



WEST VIRGINIA

Its Land, Its People



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
CREATED THE STATE
OF WEST VIRGINIA
BY PROCLAMATION
AND SIGNATURE
WEST VIRGINIA JOINED
THE UNION
JUNE 20, 1863





WEST VIRGINIA

Its Land, Its People

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The Author

Vicki Wood is a native West Virginian. She graduated from Nitro High School and earned a B.A. degree in Social Studies and Spanish and an M.A. in history from Marshall University. She has completed post-graduate work in history, curriculum, and administration. Vicki has written several history textbooks as well as materials focusing on testing, reading, and multiple strategies. She has conducted teacher workshops on lesson planning, integrated strategies, thinking skills, learning styles, and assessment. Vicki is a retired curriculum specialist from Kanawha County Schools and currently serves as an adjunct professor at the Marshall University Graduate College. In that capacity, she teaches integrated strategies and works with pre-service teachers.



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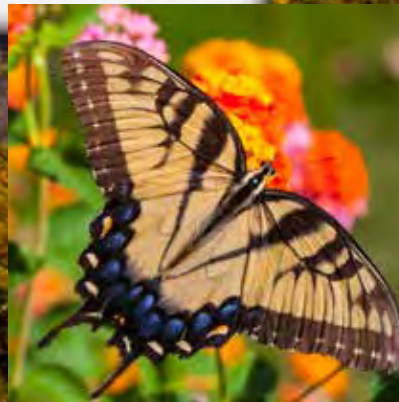
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To The Students

Students often think of history as something that happened hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of years ago. To these students, history is something that has no relevance to their lives today. As a result, they may readily tell you that they don't like history. In reality, history happens every day. What students did minutes ago becomes history. Because history is defined as "a record of past events," they sometimes forget that past events can be recent happenings. West Virginia's history begins hundreds of years ago, but it includes what happened yesterday as well.

West Virginia has enjoyed a rich history—a history that, although it parallels the history of the United States and world, is uniquely different. West Virginia's early history was part of Virginia's history. As more people explored and later settled the lands west of the Allegheny Mountains, the history of the area took on a character of its own. The differences between eastern and western Virginia grew and eventually resulted in the creation of the new state of West Virginia. In this textbook, you will study the events that led up to the creation of West Virginia as well as the events that have molded it since that time.

You will also study the role of West Virginia's natural environment in the development of the state. You will recognize the unique geographical features that define the state and are responsible for its various nicknames. You will discover how the geographic features of the state were responsible for the establishment of the state's early industries, most of which continue to be important industries today. A study of industrial growth will focus not only on West Virginia's business climate, but also on how you, as an individual, can contribute to the economic stability and growth of the state, nation, and world.



Additionally, you will study about government and how it works. You will discover how government affects the lives of citizens as well as how you can influence those decisions. You will compare and contrast government at the national, state, and local levels.

In addition to the content information that you will study in the textbook, the suggested activities that support the content of the course are intended to help you acquire the skills that are needed for you to succeed in the 21st century. The West Virginia Department of Education has made a commitment to provide you with opportunities to strengthen your skills in communication, thinking, and problem solving. To this end, you will be asked to demonstrate your ability to communicate, think, and solve problems orally, in writing, and through the use of multimedia. You will also be expected to develop interpersonal and collaborative skills to allow you to become self-directed, adaptable, and accountable while exhibiting ethical behavior and leadership.

As you begin your journey to acquire the knowledge and skills to become proficient in the goals set forth by the West Virginia Department of Education as well as this textbook, I hope your travel is enjoyable. I hope you develop a sense of pride in your state and develop the skills to convey that pride to others. In this way, you can become an ambassador for your state and promote its heritage as well as its natural beauty and the beauty of its people.

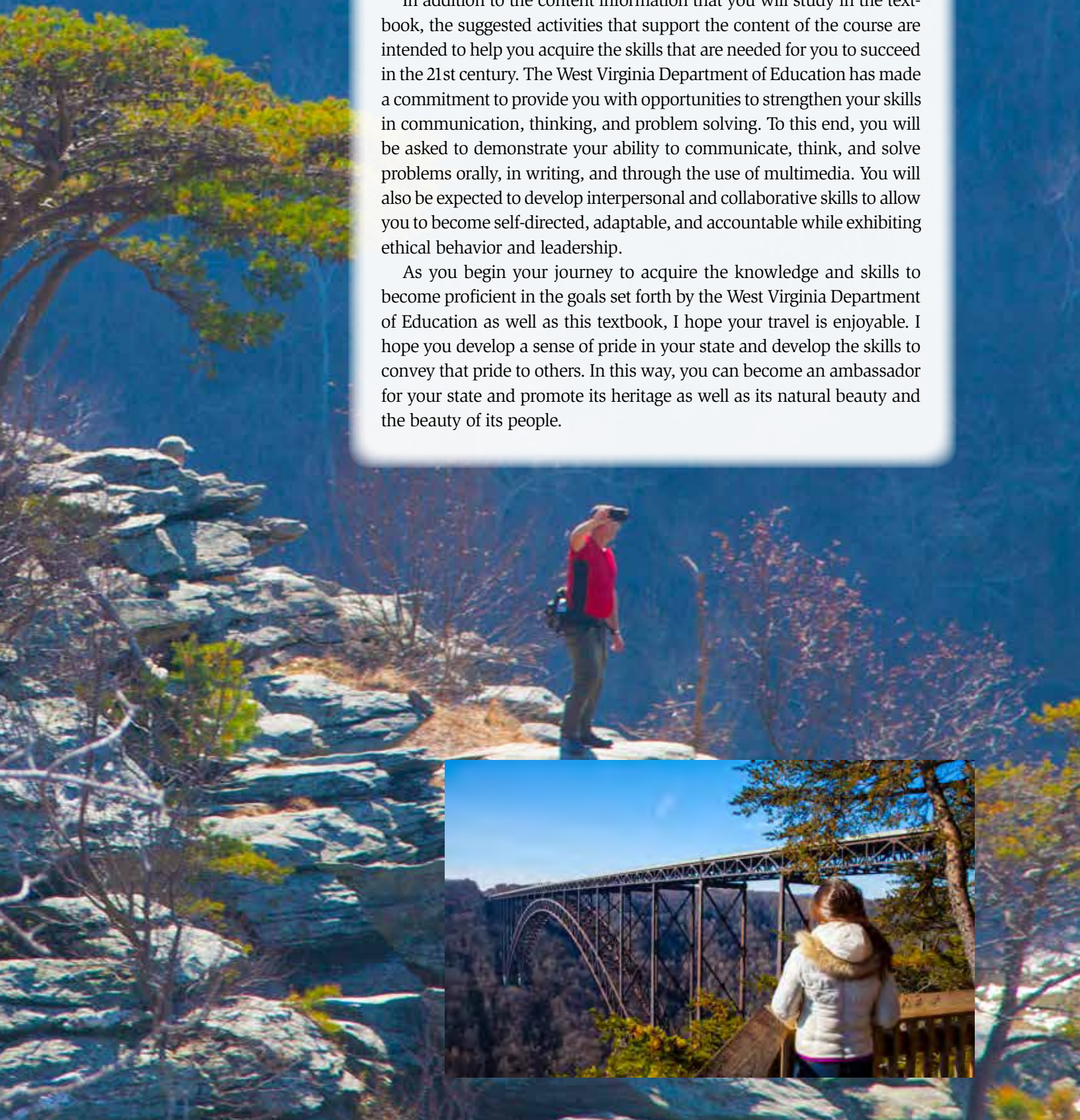


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