



NSDAR Educational Resources Committee

Influential Virginians - Focus on Maggie Lena Walker

Contributor: Mary Sue Dougherty **Grade Level:** 1st

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

Grade 1 – Commonwealth of Virginia – As of August 2023

Skills

1 - The student will apply history and social science skills to the content by

1c – demonstrating curiosity and critical thinking through questioning

1d – sequencing and organizing information

1h - practicing civility, respect, hard work, and responsible citizenship skills

1i - using content vocabulary to demonstrate comprehension

Civics

1.1 - The student will apply history and social science skills to practice citizenship in the classroom by

1.1a – practicing honesty and showing kindness to oneself and others

1.1b – recognizing the purpose of rules and practicing self-control

1.1c – being respectful of others and celebrating differences in ethnic origins, customs, and traditions

History – The student will apply history and social science skills to understand Virginia’s history by

1.5 – The student will apply history and social science skills to describe the contributions of Virginia’s diverse people and the stories of changemakers in the history of Virginia and their contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia, including but not limited to

1.5a – Indigenous Peoples: Chief Powhatan and Pocahontas

1.5b – Explorers: Captain Christopher Newport - Option to add others from standards)

1.5c – Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson - Option to add others from standards)

1.5d – Barrier Breakers: Maggie Lean Walker, Arthur R. Ashe, Jr. (Option to add others from standards)

Geography –

1.6 - The student will apply history and social science skills to develop geographic skills by

1.6a – using basic map symbols, including references to cities

1.6b – using cardinal directions on maps 1.6c – locating Virginia, the United States on maps

1.7 - The student will apply history and social studies skills to connect geography to historical events of Virginia and the United States by

1.7d – locating Washington, D.C., and Richmond on Virginia and United States maps

Note: This lesson plan was created for Virginia students who are citizens in the Tidewater Region of Virginia. The plan and materials can be adjusted to other states and regions.

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Students will learn what it means to be influential, about Maggie Lena Walker, how her good (responsible) citizenship helped others in her community, and why we remember her as an influential Virginian.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

1. Citizenship Poster: "Traits of a Responsible Junior American Citizen" (customized with the school mascot)
2. Classroom US and Virginia pull-down maps or on document camera to identify the state of Virginia and Richmond, VA
3. Content Song Sheet for Virginia and Richmond, VA.
4. Copy of Story: *Maggie Lena Walker – A Good Citizen of Virginia* for storytelling
5. Student Handout booklets: *Maggie Lena Walker – A Good Citizen of Virginia*
6. Timeline – "Influential Virginians Timeline" – To include but not limited to Powhatan, Captain Christopher Newport, Pocahontas, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Maggie Lena Walker, and Arthur Ashe (Other Virginians can be added to this timeline and it can be printed, laminated and hung classrooms)
7. Resources include eduva.gov/online, Maggie Lena Walker: National Park Service (NPS), and Maggie L. Walker Historic Site Updates.
8. Enrichment Options: Two Williamsburg Chapter DAR Community Classroom mp4 video lessons – *Influential Virginians Timeline and Maggie Lena Walker* can be obtained by contacting Mary Sue Dougherty, Williamsburg, VA. Community Classroom Chair at red82440@aol.com.

4. Introduction of the topic:

Do you know that Maggie Lena Walker was an influential, important person born and lived in Virginia? Do you know why she was influential and what she contributed to her community and our state of Virginia?

5. Procedure for instruction:

(See sequence script attached)

Lesson Closure

Ask the question: Why should people learn about and remember Maggie Lena Walker? And why is Maggie Lena Walker an influential person?

6. Assessment of Understanding:

Observation of interest, oral responses, participation in discussion, body language, listening, and following directions for handouts should give evidence of understanding the opening question. An attempt should be made to ask each student at least one question during the lesson summary to acknowledge a better understanding of Maggie Lena Walker, the period she lived, and her contributions to her community and Virginia.

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PROCEDURE FOR INSTRUCTION:

1. Introduction and review with songs, maps, and “Traits of a Responsible Junior American Citizen” Poster
2. Opening question and storytelling – *Maggie Lena Walker: A Good Citizen of Virginia*, and discussion.
3. Handout: Maggie Lena Walker Booklet (see attached)
4. Influential Virginians Timeline” – What a timeline shows, and who are the influential (famous, strong, powerful, important) people on the timeline and their contributions
5. Summary, review, and lesson closure question

>The following procedure reads somewhat like a script to assist new teachers and suggest methods of teaching this lesson to reach multiple standards, including learning skills.

