A little more than thirty years after Christopher Columbus discovered the New World, other European explorers arrived in search of a water route to Asia as well as gold, silver, and other treasures. The exploration of Virginia, and more specifically western Virginia, did not occur for more than one hundred years after Columbus’s voyages.

As the population of Virginia grew, settlers pushed into the western lands, and later across the mountains, to find available land. Those who settled western Virginia included a variety of European emigrants (those who leave their native country to settle in another) who were looking for religious freedom. These settlers brought their customs, food, and language with them.
On April 26, 1607, some 104 English settlers sailed up a river named the James. A few days later, they chose a piece of land on which to build the first permanent English colony in the New World – Jamestown.
The northern part of western Virginia was surveyed by fur trader John Van Nehne. John Rolfe married Pocahontas and exported the first crop of tobacco. The Harpers’ ferry began carrying passengers across the Shenandoah River.

Some of the earliest industries in Jamestown included glassmaking and the production of wood products, pitch, and tar. By 1725, the colonies produced four-fifths of the tar and pitch used in England. In 1613, tobacco was introduced as a cash crop.

The first representative government in British America was convened at Jamestown by settlers who wanted input into the laws that would govern them. The first jury trial in British America was held in Jamestown when John Smith was acquitted of mutiny for allegedly concealing a mutiny movement by one of the settlers.

Christopher Columbus’s explorations revealed new continents to Europe. The Iroquois surrendered their claims to the land south of the Ohio River and to land in the eastern panhandle. The territory between the Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio River was ceded to the English by the Indians of the Six Nations.

Life Expectancy: Males around 30-40

Music: “Forester’s Reel,” “Soldiers Joy,” “Gaspe Reel,” and similar dance tunes. Hymns were also popular, including John Wesley’s Charleston Hymnal.

Education: Some children were taught at home, perhaps using the Bible as a textbook. In wealthier families, boys were trained in the classics (Latin and Greek) or French and liberal arts; girls learned homemaking skills, writing, and reading. Later, some boys were sent to England to be educated.

Literature: Popular authors included Samuel Pepys, New England writer Anne Bradstreet, Samuel Hardy, John Bunyan, Jonathan Edwards, Cotton Mather, and Benjamin Franklin.

Science/Technology: “India rubber,” which was to be used for everything from raincoats to erasers, was brought to Great Britain in 1736.
**Figure 22**
Timeline: 1625 – 1750

- **1650**
  - Wood-Bland expedition

- **1669 – 1671**
  - Lederer reached crest of Blue Ridge Mountains

- **1671**
  - Batts and Fallam reached New River

- **1673**
  - Needham-Arthur expedition

- **1676**
  - Bacon’s Rebellion

- **1681**
  - Charter for Pennsylvania granted to William Penn

- **1692**
  - Witchcraft trials held in Salem, Massachusetts

- **1638**
  - Delaware established by Swedish trading company

- **1706**
  - Louis Michel sketched Harpers Ferry region

- **1707**
  - Great Britain formed (England, Scotland, Wales)

- **1716**
  - Spotswood established the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe

- **1725**

- **1731**
  - Morgan Morgan settled in western Virginia

- **1732**
  - Georgia colony settled; George Washington born

- **1734**
  - Daniel Boone born

- **1740**
  - Captain Vitus Bering discovered Alaska

- **1747**
  - Ohio Land Company formed

- **1748**
  - Scots-Irish settled Draper’s Meadow

- **1749**
  - Céloron de Blainville buried lead plates at mouth of Kanawha River

- **1625**

- **1638**

- **1638**
  - Delaware established by Swedish trading company

- **1706**
  - Louis Michel sketched Harpers Ferry region

- **1707**
  - Great Britain formed (England, Scotland, Wales)
Finding the Main Idea

**Defining the Skill**

You should always read to find main ideas. The main idea, which is often the first sentence in a paragraph, is usually a single sentence that describes specific ideas or details. The main idea is followed by supporting details that explain, describe, prove, or clarify. Supporting details may tell who, what, where, when, or why. Supporting details may also provide examples, facts, or statistics.

The main idea is easy to locate if it is the first or last sentence in a paragraph. It is more difficult to identify the main idea, however, when it is located in the middle of the paragraph or is inferred instead of actually being stated.

**Practicing the Skill**

Copy the graphic organizer below on a separate sheet of paper. Then, read the following paragraph and identify the main idea and the supporting details. On your graphic organizer, write the main idea in the center circle and the supporting ideas on the circles that surround the center one.

Although Europeans and Native Americans sometimes found themselves on opposite sides of issues, the newcomers adopted many Indian ideas and lifestyles. The early pioneers made clothing and moccasins from buckskin and built canoes for river travel. They planted Indian crops like maize, popcorn, pumpkins, and tobacco in abandoned old fields. Wild turkey and black walnuts became a part of their diet; and words like moccasin, toboggan, skunk, succotash, and raccoon became part of their vocabulary.
In 1606, King James I of England granted charters (official permission to operate something, such as a colony) to two separate land companies, which collectively became known as the Virginia Company. The charters gave the two companies permission to establish settlements in different parts of North America. In December 1606, one of the companies—The Virginia Company of London (or, as it was more commonly called, the London Company)—sent three ships to Virginia to start a settlement on Roanoke Island, in what is now North Carolina. The group was led by Captain Christopher Newport, who commanded the largest of the three ships, the Susan Constant. After a 144-day trip across the Atlantic Ocean, bad weather drove the group of 105 persons north of their destination. They found themselves on a peninsula in the James River, about thirty miles from the present-day city of Richmond. In May 1607, this site became the location for the settlement of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in what is now the United States.

Above: From left to right are the Discovery, Susan Constant, and Godspeed, re-creations of the vessels that brought America’s first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607.
Jamestown was chosen as the site for the settlement because it could be easily defended and the land was not occupied by Native Americans. However, the location proved to be a challenge to the settlers. The low, marshy land where the settlement was established was a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Also, the brackish (slightly salty water, the result of the mixing of fresh water and salt water) water from the James River was not suitable for drinking.

A year after the settlement of Jamestown, Captain Newport left Jamestown to explore the lands of western Virginia, so the settlers could know what lay beyond their settlement. Newport hoped to find out more about the Native Americans who traveled throughout this isolated land.

**English Explorations in Western Virginia**

The first documented explorers of western Virginia—those who left written descriptions of their travels—were from the Tidewater and Piedmont regions of eastern Virginia. For the most part, they were people sent out by companies that were looking for profitable areas across the mountains.

The mountains of western Virginia proved to be a tremendous barrier to exploration. As a result, the Europeans investigated the easiest routes first. They looked for river valleys and gaps that would make it easier to cross the mountains and get to the land on the other side.
ABRAHAM WOOD

By the late 1640s, as more and more people came into Virginia, forts were built to protect the coastal settlements and the growing fur trade. All of the forts were built along important rivers, such as the Appomattox, James, and Rappahannock. Abraham Wood, the commander of Fort Henry on the Appomattox River in Virginia, was given the fort and six hundred acres of land in exchange for taking command of a fort in the wilderness. Although Wood already had a profitable fur-trading business with the Indians, he wanted to enlarge his territory and ensure that England claimed as much land as possible. To those ends, he led or sent expeditions (journeys for a specific purpose, such as exploration) westward.

