



WEST VIRGINIA

OUR BEAUTIFUL HOME



Clairmont Press

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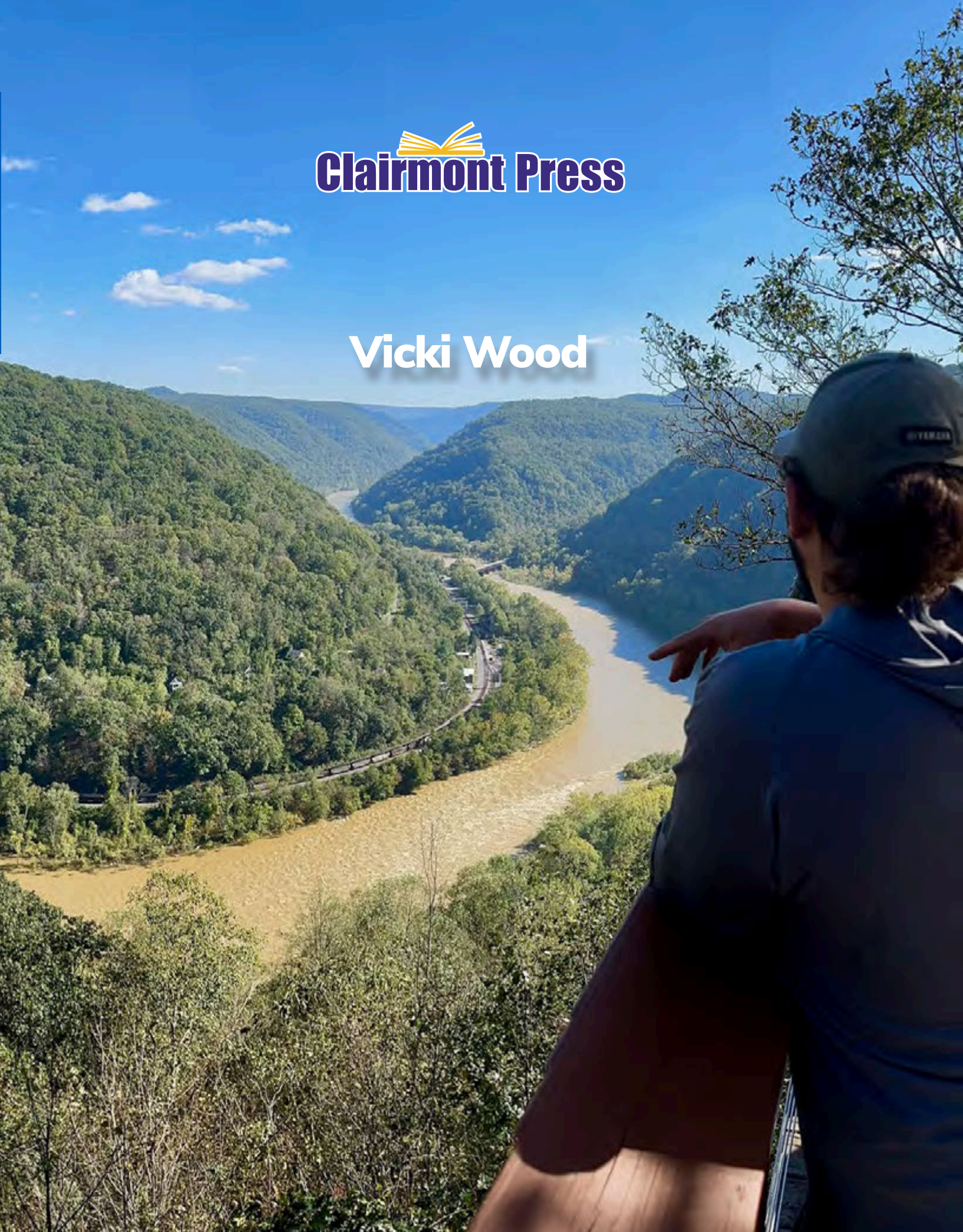
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Vicki Wood





