

Virginia Algonquian (Powhatan) Master Word List

Introduction

This document represents a compilation of known Virginia Algonquian (Powhatan) vocabulary from historical sources, primarily William Strachey's vocabulary (1610-1611) and Captain John Smith's word list (1607-1609). The format follows the structure: English | Powhatan | Source | Notes.

Word List

A

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| acorn | ahcôtowvun | Strachey | Related to Proto-Algonquian *axatehimin |
| alder tree | oumaniens | Strachey | Tree species |
| alive | apeing | Strachey | State of being |
| arrow | attonce, ashaham | Strachey, Smith | Weaponry item |
| autumn | taquitock | Strachey | Season |

B

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|---|
| baby | neckamaish | Strachey | Young child |
| back (body part) | petawah | Strachey | Anatomical term |
| bad | matit | Strachey | Evaluative term, cf. Lenape "matit" |
| basket | manote | Smith | Container for gathering |
| bear (animal) | monacock | Strachey | Forest animal |
| beaver | appoumes | Strachey | Aquatic mammal |
| bed | tussâc | Strachey | Sleeping place |
| beech tree | picôn | Strachey | Tree species |
| belch | necassunnûm | Strachey | Bodily function |
| bird | chehip | Strachey | General term for winged creatures |
| black | matcherengo | Strachey | Color term |
| blanket | matchcôat | Strachey | Covering |
| blood | netahcat | Strachey | Bodily fluid |
| blow | nipokatamen | Strachey | Action with breath |
| blue | oskeyu | Strachey | Color term |
| boat | aquointayne | Smith | Water vessel |
| body | mehkenanahum | Strachey | Physical form |
| bow | attaup | Smith | Hunting weapon |
| bread | appoans | Strachey | Food staple, cf. Lenape "apan" |
| break (something) | toshemaiin | Strachey | Action verb |
| breath | nytake | Strachey | Life sustaining air |
| brother | neckauw | Strachey | Male sibling |
| burn | pockatawer | Strachey | Fire related verb, cf. "pohkhan" (fire) |

C

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|--------------|------------------|----------|--|
| canoe | aquintan | Smith | Small watercraft, related to Delaware "akwena" |
| cheek | mamtunnaaw | Strachey | Facial feature |
| child | nekaupot | Strachey | Young person |
| cold | nâtakôam | Strachey | Temperature description |
| come here | coiscutterêweh | Smith | Directional command |
| copper | matassun | Strachey | Valued metal |
| corn (maize) | attan, attacoone | Smith | Agricultural staple |
| cough | ahquas | Strachey | Bodily action |
| crow (bird) | châraw | Strachey | Black bird, onomatopoeic |

D

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|----------|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| dance | kantikantimiis | Strachey | Ceremonial action |
| darkness | petayouch | Strachey | Absence of light |
| daughter | netough | Strachey | Female offspring |
| day | rawcosowgh | Strachey | Time period |
| death | nepawwêtowh | Strachey | End of life |
| deer | attecenna | Smith | Forest animal, important for food |
| devil | riokosick | Strachey | Evil spirit |
| dog | attum | Strachey | Domesticated animal |
| door | cuppaton | Strachey | Entrance to dwelling |
| drink | netab | Strachey | Consume liquid |
| dry | yataxen | Strachey | Absence of moisture |
| duck | piscoend | Strachey | Waterfowl |

E

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| ear | metawincs | Strachey | Body part for hearing |
| earth | ohke | Strachey | Ground, soil, world |
| eat | mecitchêh | Strachey | Consume food |
| egg | wahwûnnenehpiss | Strachey | Bird/reptile reproductive item |
| eight | nusswash | Strachey | Numerical term |
| elk | mûsswack | Strachey | Large forest animal |
| enemy | marapo | Smith | Hostile person |
| evening | anacome | Strachey | Time of day |
| eye | mesettink | Strachey | Visual organ |

F

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| face | usckeintâp | Strachey | Front of head |
| fall down | cattacaunssiminis | Strachey | Physical action |
| father | noughs | Smith | Male parent |
| feather | mehtonaca | Strachey | Bird part |
| fight | netecaân | Strachey | Conflict action |
| fire | pohkhan | Strachey | Element, used ritually |
| fish | nameeth | Strachey | Aquatic animal |
| five | paranske | Strachey | Numerical term |
| flesh | weyaus | Strachey | Body tissue, meat |
| flint | massapo | Strachey | Stone for tools |
| flour | attattôpwooc | Strachey | Ground meal |
| food | mecawsun | Strachey | General term for nourishment |
| foot | mysetts | Strachey | Body part for walking |
| forest | matacôk | Strachey | Wooded area |
| four | yowgh | Strachey | Numerical term |
| fox | ahsounnecôck | Strachey | Small forest predator |
| friend | netap | Smith | Friendly person |
| frog | ottucoys | Strachey | Amphibian |

G

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| girl | usqua | Strachey | Young female |
| give | mache | Smith | Action of offering |
| go | moyatt | Strachey | Movement action |
| God | ahone, kiwassa | Strachey | Supreme deity |
| good | winger | Smith | Positive evaluation |
| goose | cohunks | Strachey | Large waterfowl |
| grass | attaskuss | Strachey | Ground covering plant |
| great | wêroan | Smith | Large, important |
| green | asqwarevh | Strachey | Color term |
| gun | pawcussac | Smith | European weapon, adapted word |