The most important of Wood’s early expeditions took place in 1650. It was important not only because of the distance traveled, but also because the journey was documented and an account of it was later published. Wood and Edward Bland, a merchant, left Fort Henry and traveled westward through Occaneechi Indian lands to the origin of the Roanoke River. Bland kept the record of the trip, which was later published as a pamphlet entitled “The Discovery of New Brittaine.”

The pamphlet increased Virginians’ interest in western exploration, but a civil war in England delayed support from the land companies, which were based there. Although Wood probably made other expeditions trying to develop trade during this period, it was almost twenty years before England’s problems were settled and businessmen could again encourage trade and exploration.
In the late 1660s, Governor William Berkeley of Virginia sponsored a number of expeditions to expand the area claimed by Virginia. Perhaps the most interesting were three trips led by German physician John Lederer between 1669 and 1671. Lederer was the first European to document reaching the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains and enter what is now West Virginia in the area near Harpers Ferry. However, he was much criticized as an explorer. One of the most educated of the early explorers, Lederer’s journal included items that caused others to doubt his account. Two things in particular raised questions about his account of his expedition.

First, some of his references were thought to be imaginary. Scholars scoffed at his accounts of seeing “lions,” the “Atlantick Ocean,” and “feathered ornaments . . . of peacock.” They thought Lederer could not possibly have seen these things; however, the scholars may have been wrong. It is entirely possible that Lederer’s “lions” were American cougars, which were known to inhabit the Appalachian Mountains in 1670. It was also possible that, when the explorer looked back toward the east from the Blue Ridge Mountains, he mistook the fog that shrouded the distant valleys for the ocean. This would explain his reference to the “Atlantick.” Finally, because the eastern Woodland Indians traded extensively with the Spaniards and southern Indians, it would have been possible for them to have peacock feathers.

Second, some scholars believe that Lederer sometimes recorded hearsay (things heard in rumors or gossip) instead of facts. For example, he recorded stories of huge Indian women who “shoot arrows over their husbands’ shoulders.” Using women as warriors was unacceptable to the Indians. However, Lederer may have been told this story by one tribe as a way to belittle a rival tribe. Having no way to determine whether the statement was accurate, Lederer may have recorded it as fact.

Although he is probably best remembered for his journal, Lederer also made a map of western Virginia. The map included the territory between the Atlantic Ocean and the Blue Ridge Mountains.
THOMAS BATTs AND ROBERT FALLAM

In 1671, Abraham Wood outfitted another western expedition, hoping to find flowing water on the other side of the mountains. At that time, anyone who discovered a stream or a river could claim all the lands drained by it. Several others accompanied Captain Thomas Batts, the leader of the expedition. These included Robert Fallam, who kept a journal; Thomas Wood, who may have been a relative of Abraham Wood and who died along the way; Penecute, an Appomattox Indian who served as a guide; and Jack Weason, perhaps a former indentured servant of Abraham Wood. Several other Indians later joined the group.

On September 1, the group left Fort Henry, near Petersburg, Virginia, and traveled along the Appomattox River. They continued westward on horseback and crossed the mountains into uncharted territory. Along the way, they passed two trees on which were written in charcoal the letters M.A.N.I. and MA. Nl. They passed a third tree with the letters MA carved into its bark. The tree markings may indicate that Batts and Fallam were not the first explorers to travel into this area. There are, however, no records to prove this.

Traveling through the mountains, Batts and Fallam eventually came to the New River. In two weeks they had gone downriver as far as they could (near Swope’s Knob in present-day Monroe County) before they ran out of provisions and the Indians’ fear of a change of weather stopped them. Before they turned back, they claimed the territory and marked several trees with hot irons. The trees were burned with the letters CR for English King Charles II, WB for Virginia Governor William Berkeley, AW for Abraham Wood, and TB: RF.P. The letter P was for Penecute. Because these English explorers marked territory by burning initials into tree trunks, the M.A.N.I. markings mentioned earlier were probably also left by Englishmen.

Batts and Fallam carefully documented their trip, but some historians think they may have followed a different route. Their charting of the New River, however, strengthened England’s claim to the Allegheny Valley, which includes the Ohio River Valley.
Although these early expeditions did increase trade between Virginia and the western Indians, the Occanechi had a monopoly (the sole possession or control of something) on the trading activity. Hoping to break this control, Abraham Wood persuaded James Needham to undertake a trip to the interior. Wood hoped Needham could establish trade directly with the Cherokee. Accompanying Needham on the trip were several Indians and Gabriel Arthur.
Needham and Arthur immediately headed for the backcountry of the Carolinas (the region west of the fall line) where they encountered the Occaneechi at Staunton River. The Indians, angry over the attempt to break their trade monopoly, promptly forced the group back to Fort Henry. Wood persuaded Needham and Arthur to try again. On the second try, the explorers succeeded in reaching the Cherokee in present-day Tennessee. Along the way, they probably touched the headwaters of the New River and crossed the mountains by way of the Yadkin River.

The Cherokee welcomed Needham and Arthur, and Needham was able to work out a trade agreement. The treaty eliminated the Occaneechi as middlemen for all trade between the Cherokee and the Virginians. When the negotiations were finished, Needham and several Cherokee returned to Fort Henry. Arthur stayed behind in Tennessee with the Cherokee so he could learn their language.

A month later, Needham planned to return for Arthur. He set out with the Cherokee and an Occaneechi guide named Indian John. But before they had gone too far, Indian John killed Needham. After Needham’s death, the Cherokee returned to their village and reported what had happened. Their chief decided to detain Arthur, perhaps to protect him from the Occaneechi or perhaps out of fear that the English might retaliate against the Cherokee for Needham’s death.

Sometime later, Arthur was permitted to go with a trading party traveling south to what was then Spanish West Florida, probably near present-day Mobile, Alabama. On the way back, the traders passed through Tennessee and western Virginia. Arthur and the Cherokee apparently followed the Coal River to a Moneton Indian village located where the Coal enters the Kanawha River, near present-day St. Albans. Arthur is believed to be the first European to see the Kanawha River.

As the group proceeded north to trade with the Shawnee, some accounts say that Arthur was wounded and captured in a battle. Later, he did return to Fort Henry, accompanied by several Cherokee and a load of furs. Lasting about a year, from the summer of 1673 through June 1674, Arthur’s adventure strengthened the direct trade agreement negotiated by Needham. The agreement ended the trading superiority of the Spaniards and the Occaneechi.
French Exploration in Western Virginia

While the English were exploring western Virginia from the east, the French were exploring it from the north. The French had settled in Canada and had built settlements along the St. Lawrence River. From there, they explored the Great Lakes and nearby rivers. One explorer, Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle, heard from the Indians about a river called the Ohio that flowed to the sea. In 1669, La Salle, accompanied by several Frenchmen and Indians, reportedly crossed from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River. The group sailed downstream as far as the Falls of the Ohio at present-day Louisville, Kentucky.