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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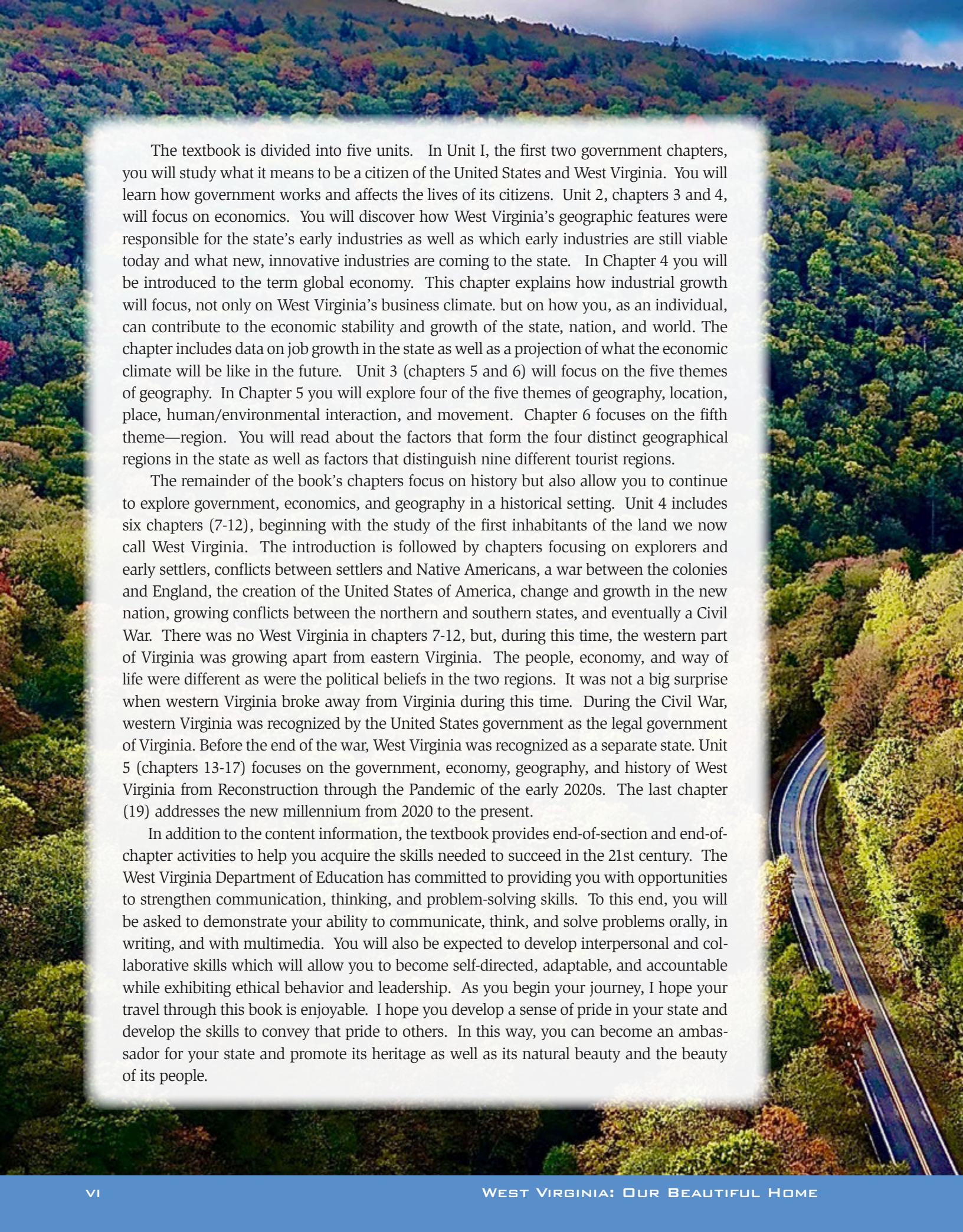
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To The Students

From the first time John Denver introduced the world to the song, *Take Me Home, Country Roads*, on April 12, 1971, the lyrics have become synonymous with West Virginia. They remind the listener that roads, whether they be rural paths or modern highways take you somewhere. And, in West Virginia, those roads take you to some of the most beautiful and unique places in the world. This textbook addresses civics/government, economics, geography, and history (the four core subjects of social studies) as they relate to West Virginia. It also includes several features, e.g., portraits of West Virginians, literary skills, technology skills, and special interests. A final feature allows you to “travel,” through words and pictures, to “visit” places mentioned in each chapter. According to Chelsea Ruby, the West Virginia Commissioner of Tourism, “(This song) highlights everything we love about our state—its scenic beauty, majestic mountains, timeless way of life, the warmth of a place that feels like home whether you have lived here forever or just come to visit.” In March 2014, *Take Me Home, Country Roads* became West Virginia’s fourth state song.





The textbook is divided into five units. In Unit I, the first two government chapters, you will study what it means to be a citizen of the United States and West Virginia. You will learn how government works and affects the lives of its citizens. Unit 2, chapters 3 and 4, will focus on economics. You will discover how West Virginia's geographic features were responsible for the state's early industries as well as which early industries are still viable today and what new, innovative industries are coming to the state. In Chapter 4 you will be introduced to the term global economy. This chapter explains how industrial growth will focus, not only on West Virginia's business climate, but on how you, as an individual, can contribute to the economic stability and growth of the state, nation, and world. The chapter includes data on job growth in the state as well as a projection of what the economic climate will be like in the future. Unit 3 (chapters 5 and 6) will focus on the five themes of geography. In Chapter 5 you will explore four of the five themes of geography, location, place, human/environmental interaction, and movement. Chapter 6 focuses on the fifth theme—region. You will read about the factors that form the four distinct geographical regions in the state as well as factors that distinguish nine different tourist regions.

The remainder of the book's chapters focus on history but also allow you to continue to explore government, economics, and geography in a historical setting. Unit 4 includes six chapters (7-12), beginning with the study of the first inhabitants of the land we now call West Virginia. The introduction is followed by chapters focusing on explorers and early settlers, conflicts between settlers and Native Americans, a war between the colonies and England, the creation of the United States of America, change and growth in the new nation, growing conflicts between the northern and southern states, and eventually a Civil War. There was no West Virginia in chapters 7-12, but, during this time, the western part of Virginia was growing apart from eastern Virginia. The people, economy, and way of life were different as were the political beliefs in the two regions. It was not a big surprise when western Virginia broke away from Virginia during this time. During the Civil War, western Virginia was recognized by the United States government as the legal government of Virginia. Before the end of the war, West Virginia was recognized as a separate state. Unit 5 (chapters 13-17) focuses on the government, economy, geography, and history of West Virginia from Reconstruction through the Pandemic of the early 2020s. The last chapter (19) addresses the new millennium from 2020 to the present.

In addition to the content information, the textbook provides end-of-section and end-of-chapter activities to help you acquire the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. The West Virginia Department of Education has committed to providing you with opportunities to strengthen communication, thinking, and problem-solving skills. To this end, you will be asked to demonstrate your ability to communicate, think, and solve problems orally, in writing, and with multimedia. You will also be expected to develop interpersonal and collaborative skills which will allow you to become self-directed, adaptable, and accountable while exhibiting ethical behavior and leadership. As you begin your journey, I hope your travel through this book 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.