PART A – INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW 1. Ask the question: Have you been trying to be good, responsible citizens at home, school, and in your classroom, community, state, and the United States of America? ([Listen and Log](#))

When citizens try to be responsible, everyone is happier and learns more.

1. Look at your classroom poster: “Calling all First Grade Matthew Whaley Patriots (name of the school with their mascot) to be responsible Junior American Citizens. **(There are citizenship traits listed in the first-grade social studies Virginia standards that are listed on this poster. Select a couple of statements for a quick review and move on)**

Have I worked hard, to be honest and kind? Do I give my time and talents to help others?

2. Use one or both of the following content songs to gather the children in the reading area for storytelling.

The next two content songs can be used for gathering or refocusing students or the beginning parts of the lesson. In addition, teachers can adapt these content songs to wherever you live.

Do you remember the name of the state you live in? Then, call attention to the Virginia State Flag.

Sing Song: I Live in Virginia – Tune: *On Top of Old Smokey*

“I live in Virginia, with a flag of blue. Virginia is my state – and your state, too.”

Does anyone know where our state's capital is on the United States map? (Use cardinal directions to help students see how close they live to Richmond. For example, ask a student to point to Virginia on a pull-down or document camera map.

Sing Song: Where is Richmond? – Tune: *Are You Sleeping?*

Where is Richmond? Where is Richmond?

Do you know? Do you know?

Richmond is in Virginia. Richmond is in Virginia. Ca-pi-tal, Vir-gin-ia.

PART B – STORYTELLING - *Maggie Lena Walker: A Good and Responsible Virginia Citizen* ([See story attached](#))

Gather students in the class reading area and TELL the story. Use eye contact and body language, and keep moving to keep the story flowing. A review of the story content will be done with the booklets. Hold questions until the end of the story.

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PART C – Maggie Lena Walker Booklets (See attached handout booklets)

Using student booklets, review the highlights of Maggie Lena Walker’s life, contributions to her community, and booklet format to review learning skills while discussing the content with students.

First, let us look at the cover of your booklet. Do you see the word “name” and the line for you to print your name? Please use your pencil to print your name. Don’t forget to start on the left side of the line so you will have enough room to write your name. Now, put your pencil away and listen carefully.

1. Do you see Maggie’s name? Maggie Lena Walker and the words under her name – An Influential Virginian. What does the word influential mean? Discuss and move on –
2. Open your booklet and look at the left side of the page. What do you see? You see pictures of Maggie’s early life when she helped her mother wash and iron laundry – went to school, worked hard, became a teacher, married, had children, and tried to be a good, responsible citizen. Do you see the buttons Maggie and her friends wore to remind people in her community to work hard and help others? Maggie worked very hard to be able to live in the house on this page.

Look on the right side of your booklet. What were the three important things Maggie wanted to do?

1. See the picture at the top of this page that shows the newspaper that Maggie started. Does anyone remember what her newspaper was named? Yes, it was the *St. Luke Herald*. Do you remember why Maggie wanted to start a newspaper? Yes, to tell the good news in her community about people helping others.
2. What else is pictured on this page? Yes, a drawing of the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank. Maggie started a bank so that people in her community would be treated fairly, save money, and invest in their community. Why is it a good idea to save your money?
3. Why did Maggie want to start St. Luke Emporium? Do you remember what this old word, emporium, means? Yes, she wanted people in her community to feel welcome to come into a store to look and buy what they needed or wanted.

Now, turn the page over to the last page of your booklet. Do you see that fold of the booklet is on the left side of the booklet? What do you see? Yes, you see a picture of a statue of Maggie Lena Walker. This statue is located in the community in Richmond, Virginia, where Maggie was born, lived, and did her good work for others.

Ask the children to take their booklets home to share.

PART D – TIMELINE - (Teachers might choose to use this part of the lesson for another lesson)

Do you know what a timeline tells us? Hang an “Influential Virginian Timeline” in the classroom and/or use the attached PowerPoint lesson) - Now, look at our timeline and consider – think about - why these people were influential – important- people.

(See the attached timeline and list of influential Virginians for this lesson. Children will recognize some of these people, which will help them understand who an influential and important historical person. In addition, use timeline concepts and positional words such as left to right, to the left of, to the right of, before, after, first, last, next to, between, etc., as you briefly discuss these influential Virginians and add Maggie Lena Walker to the proper place on the timeline.)