As a result of La Salle’s journey, France claimed the Ohio Valley. As you recall, the English also claimed this area two years later because of the Batts-Fallam expedition. This dual claim would later lead to confrontation and war between the French and English.

A Temporary Stop To Exploration

As the French increased their exploration of the interior of North America, the English seemingly lost interest in the area. There were several reasons for this. First, Abraham Wood died, and Virginia lost its main promoter of exploration. Second, Governor William Berkeley, who had supported Wood’s efforts, angered the western settlers by refusing to send troops to protect them after a series of Indian attacks in 1675.

Reacting to Berkeley’s lack of concern, Nathaniel Bacon, a young planter, organized his own militia (a military force composed mostly of citizen-soldiers) and led a successful expedition against the Indians. Bacon then called for government reforms to help the western settlers. Berkeley responded by declaring Bacon a rebel. In September 1676, Bacon and his followers attacked and burned Jamestown. Governor Berkeley fled, leaving the colony under Bacon’s control for a short time. However, within days of his victory, Bacon became very ill and died. Berkeley regained control of the colony and later hanged twenty-three of Bacon’s followers.

When the news of these events reached England, many supporters of the western fur trade withdrew their support. From the time of Bacon’s 1676 rebellion until 1716, a period of forty years, Virginia did not officially engage in exploration.
Alexander Spotswood

Virginia’s interest in western exploration returned in 1710 when Alexander Spotswood was sent from Great Britain to serve as lieutenant governor. In his first six years in Virginia, Spotswood heard many stories about the vast, rich land beyond the mountains. In 1716, he personally set out on a journey hoping to expand Great Britain’s settlements, establish new markets, and counter French expansion in the area.

Spotswood assembled a party of thirty aristocrats, a number of servants, and several Indian guides. Realizing the importance of accurately documenting their journey, Spotswood also brought along Frenchman John Fontaine to serve as the party’s recorder. After a ceremonial kickoff at the colonial capital in Williamsburg, the group set off in August 1716 amidst a picnic-like atmosphere. The men took along fancy clothing, several cases of liquor, and plenty of food.

Although the trip started with festivity, the group soon encountered difficulties. According to a recorded account:

> About eight we were on horseback, and about ten we came to a thicket so tightly laced together, that we had a great deal of trouble to get through; our baggage was injured, our clothes torn all to rags, and the saddles and holsters also torn.

> We had two of our men sick with the measles, and one of our horses poisoned with a rattlesnake. . . . The sides of the mountains were so full of vines and briers, that we were forced to clear most of the way before us.

The group also experienced good times. One entry reported, “We killed three bears this day, which exercised the horses as well as the men.” They hunted and enjoyed evening feasts. After dinner, they sometimes sat around campfires and told stories and sang songs. The group traveled almost five hundred miles. Their journal reported:

> We drank King George’s health, and all the Royal Family’s, at the very top of the Appalachian Mountains. . . . We crossed the river which we called Euphrates [the Shenandoah]. It is very deep; the main course of the water is north; . . . I went a swimming in it.

When they crossed the river, the lieutenant governor buried a bottle with a proclamation in it claiming the land for the British king.

Something Extra!

At the end of his term as lieutenant governor, Alexander Spotswood started an iron furnace near present-day Fredericksburg, Virginia. In 1730, he was made deputy postmaster general of the American colonies.
After returning from what would later be known as the Shenandoah Valley, Spotswood began a campaign to obtain land in the region. He encouraged settlement of the area by picturing it as an agricultural paradise. He was able to convince Great Britain to establish forts in the area and pass laws that made it easier to purchase land. As a result, more people moved into the backcountry.

Spotswood also awarded a gift to each gentleman who accompanied him across the mountains. According to Hugh Jones in a 1724 sermon,

*The governor presented each of his companions with a golden horseshoe, some of which I have seen studded with valuable stones, resembling the heads of nails, with the inscription, “Sic jurat transcendere montes.”*

Translated from Latin, the inscription reads “Thus it was decided to cross the mountains.” On the reverse side was written “Order of the Golden Horseshoe.” Because of this, the recipients became known as “The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.”

Spotswood’s gifts still have meaning today. The annual Golden Horseshoe test for students of West Virginia Studies rewards top scorers with a day at the capitol in Charleston. The students are dubbed Knights or Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe and receive miniature golden horseshoes in recognition of their accomplishment.

**Explorations Lead To Conflicts**

Both the French and the British claimed the Ohio and Mississippi valley regions. And both sides wanted to control the fur trade with the Native Americans. The French built a series of forts from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River, mainly at river junctions, to reinforce their claims to the land. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of British traders and settlers began making their way across the mountains. Before long, the two nations found the Ohio Valley was not big enough to accommodate both.
British interest in the area beyond the mountains grew as more knowledge became available. In 1742, Sir William Gooch, the governor of Virginia, commissioned a group led by John Howard and John Peter Salling (or Salley) to explore as far west as the Mississippi River. The Virginia government saw the expedition as a way to dispute the French claims to the Ohio Valley area.

Howard, Salling, and the rest of their group traveled north along the South Branch of the Potomac River and then south to its headwaters. They continued southwest by land, crossing the Allegheny Mountains. When they came to the New River, they killed five buffalo and used the hides to cover the frame of a boat that was large enough to carry the entire group. The explorers followed the New River northwest. Travel on the river was difficult because of the large number of rocks and waterfalls they encountered. They decided to leave the New River and travel southwest on foot across the hills. Soon they came to a smaller, calmer river. While traveling along this river, near Peytona in Boone County, the explorers saw coal for the first time. As a result, they named the smaller river the Coal River. The adventurers followed the Coal River north to the Kanawha River near present-day St. Albans and then followed the Kanawha to the Ohio River at Point Pleasant. They arrived at the Ohio River on May 6, about two months after they left home. They continued on the Ohio, finally reaching the Mississippi River on June 7.

Although Howard and Salling passed from British into French territory, they were not intercepted until July 2. That morning, they had gone ashore to cook breakfast when a company of Frenchmen and Indians surprised them. They were made prisoners and taken to New Orleans. Salling was imprisoned in New Orleans, but the others were taken to France for trial. Because no charges were brought against the men in France, Howard and his followers were released and permitted to travel to London.
After two years, Salling escaped from the French and made his way back to Virginia. A journal of his travels, which was later published, again increased interest in western Virginia. In 1751, Peter Jefferson and Joshua Fry, cartographers and acquaintances of Salling, published a new map of western Virginia. Information on the map probably came from Salling’s journal.

CÉLORON DE BLAINVILLE

The French were also actively exploring the territory west of the Appalachians. In 1749, the governor of Canada ordered an expedition sent to the Ohio River to claim all the land drained by that river for King Louis XV of France. Pierre Joseph Céloron de Blainville led around 250 men, including Indians, to the banks of the Ohio, where they buried engraved lead plates as proof of French ownership. Of the three plates that have been found, one is of particular importance to West Virginia. This plate was buried at the mouth of the Kanawha River in 1749 and was found by a boy in 1846.

