).