

Name: _____ Date: _____

WORKSHEET

Chapter 8: Exploring and Settling Western Virginia Section 1: Early Explorers in Western Virginia

The Batts and Fallam Journal

The Batts and Fallam expedition took about one month. The explorers set out from Fort Henry, near Petersburg, Virginia, on September 1, 1671, and kept a journal of their voyage. They returned to Fort Henry on October 1. Finding food was a problem for the group. Their lack of food was one reason they turned back toward home after two weeks.

Directions: Read the following journal entries, then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

Sept. 14 ...and about three of the clock we took up our quarters to see if the Indians could kill us some Deer. being west and by north, very weary and hungry and Penecute continued very ill yet desired to go forward. We came this day over several brave runs and hope tomorrow to see the main River again.

Sept. 15. Yesterday in the afternoon and this day we lived a Dog's life—hunger and ease. Our Indians having done their best could kill us no meat. The Deer they said were in such herds and the ground so dry that one or other of them could spy them. About one of the clock we set forward and went about fifteen miles over some good, some indifferent ground, a west and by north course till we came to a great run which empties itself west and by north as we suppose into the great River which we hope is nigh at hand. As we march'd we met with some wild gooseberries and exceeding large haws with which we were forced to feed ourselves.

Sept. 16. Our guide went from us yesterday and we saw him no more till we returned to the Toras. Our Indians went arranging betimes to see and kill us some Deer or meat. One came and told us they heard a Drum and a Gun go off to the northwards. They brought us some exceeding good Grapes and killed two turkies which were very welcome and with which we feasted ourselves and about ten of the clock set forward and after we had travelled about ten miles one of our Indians killed us a Deer and presently afterwards we had sight of a curious River like Apomattack River. Its course here was north and so as we suppose runs west about a certain curious mountains we saw westward. Here we had up our quarters, our course having been west. We understand the Mohecan Indians did here formerly live. It cannot be long since we found corn stalks in the ground.

Sept. 17. Early in the morning we went to seek some trees to mark, our Indians being impatient of longer stay by reason it was likely to be bad weather, and that it was so difficult to get provisions....

Source: Lewis P. Summers, *Annals of Southwest Virginia* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company), 1-7.

1. What were some types of food the explorers had to eat?
2. Who was responsible for getting the food for the group?
3. What evidence did they find that the Mohecan Indians were farmers?
4. Besides a lack of food, what other reason was given for the decision to begin their return to Fort Henry on September 17?