Two journals were kept of the trip—one by de Blainville and the other by Father Bonnecamps, a Jesuit mathematician. Father Bonnecamps also served as cartographer for the expedition. The two journals described the flora, fauna, and geography of the land and provided strong evidence for French claims to the Ohio Valley.
Many of the early explorations were driven by a desire for monetary or military gain. Early explorers were often individuals looking for adventure, although governments financed some. By the middle of the eighteenth century, however, the nature of British explorations changed. Privately owned land companies in search of profits began sending explorers to the lands across the mountains.

Two of the most important land-company explorers were Dr. Thomas Walker and Christopher Gist. The Loyal Land Company employed Dr. Walker, while Gist was an employee of the Ohio Land Company. These two companies distrusted each other, and each tried to gain an advantage over the other through exploration and eventual settlement.

In 1750, the Loyal Land Company sent Walker out to inspect the 800,000 acres it had received as a land grant from the Council of Virginia. The grant was in the southern part of Virginia and included what is now part of southern West Virginia. The trip took Walker through the Cumberland Gap (which he named) and north to the Kentucky River. At this point, Walker and his six companions turned eastward. They followed the Tug Fork River and crossed to the New River. Just below the mouth of the Greenbrier River, they crossed the New River and followed the Greenbrier northward. Along the Greenbrier Valley, Walker found scattered settlements.

Christopher Gist played a slightly different role from previous explorers. Although cartographers and journal writers had almost always been included in the western expeditions, Gist was a surveyor, one who measures and maps out the size, shape, position, and so on of an area of land. Gist made two trips to explore the Ohio Land Company’s claims—one in 1750-1751 and a second in 1751-1752.

Dr. Thomas Walker was a close friend of Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson. Walker actually became Thomas Jefferson’s guardian after Peter’s early death.
On his first trip, he began near what is now Cumberland, Maryland. He crossed the Ohio River, went down through present-day Kentucky, and returned along the Yadkin River in North Carolina. On Gist’s second trip, he explored an area bordered by the Monongahela, Ohio, and Kanawha rivers. Gist kept an accurate account of the topography, minerals, and animal and plant life.

### Reviewing the Section

#### Reviewing the Content

1. Who had a monopoly on the trade between Virginia and the western Indians?

2. What area of North America did France control in the early 1700s?

3. Who claimed territory for his country by burying lead plates to mark the land?

#### Using the Content

1. Write a newspaper headline and news story about one of the expeditions described in this section.

2. Pretend that you are a leader of an early expedition that will soon set out for western Virginia. Make a list of the items that you will need to take on the voyage.

#### Extending the Reading Skill

Read the first paragraph on page 302, which begins with “While the English were exploring western Virginia.” Then, answer the following questions.

1. What is the main idea of the reading?

2. What sentence in the reading states the main idea?

3. Which sentences provide supporting details?

4. What are some of the details?
Early Settlers in Western Virginia

As you read, look for

- reasons for the settlement of western Virginia;
- the location of the first settlement in western Virginia;
- reasons for the arrival of Europeans such as the Germans and the Scots-Irish;
- names of the early settlers in western Virginia;
- terms: frontier, speculator, denomination, discriminate, indentured servant, slavery.

Settlers soon followed explorers into western Virginia. Because the laws and customs of European countries did not allow the common people to own land, they hoped they could make a better life for themselves in the backcountry of the New World. In Europe, opportunity was reserved for those of aristocratic (noble) birth. Those who were born into a lower station had no hope of advancement. However, the frontier of America—the area just at the edge of or beyond a settled area—was considered the great equalizer. Success and acceptance there were based on ability. Democracy took root on the frontier.

Reasons for Settlement

One of the first known people to take an active interest in settling the new land was Louis Michel, a native of Switzerland. In 1706, Michel visited the land along the Potomac River and sketched a map of the area that was to become known as Harpers Ferry. He hoped the sketches would attract others to the area.

After 1730, settlement increased due to several factors. First, the reports of the early explorers who investigated the area told of unspoiled beauty and untold adventure. Second, because they were afraid the French would
gain control of the land east of the Ohio River, the British encouraged settlers to move there to discourage further French expansion. Third, as land became scarce in the middle colonies of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware, many people moved toward the unsettled area where they could acquire “breathing room.”

Finally, there was Virginia’s revision of its land policies. The Virginia government feared not only French advances but also claims to western land by Maryland and Pennsylvania. As a result, in 1730 the colony of Virginia established a policy giving land speculators 1,000 acres for each family settling in western Virginia. Speculators are people who buy something, such as land, hoping it will increase in value and, when sold, provide a profit. This policy provided an opportunity for speculators to make money by selling land to settlers. To prevent a large exodus (departure) from its own colony, the Virginia government stated that these settlers could not come from established Virginia settlements. Thus, most of the migration to western Virginia came from the middle colonies, which had been populated by Germans, Scots-Irish, and English.

An unplanned result of Virginia’s land policies was that a variety of religious groups found their way into the frontier. Since the settlers could practice religious beliefs of their choosing, a mixture of denominations (religious groups) could be found. Some of the churches established there were Episcopal, Presbyterian, Quaker, Lutheran, German Reformed, Church of the Brethren (Dunkard), Mennonite, Moravian, Seventh-Day Baptist, Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic. Not all churches had enough clergy (ministers or priests) to adequately serve the spread-out settlements; therefore, circuit-riding preachers visited some isolated areas once every few weeks. Some of the more remote settlements were visited only once or twice a year.

**Settlers Come to Western Virginia**

It took Virginians from 1607 until almost 1750 to settle as far as the Appalachian Mountains. Settlement was slow because there were no roads on which people and their wagons could travel.
FIRST PERMANENT SETTLER IN WESTERN VIRGINIA

Morgan Morgan is usually credited with being the first permanent European settler in western Virginia. He moved from Delaware, crossed Maryland, and entered western Virginia from the north. Although he was a well-known business and government official in Delaware, Morgan decided to seek new adventures on the western frontier. Because he had lived in Delaware (one of the middle colonies), Morgan qualified to receive land under Virginia’s land policies.

Morgan was typical of the early settlers who moved to the area. Probably in 1731, some sixty years after John Lederer first explored the area, Morgan took his wife and five children over the mountains on a horse-drawn sled. When they arrived near where Martinsburg is located today, Morgan built a crude log cabin. He then spent three years building a more substantial one. Soon other settlers followed his lead; in a short time, there were enough settlers to have a church and school. Morgan, Jacob Hite, and Dr. John Briscoe established a church in 1740. The church, Christ Episcopal Church, offered services to the public until a few years ago.

The frontier life was good for Morgan. He became a highly respected advocate for the state of Virginia. He appointed himself justice of the peace, an office he had held in Delaware. He also formed a militia and was named captain. He established an inn and became the first hotel proprietor in western Virginia. He also organized the building of a road from his home to Winchester, about twenty miles away. Morgan actually physically helped construct the road.

Morgan and his wife had three more children. Some of their children and grandchildren established settlements of their own. Zackquill Morgan established Morgan’s Fort (Morgantown); his sons Levi, Mod, and James established a fort at New Martinsville.
GERMAN SETTLERS

Prominent among the European settlers of western Virginia were the Germans, who had come from the Rhine River valley. This area of Europe, called the Palatinate, was the scene of many wars. Control of the area changed back and forth between the German states and France. Tired of warfare, people from that region fled to America.

