

## Definitions

- **Budget** A detailed list of expenses for a certain period of time. A budget includes ideas for how the expenses will be paid for.
- **Federal Reserve Bank** The Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond is one of 12 Reserve banks located throughout the United States. It is part of the central banking system of the United States. The Federal Reserve Bank issues currency, regulates monetary policy, and supervises and regulates other banks.
- **Fall Line** This is the point where the level of land changes, and rivers become waterfalls. In Virginia, the Fall Line is the natural border between the Tidewater and Piedmont regions. The cities of Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Petersburg are along the Fall Line.
- **Interstate Highway** A highway that runs between two states. The roads in the Interstate Highway system have two or more lanes running in each direction, with a barrier between them. The major Interstate highways in Virginia are I 95, which runs north-south along the eastern part of the state, I 64, which runs east-west across the state, and I 81 which runs north-south in the western part of the state, through the valley within the Appalachian Mountains.
- **Megalopolis** This word comes from two Greek words-- *mega*, which means "great", and *polis*, meaning "city." The original Megalopolis was a city in ancient Greece. Now the word means a group of cities that seem to connect with one another. The cities in the urban crescent of Virginia are a megalopolis. They are Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Petersburg, and Norfolk. In the northeast, the cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia are a megalopolis.
- **Population Density** The number of people or housing units in a given area. Some areas, like Hampton Roads, have a high population density. That means there are a lot of people. Other areas, like the mountains in the western part of the state, have a low population density. There are not as many people.
- **Relative Location** This is the location of an area compared with something else. For example, the city of Richmond is south of Alexandria, but west of Norfolk.
- **Transportation** is the moving of goods and people from one place to another. Cars, buses, airplanes, trucks, boats, bicycles, trains, and walking are all forms of transportation.
- **Tax**--A tax is money the people pay to support their government.
- **Urban Crescent**--A crescent is a curved shape, like the moon, or a crescent roll. Urban means having to do with a city. On a map of Virginia, the cities of Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Petersburg, and Norfolk are all relatively close to one another. The Urban Crescent of Virginia is this group of cities.