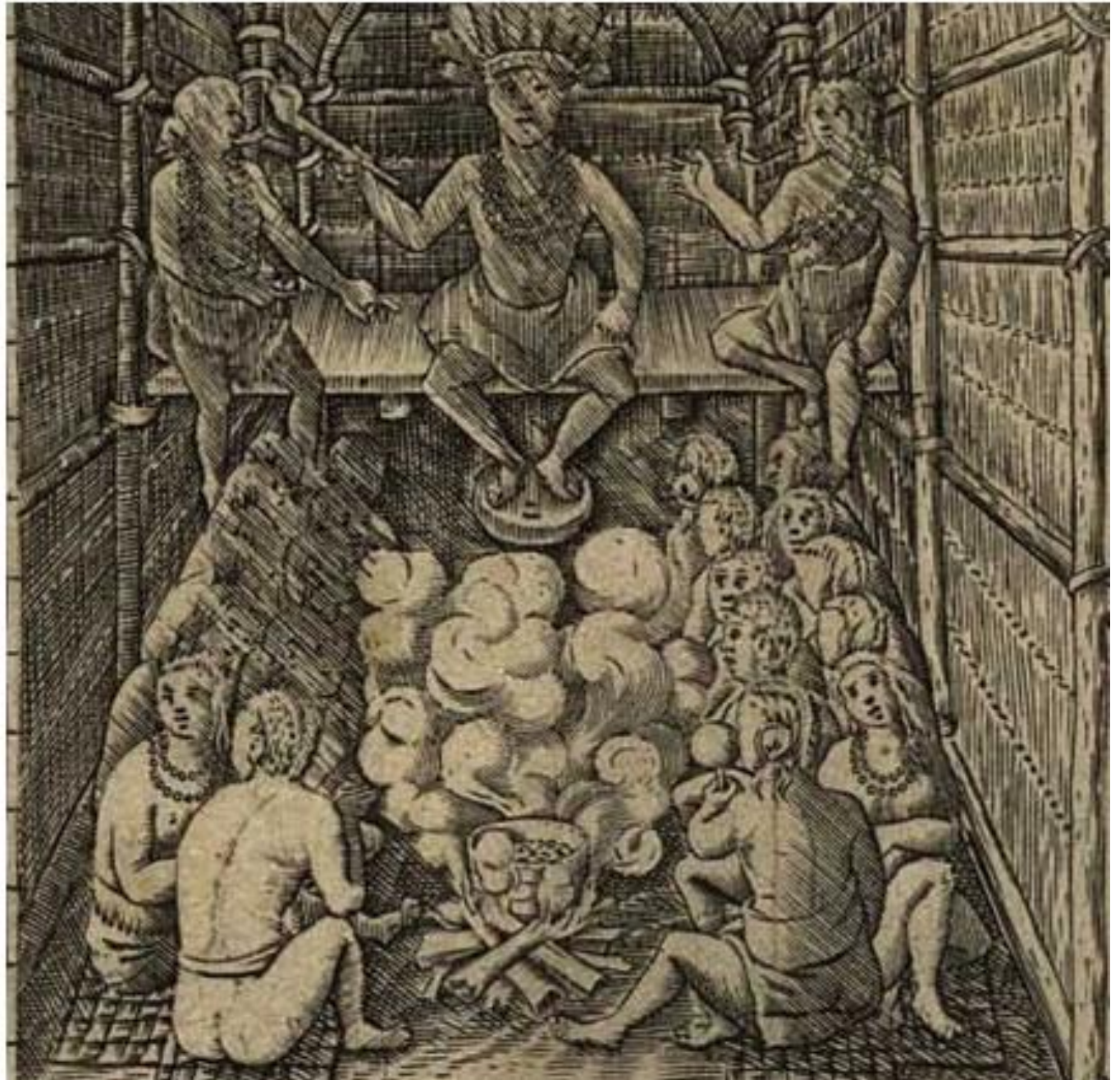
LESSON CLOSURE:

1. Why should people learn about and remember Maggie Lena Walker?
(Listen to answers and if you logged at the opening question, compare, add, edit, and summarize)
Maggie Lena Walker was a black woman born in Richmond, Virginia, during a sad and difficult time in history. Maggie didn’t let anything get in her way, from getting a good education to sharing her time and talents with others. She was the first woman of any race to start a bank in the United States and was a good and responsible citizen in her community and Virginia.
2. We are proud that Maggie Lena Walker is an influential – important Virginian.