Because they also suffered religious persecution in their homeland, the Germans looked for a place to settle where they would have religious freedom. The German settlers first sailed into Philadelphia. While some settled there, others moved into western Pennsylvania or east to New Jersey. These settlers became known as the Pennsylvania Dutch from the mispronunciation of the word Deutsch, the German word for “German.”

Some believe there may have been German settlers in western Virginia before Morgan Morgan came to the area. In 1730, Virginia granted ten thousand acres of land in the Shenandoah Valley to Isaac Van Meter, a resident of New Jersey. Later, Isaac and his brother John obtained 40,000 acres on the condition that a certain number of families locate there within a given period of time. The Van Meters sold some of their land to Robert MacKay and Joist Hite, a German from New York, who settled near Winchester. Later, Hite acquired more land, which was transferred to Thomas Shepherd and ultimately became the town of Shepherdstown.
SCOTS-IRISH SETTLERS

A group of Europeans who followed the Germans into western Virginia were the Scots-Irish. Actually, they were no more Irish than the Germans were Dutch. They were Scots who had been settled in northern Ireland by King James I of England. The Scots did not relate to the Irish way of life. Differences in culture, religion, and language divided the two groups. Perhaps the biggest difference, however, was religion. The Irish were Roman Catholic, while the Scots were Presbyterian. After living almost one hundred years in Ireland, the Scots became known as Scots-Irish.

The Scots-Irish were discriminated against (denied their rights because of prejudice) in Ireland. They could not practice their religion or hold political offices. Restrictions were placed on their farming practices. In the 1700s, when the chance to go to America arose, many fled Europe. They settled in Pennsylvania and then moved south as land became available in Virginia. Since these people had not suffered from wars like the Germans, they were not opposed to fighting. As a result, they did most of the frontier fighting. Since they had suffered politically, religiously, and economically, they were willing to fight for their rights. The Scots-Irish instilled (implanted into a person’s mind gradually) a love of freedom and democracy into the frontier people of western Virginia.

While the Germans settled in the eastern panhandle of present-day West Virginia, the Scots-Irish moved farther to the southeast—into the Greenbrier Valley. In 1748, the Scots-Irish founded the first settlement west of the Allegheny Divide. Draper’s Meadow, as it was called, was populated by, among others, the Drapers and the Ingles, who had come from Pennsylvania.
LATER SETTLERS

In 1751, Andrew Lewis, a surveyor whose family owned part of the Greenbrier Valley, crossed the mountains. There he met Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell. Marlin and Sewell were friends who had settled in the valley in 1749. Two years later, their friendship broke up over religious differences. When Lewis met them, Marlin was living in a rough cabin the two had built; Sewell was living in the hollow trunk of a sycamore tree. Today, the two early settlers are remembered each time we cross Sewell Mountain or visit the town of Marlinton.

Other settlers from the East continued to cross the mountains. In 1753, the families of David Tygart and Robert Files settled near the present town of Beverly. Tygart Valley and Files Creek bear their names today. Two years after establishing a settlement, the entire Files family, except for one son, was killed by Indians.

INDENTURED SERVANTS

Early settlers had a desire to succeed. Many of them saw escape from the European continent as their only hope against war, religious persecution, and discrimination. In order to escape, many became indentured servants. Under this system, people agreed to work for a period of years as servants in America in exchange for passage to the New World. A ship’s captain transported a boatload of immigrants across the Atlantic and then “sold” them for a period of indenture—usually seven years. At the end of this time, the servants became free people, free to move west and start new lives. Some families in West Virginia today can trace their lineage to an ancestor who came to America as an indentured servant.

One bad aspect of the system was that many Africans, who were sold as indentured servants, were never released. This helped establish a system of slavery (the practice of owning people as property and forcing those people to work for a slaveholder) in the United States. In 1619, a Dutch pirate ship brought twenty Africans...
Andrew Lewis, the third son of Colonel John and Margaret Lynn Lewis, was born in 1720, in Donegal County, Ireland. Around 1729, his parents, who were Scots-Irish, moved the family to Pennsylvania. Later they moved to Augusta County, Virginia—in the area where Greenbrier County is located today. Lewis spent fifteen years there developing his farm and working as a surveyor for the Greenbrier Land Company before he decided to enter the military.

Because of his skill and hard work, Lewis moved quickly through the ranks in the military—from captain to general. One of his first assignments was to command a company of Augusta volunteers at Fort Necessity at the beginning of the French and Indian War. He was there with George Washington when the fort was surrendered to the French.

Lewis is probably best remembered for the role he played in the Battle of Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774. Virginia’s royal governor, Lord Dunmore, ordered him to assemble a militia to fight a force of Shawnee led by Cornstalk. The battle was tragic for Lewis because his brother Charles was among the casualties.

Lewis continued to serve in the military during the American Revolution. In 1776, at the beginning of the war, he commanded American forces in Williamsburg, Virginia. He did not live to see the United States receive its independence, however. He resigned his commission in the Army in 1777 because of ill health, but continued his service to Virginia by serving on Governor Thomas Jefferson’s executive council. Lewis died on September 26, 1782, after a sudden illness.
to Virginia and sold them to English planters. Although the democratic ideals of the Scots-Irish and the Germans’ belief in equality never allowed slavery to gain a firm hold in the area west of the mountains, the first blacks entered western Virginia in the 1750s. They were brought to the Greenbrier/New River area with the family of William and Mary Ingles.

Reviewing the Section

**Reviewing the Content**

1. Where did the Germans settle in western Virginia?
2. In what part of western Virginia did the Scots-Irish settle?
3. What is the indentured servant system?

**Using the Content**

1. Compare the reasons why various groups of people came to America. Why do people move to new locations today?
2. Write a paragraph describing what it would be like to leave your home and move to a new home. How do you think your feelings compare with the feelings of the early settlers of western Virginia?

**Extending the Reading Skill**

Read paragraph two under “Scots-Irish Settlers” on page 313. Identify the main idea and three supporting facts.

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Below: Africans became slaves in eastern Virginia, but slavery never gained a firm hold in western Virginia.

Something Extra!

More than three-fourths of the immigrants who arrived in Virginia in the seventeenth century were thought to be indentured servants.
Preston County was part of Monongalia County until January 19, 1818, when the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill making it a separate county. The new county was named in honor of James Patton Preston. While Preston County was part of Monongalia County, Samuel and Thomas Eckerlin (or Eckarly) became the first settlers in the area. The two brothers were members of a monastic religious order that did not approve of violence, war, or military service. It is believed that they first settled along the Monongahela River and then moved to what has since become known as Dunkard Bottom, along the Cheat River. In 1756, Thomas Eckerlin was killed by Indians. After burying his brother, Samuel left the county.

Another highway marker marks the location of John Hacker’s settlement. He was the first white settler in Lewis County. Hacker and his wife Marg are buried in a small private cemetery near where they built their pioneer cabin, near Berlin.
Life in the Early Settlements

As you read, look for
- methods used by settlers to claim land in western Virginia;
- where early settlers lived;
- what early settlers ate;
- how early settlers dressed;
- how early settlers had fun;
- how healthy early settlers were;
- terms: contagious, epidemic, vaccination, dialect.
Western Virginia’s early settlers traveled into the area over buffalo trails or Indian paths. They usually used horse-drawn wooden sleds to transport their belongings, which consisted of pots and pans, a few tools, clothing, and occasionally a spinning wheel. The man of the family carefully selected the site for their home, preferably near a source of water.

