Virginia is rich in sites connected with colonial and early national history. As the state most fought over in the Civil War, it is replete with battlefields. Surrounded as we are by our state’s rich history, your summer assignment is to visit and report upon one of those locations.

Visit a site in Virginia that is connected with either the colonial, early national, or civil war history of Virginia.

Compile an album that discusses how the place reflects the everyday life of people in the era it represents. By everyday life, we mean food, clothing, travel, sleeping arrangements, etc. The album should include photographs taken during your visit, postcards, brochures, and other items that document your visit and tell the story of the place.

In addition to the materials mentioned above, the album must also contain a writeup about your visit, including your impressions of the place, how it was important in the history of the era it represents, and commentary on the everyday life of people who lived at the site. (For civil war battlefields, include commentary on the everyday life of soldiers on the battlefield.) Your writeup should consist of approximately 500 words, either appended to the album or spread throughout as captions.

The Digital Option

Instead of compiling a physical portfolio, you may choose to create and submit a Powerpoint or Google Slides presentation about your site. This presentation must include photos from your visit and at least 500 words of descriptions of your visit (as above) and/or independent research about your site (properly cited).

Suggested sites: You may pick any site from which you can obtain the required information and compile the required album. Some suggested sites include:

In Northern Virginia: Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Gadsby's Tavern, the Ramsey House, the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, Sully Plantation, Manassas Battlefield, the Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg Battlefields, Woodlawn Plantation.

Farther afield in Virginia might include Monticello or Ash Lawn (near Charlottesville), Montpelier (Orange County), the Grounds of the University of Virginia, Smithfield Plantation (on the campus of Virginia Tech), Carter's Plantation in Williamsburg, Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Bacon's Castle (Surry County), Poplar Forest (Bedford County), the Booker T. Washington National Monument (Franklin County), and the Adam Thoroughgood House (City of Virginia Beach). Richmond is ringed by Civil War battlefields, which also qualify for this project.
Washington, DC: The National Museum of American History, a part of the Smithsonian complex, is another option that you may use in building this album. While photograph-taking is not permitted, there are ample postcards, brochures, and other items from which pictures may be abstracted to help you produce an outstanding album.

Again, these are only suggested sites. There are many others in Virginia which meet the required parameters and which may be used.

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**Due Date:** The album must be turned in to you AP or Honors US History teacher on the Tuesday following Labor Day and the first full day of classes. Late submissions will have the grade reduced.