Influential Virginians
Timeline

**Chief
Powhatan
“Wahunsonacock”
(1545-1618)**



**Captain
Christopher
Newport**

(1561-1617)



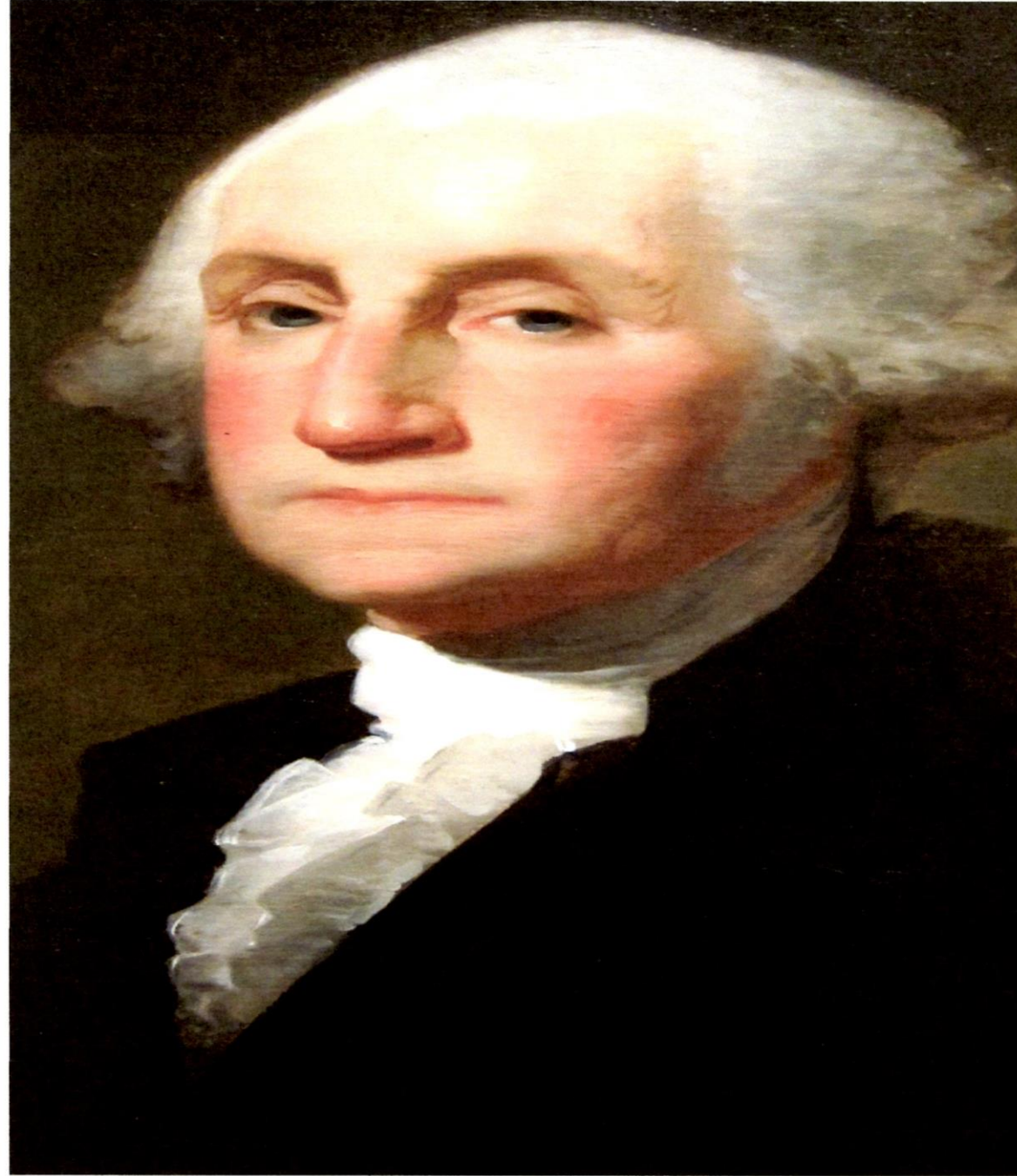
**Pocahontas
“Matoaka”**

(1595-1617)



George Washington

(1732-1799)



Thomas Jefferson

(1743-1826)



**Maggie
Lena Walker**

(1864-1934)



Arthur Ashe

(1943-1993)





Maggie Lena Walker - A Good and Responsible Citizen

(Notes to adjust for storytelling to first-grade children)

Today, I will tell you a true story about a person who tried to be a good citizen all her life. My story is about Maggie Lena Walker, born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1864. The city of Richmond, Virginia, differed from today – not everyone was treated fairly.