Pioneers could claim an area by using a tomahawk or knife to blaze (mark) trees around the edge of the site. This method was referred to as tomahawk rights. Settlers could also get ownership of land by planting and harvesting a crop of corn. This practice was known as corn rights. However, the best claim to the land came with actual settlement, which was defined as building a cabin.

Early settlers did not have tools like those of today. Many settlers spent months and months clearing trees and rocks from the land before they could build their homes or plant their crops. It was difficult to cut down live trees. Sometimes trees were removed by setting the forest on fire. At other times, girdling was used; that is, a band of bark was removed all the way around a tree. This caused the tree to die, and it was then more easily cut down or burned. Cutting had to be done with crude hand tools. Even after the trees were felled, stumps remained. These stumps had to be burned or dug out. After the settler dug out around a stump, a team of horses or oxen slowly pulled the stump out of the ground. It could take as long as a month to pull out just one stump!

### Settlers’ Homes

The cabins of early settlers were very crude. Often the cabin was little more than a lean-to with logs leaning against something for support. Others were a little more elaborate and consisted of stacking logs one on top of the other with clay placed between them. Most cabins did not have windows; sometimes, a section of a log was removed and the hole covered with greased paper to allow a little light inside. The cabin might have a dirt floor and a “cat and clay” chimney made of a plaster of mud and twigs. Sometimes, however, split logs called puncheons were placed flat side up to form the floor. Some cabins had a second level, usually a loft that was reachable by a ladder.

**Something Extra!**

Sometimes settlers were given as much as four hundred acres of land if they agreed to stay for a certain period of time.
The fireplace, which occupied a prominent place, was the only means of heating the cabin. Cooking was done in the fireplace as well. Food was prepared in large iron pots, which hung over the fire. Baking was done in hot ashes that were raked onto the hearth. Since matches did not exist, the fire usually burned all year long. If it went out, it could be restarted by striking pieces of flint. More commonly, however, hot coals were borrowed from a neighbor and used to rekindle the fire.

Forests were invaluable to the early pioneers. Besides providing logs for building their cabins, heating their homes, and cooking their food, the trees supplied wood and bark that were used to make dishes, storage containers, churns, dyes, medicines, and soap. Most dishes were made by hollowing out blocks of wood. Wooden plates were called *trenchers*, while cups were known as *noggins*. The Indians taught the pioneers which bark could be used for medicinal purposes.

**Settlers’ Clothing and Food**

The pioneers became skilled at producing everything they needed. Men made horseshoes, farm tools, sleds, weaving looms, spinning wheels, and even shoes. Women made clothing, curtains, rugs, candles, soap, and bedding.
Pioneer clothing was practical. Men wore loose hunting shirts made of softened deerskin. Breeches and leggings covered their legs. Around their waists, they wore large belts from which hung a powder horn, bullet bag, tomahawk, and large knife. In winter, mittens were added to the belt. Moccasins, made from a single piece of leather, covered their feet and sometimes extended up the leg halfway to the knee. Squirrel-skin or coonskin caps completed the common dress on the frontier.

Women dressed plainly. Early settlers spun or wove many of their own fabrics and developed dyes from local plants to color the fabric. The most common colors for clothing were blue and red. Blues were obtained from indigo and red from madder. Both of these plants grew wild, but the settlers sometimes grew them in backyard gardens to make sure they would be available. Pioneer women easily made several shades of these two colors. Other colors were made from hillside plants like butternut, walnut, bloodroot, hickory, poke, sumac, oak bark, and goldenrod. These plants gave various shades of yellow, brown, and even green when mixed with alum or other substances. Since many pioneers raised sheep, practically all of the dresses were made of coarse linsey-woolsey, a mixture of flax and wool or cotton and wool. Sunbonnets (a type of hat to shade the face) provided protection from all types of weather.

Some pioneers, however, presented a different picture. They dressed like fashionable Englishmen. Men wore long frock coats made of imported broadcloth, tight-fitting breeches made of velvet or silk brocade, silk stockings, and shoes with large buckles. Women’s dresses were made of calico, muslin, silk, and satin. Hoop skirts, hats, and gloves were recognized accessories.

Since there were no grocery stores, frontier families had to produce all of their food. Men hunted and trapped deer, elk, bear, squirrel, rabbit, and wild turkey. Since meat was plentiful, the early pioneers frequently lived on meat for extended periods of time. From time to time, they added to their diet fish, mussels, and turtles from nearby streams and hogs that they raised when they had enough to feed them.

Vegetables were more difficult to obtain. Before a garden could be planted, the land had to be clear of roots and rocks. Using crude tools, the settlers were able to raise crops of corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and potatoes. Corn was one of the most important crops. It provided ears to roast, meal for bread and mush, and hominy (hulled and dried kernels of corn that have been boiled). Staple foods on the frontier included corn bread and hominy. Wild berries and sometimes fruit rounded out the typical diet.
One commodity in short supply on the frontier was sugar or some form of sweetening. Since it was too expensive to transport sugar to the area, the early settlers relied on the environment to provide them with sweetening ingredients. The Indians taught the early settlers how to tap the maple trees, extract the sap, and boil it down into a syrup, which could be used in cooking. A second source of sweetening was the “bee tree.” The pioneer who discovered a swarm of bees automatically became the owner of the honey they produced. Sometimes the bees were captured and taken to the finder’s cabin, where a new hive was set up.

**Settlers’ Recreation**

Settlers in western Virginia were mainly concerned with survival, which was a full-time job. Because there was so much work to do on the frontier, recreation sometimes took the form of work. Women took the main responsibility for day-to-day chores. They held quilting or husking bees (gatherings where settlers worked to help one another while trading stories and recipes and catching up on events in their neighbors’ lives).

Clearing the land and building a cabin was another festive occasion. These “house-raisings” were a chance for the women, men, and children to get together with their neighbors. The family whose cabin was to be built usually first cut and notched the logs and then notified their relatives and neighbors of the date for the house-raising. The host family provided dinner and promised to return the favor when a neighbor needed help. Children, who were too young to work, played hide-and-seek, tag, or ring-around-the-rosie. Other popular recreational activities on the frontier included marbles, games with pocket knives, hunting, and fishing. Girls enjoyed making and playing with cornhusk and dried apple dolls until “newfangled” china ones became available.

Other activities were meant to teach skills that were needed for survival. Young boys learned to use a bow and arrow. Practice provided recreation and an opportunity to become proficient in their use. Boys also learned to imitate the calls of birds and animals of the forest. Some became so good that they could actually lure the wildlife within range of their rifles or bows.

Weddings were important events. They provided a time for celebration and pranks. Settlers married young and almost always remarried if a spouse died. On the day of the wedding, the groom’s party met and, as a group, traveled to the bride’s
house for the ceremony. Sometimes their path was blocked by felled trees or boulders, which had been placed in the road by friends and neighbors. After the wedding ceremony, a big dinner was served, followed by dancing that lasted until the early morning hours. Dancing was the most popular social activity. Banjos, guitars, and fiddles provided the music.

As the state became more populated and the economy became better, recreation changed. When timbering became a major industry, the skills of lumberjacks (those whose job was the cutting and preparing of timber) became the basis for popular sports and recreation. Wood chopping, ax throwing, tree climbing, and logrolling tested the skills of these woodsmen. More importantly, these activities provided a way to relax after a hard week’s work.

Pitching horseshoes was always a favorite form of entertainment, and every town had its champion. Revival camp meetings (meetings to reawaken an interest in religion) also became a form of relaxation from the rigors and struggles of daily life. Horseshoe competitions became part of these nearly week-long religious gatherings.

Horse racing and foot racing sometimes broke the monotony of the long work days. One of the biggest celebrations took place on the Fourth of July. The holiday was an occasion for fun for all ages and included plenty of food, speeches, noise makers, shooting contests, horseshoe pitching, and sack races.
Settlers’ Health

Appalachian settlers are most often pictured as strong and healthy. Television and movies feature pioneers who wear clean clothing, bathe often, have fashionable hairdos, are smooth-shaven, and live in clean houses. These portrayals are not accurate. In reality, although settlers were hard-working, their health was far from good. Many suffered from a number of ailments, some of which were due to their frontier lifestyle.

Since most settlers did not bathe often, many suffered from an ailment called St. Anthony’s fire. The disease was caused by bacteria entering the body through a scratch or cut. Symptoms included redness, swelling, burning of the skin, pain in the joints, fever, chills, headache, and loss of appetite. The disease was contagious (able to be spread by contact or close association). The usual “cure” for St. Anthony’s fire was to rub the blood of a black cat on the wound. As a result, there were probably very few black cats whose ears and tails had not been frequently cropped for a contribution of blood.

Families were usually very large. It was not uncommon for one family to have 15-20 children. However, many of the children never reached adulthood because childhood diseases were very common and very deadly. The most common childhood disease was croup, an inflammation of the windpipe that led to breathing difficulties. One cure for croup was a large dose of the juice of roasted onions or garlic to break up the congestion. Parents used a concoction made of snake root to cause sweating and break the accompanying fever. To get rid of intestinal worms (a common occurrence), children were given large doses of salt. Sometimes children were fed the scrapings from pewter to drive out the worms. The lead in the pewter, however, caused other kinds of problems.
There were few doctors on the frontier, and many people who claimed to be physicians actually had no formal medical training. By the mid-1800s, more doctors began to move into the trans-Allegheny region. Settlers came to accept some cures prescribed by doctors, but many people still used herbs and roots, some of which were also recommended by doctors.

Medical knowledge was often spiced with belief in the supernatural and bits of superstition (the belief that an event can be influenced by certain actions, even when those actions have no connection with the event). It was common “knowledge” that remedies were best when given during the waning moon (when the moon is decreasing in size), which was believed to cause the disease or illness to wane as well. For serious diseases, it was common to call upon the seventh child of a seventh child for help. These people were supposed to have special healing powers.

Some people wore their cures. For a fever, rattlesnake bones were worn in a pouch as a necklace. To prevent nose bleeds, red beads were put in a bag and hung around the neck. Copper bracelets, which are a popular cure today, were worn to combat arthritis.

Some folklore medicines may really have been effective even though they sound peculiar. To cure chapped lips, a person was advised to kiss the middle rail of a five-rail fence. This might have been effective if the fence was made of pine because sap from a pine tree would have the same effect as today’s lip balms. One cure for warts was to wash them in rainwater caught in an oak stump. This might have helped because the oak stump and water would have formed tannic acid, which is known to slowly reduce warts. Washing irritated facial skin in the morning dew or in honey and buttermilk was thought to clear up the rash. This probably helped because the person stopped using harsh lye soap.

Although it is hard enough to believe that some pioneer cures were effective, it is more difficult to believe that washing freckles in blacksmith’s water could clear a complexion. Even more absurd is the belief that seizures could be cured by stripping off the victim’s shirt and burning it. Carrying a hog’s tooth in a pocket was supposed to ward off a toothache, and pouring tobacco juice into an ear was thought to soothe an earache.
Children and adults were always susceptible to smallpox, the most feared of the eighteenth-century diseases. Survivors of smallpox often had terrible pox scars, especially on their faces. Families burned the clothing and bedding of victims in an effort to prevent an epidemic (an outbreak of a disease that spreads rapidly through the community). In 1796, Edward Jenner, an English physician, developed a vaccination (an injection or shot to protect against a disease) for smallpox. Until that time, the fear of this dreaded disease led to panic among the settlers; some even abandoned their cabins. Measles, mumps, whooping cough, and diphtheria were also serious diseases for the pioneers.

Lung diseases were generally referred to as “consumption.” Syrups and mixtures of herbs were used as cures. Bleeding was also an accepted treatment used by doctors. Bleeding was the process of treating a disease by drawing blood from the body. This cure, however, was sometimes worse than the disease.

Much feared on the frontier was hydrophobia, or rabies, which was caused by the bite of an infected animal. Since settlers came in contact with many animals every day, they were always in danger of being bitten by a rabid animal. Joseph Dodridge, in his book Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars, stated that death from rabies was “impossible to . . . describe.” He also recounted the story of John McCamant, who was bitten by a rabid wolf in December 1806. The virus took seven to eight weeks to take effect. Then, McCamant became feverish and was very sensitive to noise and light. Two days before his death, his hands and feet were tied to bedposts. On the day in February 1807 that he died, McCamant’s fits (seizures) ended. He became delirious, and he finally died. There was no known cure for rabies until 1882, when Louis Pasteur of France developed a serum to be given in a series of injections.

Of all the frontier diseases, rheumatism, or gout, was probably the most common. Rheumatism was usually the result of settlers’ feet being so often wet and cold. At night, men would lie outdoors with their
aching feet near the fire. Women who suffered from this painful and crippling disease heated rocks to put their feet on at night. The settlers also rubbed warm bear grease or some other oily substance into their painful joints. Those who suffered from the affliction even turned their shoes upside down in the hope that this might somehow help.

Teas were popular medicines in the 1800s and even into the 1900s. Sassafras tea was used as a spring tonic, something to restore a person's energy. It is still possible to hear the advice "drink some sassafras to help thin your blood." Other popular drinks included catnip tea for colds, smartwood tea for blood poisoning, and sage tea for pneumonia.

**Settlers' Unique Language**

It is impossible to discuss the lifestyles of early West Virginians without mentioning the unique characteristics of their language. Some have described the language as anywhere from "pure Chaucerian" to "backwoods and ignorant." Actually, since the people who settled the mountains brought their native languages with them, it might be classified as German with a Scottish touch. In reality, however, it has been influenced mostly by the Scots and very little by the Germans. Because those who lived in the mountains were generally isolated from the language changes in the rest of the Americas, the language used on the frontier changed very little.