When Maggie was a young girl, her stepfather died, and her mother, who had once been enslaved, washed and ironed people's clothing and linens (sheets and towels) to earn a living. One of the jobs Maggie did to help her mother was to deliver clean and freshly ironed clothing and linens in baskets to her mother's customers. When Maggie entered the homes of her mother's customers, she saw differences in how people lived. And she thought about what she could do to help others in her community.

When Maggie was 11 years old, she taught Sunday School at church. And when she was 14 years old and still in school, she became a member of the Order of St. Luke. The Order of St. Luke was an organization – a group of people – that helped African Americans learn to save money and support each other in business.

Maggie Walker continued to attend school in Richmond and became a teacher while studying bookkeeping and accounting at night. She recognized the importance of education and worked hard to do her best work in school. After getting married and having children, Maggie worked hard for her family and community.

Maggie's husband passed away, but she continued to work hard and was able to live in a nine-room house, which she later expanded to twenty-five elegant rooms. Despite being poor when she worked with her mother, Maggie got an education, worked hard, and became an intelligent businesswoman. She became wealthy and used her influence to help others. Her house in Richmond is now a tourist attraction.

Maggie was elected Secretary of the Order of St. Luke at a young age and later became the organization's Grand Deputy Matron. She believed in the importance of education and encouraged young people in her community to attend school. Members of the Order of St. Luke wore buttons encouraging others to join, help, go to school, and work hard.

Maggie had a vision for her community, which included starting a bank to help people save their money, a newspaper to spread good news, and an emporium - a department store like Target or Walmart - where people in her community would be welcome to shop for things they needed and wanted. Maggie got busy and worked hard to realize her vision, starting a newspaper, bank, and department store within five years.

Page 2 – Storytelling – Maggie Lena Walker

Maggie's newspaper, The St. Luke Herald, told positive – good news- stories about the community. She started the Saint Luke Penny and Savings Bank to help people save their money, becoming the first woman to start a bank in the country. Maggie's vision also included an emporium, a department store where people could buy what they needed or wanted.

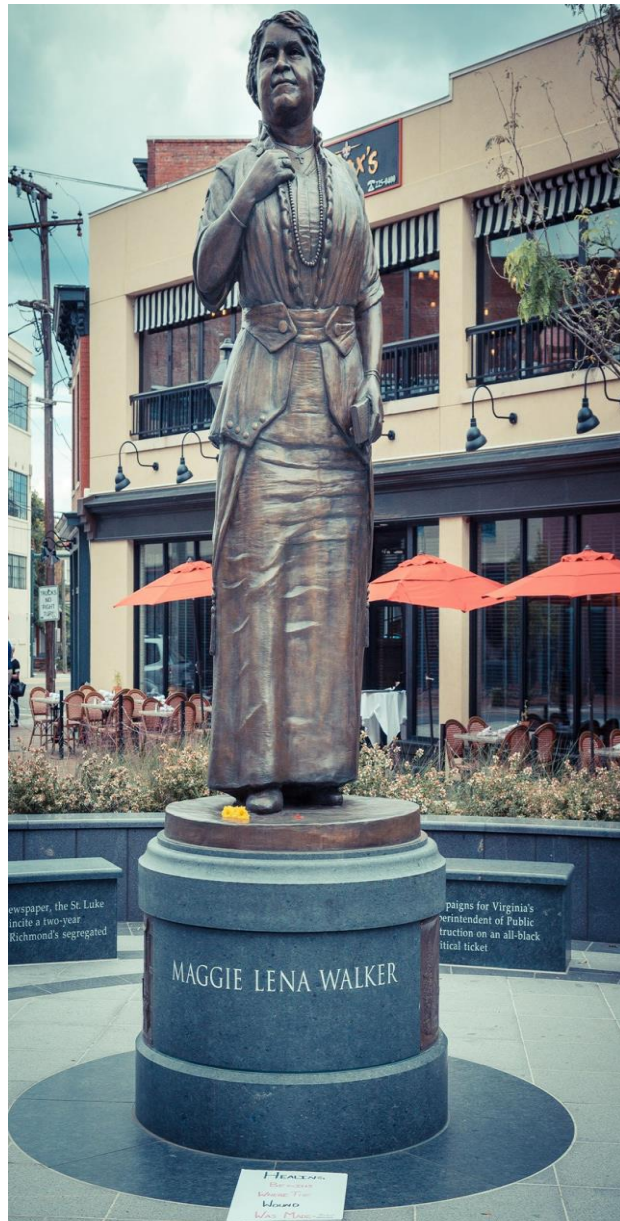
Maggie's health declined, and she had to use a wheelchair, but she continued to work for her community. She died at 67, but her legacy – memory- lives on. Her home in Richmond is now a National Historic Site, and her monument is in the Jackson Ward area. Maggie Walker was the first Richmond woman honored among the city's outdoor monuments in the capital of Virginia, and Maggie Walker Governor's School is named after her.