Many words and phrases still used in the area today have their beginnings in the early mountain culture. The **dialect** (regional form of a language) spoken in the mountains is commonly referred to as the Southern Mountain dialect. It has also been called Elizabethan English, named for the period of history it represents. What is heard today is more of a Scottish-flavored Elizabethan English. Many outsiders—called **foreigners** or **outlanders** by mountain folk—incorrectly assume mountain people speak the way they do because they are uneducated. In reality, these people have preserved the antique language spoken by their families when they arrived in America.
One example of the mountain language is the use of backset for “re-lapse,” as in: “I was getting better but now I’ve done took a backset from the flu.” Other examples are nigh wearried myself to death for “very worried”; I reckon so for “I suppose”; wasper for “wasp”; press for “closet”; redd up for “clean”; smooch for “kiss”; and let on for “pretend.” Other common phrases include “When I woke up this morning, there was a little skift of snow on the ground” and “Law, I hope how soon we get some rain.”

Besides colorful words, the Southern Mountain dialect contains some grammatical forms that have made English teachers cringe with horror. Examples include “Bring them books over here”; “That pencil’s not mine, it’s his’n”; “He don’t scare me none”; and “You wasn’t scared, was you?” During the Middle Ages, these phrases were considered proper English. Almost all the “bad English” used by native Appalachians was once used by high-ranking nobles of England and Scotland.
Reviewing the Section

Reviewing the Content

1. How did the settlers get the land ready so they could build their homes?
2. What were the main foods eaten by the early settlers?
3. What were some social gatherings on the frontier?

Using the Content

1. Write a short story describing the life of a young person on the western Virginia frontier.
2. Create an invitation to invite your neighbors to a quilting bee or a house-raising.

Extending the Reading Skill

Copy the following chart onto a separate piece of paper. Then, read the second paragraph on page 320. Finally, write on the chart the main idea and eight supporting facts found in the paragraph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. MAIN IDEA</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. SUPPORTING FACT</td>
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<td>B. SUPPORTING FACT</td>
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<td>C. SUPPORTING FACT</td>
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<td>H. SUPPORTING FACT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Focus on 21st Century Skills

Learning Skill

21C.0.5-8.1.LS.2 Student interprets abstract values and creates products (e.g., digital storytelling) that reflect a growing understanding of visual language and require effective use of tools (e.g., cropped photos, original charts and graphs, well-chosen images from databases, video clips).

Technology Tool

21C.0.5-8.1.TT.3 Student recognizes different file format extensions (e.g., .doc, .xls, .ppt, .rtf, .pdf, .jpeg, .gif, .mpg, .wav, .mp3) and can import the different formats into documents, presentations, spreadsheets and databases.

Use a variety of search engines to find pictures, videos, and music to describe the life of early settlers. Prepare a digital presentation using information in at least two of these formats.
**Section 1: Early Explorers in Western Virginia**

- Abraham Wood’s 1650 expedition resulted in the publication of a pamphlet that led to increased interest in western Virginia.
- John Lederer was criticized as an explorer because some of his references were thought to be imaginary.
- The expedition of Batts and Fallam strengthened England’s claim to the Ohio Valley.
- The expedition of Needham and Arthur strengthened trade agreements with the Cherokee.
- The exploration of western Virginia was suspended for a time because of the death of Abraham Wood and the policies of Virginia Governor William Berkeley.
- Conflicting land claims in the Ohio Valley led to disagreements between the British and the French. The expedition by John Howard and John Peter Salling was a way to dispute the French claims.
- Céloron de Blainville buried lead plates to mark land claims for France.
- Two important, privately owned land companies were the Loyal Land Company and the Ohio Land Company.

**Section 2: Early Settlers in Western Virginia**

- Reports from early explorers, fear of French control of the Ohio Valley, overcrowding in the middle colonies, and free land in western Virginia attracted early settlers to the area.
- The first permanent European settler in western Virginia was believed to be Morgan Morgan.
- Germans came to America to avoid religious persecution in their home country.
- The Scots-Irish came to America to avoid discrimination. Many settled in the Greenbrier Valley.
- People who could not afford to pay the passage to North America often signed up as indentured servants.
- Many African indentured servants ultimately became slaves.

**Section 3: Life in the Early Settlements**

- Methods used to claim land on the frontier included tomahawk rights, corn rights, and settlement.
- The forests were invaluable to early settlers. They provided building materials, serving dishes, and even medicines.
- Cabins were crudely constructed, often with dirt floors and no windows.
- Clothing for early settlers was both simple and practical.
- Food included wild game (deer, elk, bear, squirrel, rabbit, wild turkey, fish), corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and potatoes.
- Frontier social gatherings included bees, house raisings, log rollings, corn huskings, dancing, storytelling, and weddings.
- Settlers on the frontier suffered from a variety of ailments, including croup, smallpox, rabies, consumption, and rheumatism.
- The language of many western Virginians had its origin in the Southern Mountain dialect.
Chapter 8: Exploring and Settling Western Virginia

Chapter Review

Understanding the Facts

1. Name some of the English explorers of western Virginia and tell where each explored.
2. What did Batts and Fallam find that led them to believe that other explorers might have preceded them?
3. Why did English interest in exploration decline in the late 1600s and early 1700s?
4. Describe Morgan Morgan.
5. When did the first Africans come to western Virginia?
6. What was a typical frontier cabin like?
7. How did the early settlers dress?
8. What was the origin of the Southern Mountain dialect?

Beyond the Textbook

1. Explore your own community. Keep a journal of your findings to share with your classmates.
2. Interview someone you consider an adventurer. Ask him or her why trying new things is exciting. Share their reasons with the class.

Writing Across the Curriculum

1. Write a want ad to attract people to sign up for an expedition that you are sponsoring in the 1600s.
2. Draw a picture of what an early settlement in your county might have looked like. Then, write a paragraph telling how the county is different today.

Extending 21st Century Skills

1. Use a search engine to find information on the life and expeditions of an explorer from another period of history, such as Jacques Cousteau or Neil Armstrong. Compare that person’s journey with one of the early explorers of western Virginia.
2. Go to http://jeff560.tripod.com/places.html to find a list of place names in West Virginia. Make a list of unusual place names and the origin of those names.
Test Review

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Choose the sequence of numbers that place the events in the correct chronological order.
   1. Morgan Morgan settled in western Virginia.
   2. John Lederer reached the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
   3. Alexander Spotswood established the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.
   4. John Salling first saw coal near Peytona in present-day Boone County.
   A. 3, 2, 4, 1
   B. 2, 3, 1, 4
   C. 2, 4, 3, 1
   D. 4, 2, 3, 1

2. Write the letters A-D. Then write the number of the accomplishment that matches each explorer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explorers</th>
<th>Expedition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Batts and Fallam</td>
<td>1. Traveled through the lands of the Occaneechi; first journey to be documented in print.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. John Lederer</td>
<td>2. Made an agreement with the Occaneechi that ended their monopoly of trade with the Spaniards; traveled as far as West Florida.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Needham and Arthur</td>
<td>3. Discovered trees with the letters M.A.N.I., MA. Ni., and MA carved in the bark; charting of the New River strengthened England’s claim to the Allegheny Valley.</td>
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