Wow! Maggie did many things for other people in her lifetime. She was determined and worked hard to achieve her dreams. Maggie Lena Walker is an inspiration to all of us, and I am proud she is an influential Virginian.

Maggie Lena Walker was an important leader who worked hard to improve the lives of people in her community. She tried to be a responsible citizen all of her life.

Maggie Walker Governor's School is named in her honor. A statue in the community she served in Richmond, Virginia reminds us of the good work she did in her community.

We are proud Maggie Lena Walker is an influential Virginian.



Name _____



Maggie Lena Walker

Drawings: Courtesy of National Park Service
Maggie L. Walker Historic Site

Booklet: Williamsburg Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution
Williamsburg-James City County First-Grade Citizenship Partners Program

Maggie Lena Walker was born in 1864 and lived in Richmond, Virginia. What do these pictures tell us about Maggie Walker?



Maggie Lena Walker was an African-American woman who was a responsible citizen. She started The St. Luke Herald newspaper so people could learn about the good things happening in their community.



Maggie Lena Walker was the first African-American woman to start a bank. She started the St Luke's Penny Savings Bank and became the bank president.



And she started the St. Luke's Emporium for people in her community so they would feel welcomed to shop for what they wanted and needed.



Mary Sue Dougherty – Influential Virginians – Focus on Maggie Lena Walker

Influential Virginians Timeline Information

Seven influential Virginians are on this timeline; more can be added throughout the school year. 2023 Virginia Standards list additional influential Virginians: Explorer John Smith; US Presidents James Madison and James Monroe; and additional Barrier Breakers: John Mercer Langston, Booker T. Washington, Barbara Johns, and L. Douglas Wilder.

Indigenous Person - **Chief Powhatan (1545-1618)**, “Wahunsonacock”– (WAH UN NA COOK), was born in a village that later became part of Virginia. He was an Algonquin Native American and ruler of many Indian Tribes. Chief Powhatan was the most influential and powerful leader when the first English settlers-immigrants came to Virginia.

Explorer - **Captain Christopher Newport (1561- 1617)** was born in London, England. He was an English ship captain and privateer. Captain Newport was the captain of the Susan Constant, the largest of the three ships that brought settlers to Jamestown. After helping to start the Jamestown Colony, he returned to England to gather supplies and bring people and supplies back to the Jamestown Colony.

Indigenous Person - **Pocahontas (About 1596-1617)** “Matoaka” – was born in a village that later became part of Virginia. She was the daughter of Chief Powhatan and an Algonquin princess who came with her father to visit the Jamestown settlers. Pocahontas became a friend of the English settlers and worked to help them receive food. She married an Englishman, John Rolfe.

United States President – **George Washington (1732-1799)** was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and the victorious leader of the American Revolutionary War. George Washington is the Father of our Country and was the first President of the United States of America.

United States President - **Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)** was born in Shadwell, Virginia. He was the third President of the United States and philosopher, diplomat, architect, and scientist. Thomas Jefferson was the author of important documents: The Virginia Statue of Religious Freedom and the Declaration of Independence. He died on the 4th of July.

Barrier Breaker – **Maggie Lena Walker (1864-1934)** was born in Richmond, Virginia. She was an African-American woman who was the first woman to establish (start) a bank in the United States and became the bank president. She devoted her life to civil rights advancement, economic empowerment, and educational opportunities for African Americans and women.

Barrier Breaker – **Arthur Ashe (1943-1993)** was born in Richmond, Virginia. He was the first African-American winner of a major tennis title and a leader for civil rights. Arthur Ashe worked for equality for all people.