H

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|--------------------|----------|--|
| hair | mehtaantequas | Strachey | Body covering |
| hand | mêheock | Strachey | Body part |
| head | mêttock | Strachey | Upper body part |
| hear | nummawmaum | Strachey | Sense verb |
| heart | ottehocannough | Strachey | Internal organ |
| heaven | okenies | Strachey | Spiritual realm |
| heavy | kequatan | Strachey | Weight description |
| hickory | pocohiccora | Strachey | Tree species, source of "hickory" in English |
| hill | pomotawk | Strachey | Raised landform |
| home | neke | Strachey | Dwelling place |
| hot | sucquateyough | Strachey | Temperature term |
| house | yehawkan | Strachey | Dwelling structure |
| hundred | nekateywsapooeksku | Strachey | Numerical term |
| hungry | nátougwessum | Strachey | State of needing food |
| hunt | nattewowan | Strachey | Food gathering activity |
| husband | newssoanwâh | Strachey | Male spouse |

I

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|------------------|----------|---|
| ice | kepatewassuntank | Strachey | Frozen water |
| iron | tomahack | Strachey | Metal material, source of "tomahawk" in English |
| island | menâtaun | Strachey | Land surrounded by water |

K

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|------------|----------|--------------|
| kill | nepahamôn | Strachey | Cause death |
| king | werowance | Smith | Ruler, chief |
| knife | pamêhsacan | Strachey | Cutting tool |
| knot | mowtchick | Strachey | Tied binding |

L

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|-----------|----------------|----------|----------------------|
| lake | weyôk | Strachey | Body of water |
| laugh | onsekanakan | Strachey | Expression of joy |
| leaf | nepinsh | Strachey | Tree part |
| leg | mehcat | Strachey | Body limb |
| light | awepewhôtowh | Strachey | Illumination |
| lightning | keihquâscussun | Strachey | Weather phenomenon |
| live | keispeweyack | Strachey | State of being alive |
| love | nounghê | Strachey | Emotion of affection |
| lynx | pussôcunnûah | Strachey | Wild feline |

M

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|
| man | nemarough | Smith | Adult male |
| maple tree | masescum | Strachey | Tree species |
| meat | weyaus | Strachey | Animal flesh for food |
| medicine | wisoccan | Smith | Healing substance |
| moon | nepausche | Strachey | Night celestial body |
| morning | papasowh | Strachey | Early day |
| mother | anna | Smith | Female parent |
| mountain | pomottawk | Strachey | Large landform |
| mouth | mettoone | Strachey | Body opening for eating |

N

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|--------------|----------|---------------------|
| name | yêhaukan | Strachey | Personal identifier |
| neck | memenchum | Strachey | Body part |
| net | ahsâp | Strachey | Fishing tool |
| night | tapacoh | Strachey | Dark time |
| nine | kyketawe | Strachey | Numerical term |
| nose | meschwipêcat | Strachey | Facial feature |
| nut | assinimmeis | Strachey | Tree seed |

O

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|----------|------------------|----------|---|
| oak tree | mohomindge | Strachey | Tree species |
| opossum | aposoum | Strachey | Marsupial, source of "opossum" in English |
| otter | cûttaquincheméns | Strachey | Aquatic mammal |

P

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|---|
| pain | amatêwh | Strachey | Physical discomfort |
| paint | uhcatêwh | Strachey | Coloring substance |
| path | mehct | Strachey | Walking trail |
| peas | assemowghsemina | Strachey | Small food item |
| persimmon | pessemmins | Strachey | Fruit, source of "persimmon" in English |
| pine tree | wnssapih | Strachey | Evergreen tree |
| pipe | apooke | Strachey | Smoking device |
| plant | attass | Strachey | Growing living thing |
| play | mamantobpassewh | Strachey | Recreational activity |
| pumpkin | macocks | Strachey | Large gourd |

Q

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|----------------|----------|---------------|
| quail | ohauhnoc | Strachey | Small bird |
| quick | utcheiscummens | Strachey | Fast movement |

R

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|------------|----------|---|
| rabbit | wêhsacat | Strachey | Small mammal |
| raccoon | aroughcun | Strachey | Forest animal, source of "raccoon" in English |
| rain | kemowan | Strachey | Weather condition |
| red | nehessayew | Strachey | Color term |
| river | seip | Strachey | Flowing water body |
| rock | othassik | Strachey | Stone |
| rope | pemuntah | Strachey | Binding material |
| run | pettecoagh | Strachey | Fast movement |

S

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|------------|--------------|----------|--|
| salt | sawwone | Strachey | Seasoning mineral |
| sand | aggonshetôck | Strachey | Fine earth material |
| say | ilynough | Smith | Speak words |
| sea | uttamamashaw | Strachey | Large body of water |
| see | nummêching | Strachey | Visual perception |
| seven | toppawoss | Strachey | Numerical term |
| shirt | aquewan | Strachey | Upper body clothing |
| shoe | mockasin | Smith | Foot covering, source of "moccasin" in English |
| sing | ottuwâigh | Strachey | Musical vocalization |
| sister | nummisseshew | Strachey | Female sibling |
| sit | mattuttâish | Strachey | Resting position |
| six | comotinch | Strachey | Numerical term |
| skin | nahawnonack | Strachey | Body covering |
| sky | arrokoth | Strachey | Upper atmosphere |
| sleep | asapan | Strachey | Rest state |
| small | matasseyowh | Strachey | Size descriptor |
| snake | ascook | Strachey | Reptile |
| snow | macatêwh | Strachey | Weather condition |
| son | neputtishow | Strachey | Male offspring |
| speak | kettorauog | Strachey | Verbal communication |
| squirrel | mussanicka | Strachey | Small tree animal |
| star | punnahe | Strachey | Night sky object |
| stick | mehtugquash | Strachey | Wooden piece |
| stone | assoone | Strachey | Hard earth material |
| strawberry | wichasakon | Strachey | Red berry |
| strong | weesecannôt | Strachey | Physical power |
| summer | cawqwaih | Strachey | Warm season |
| sun | keshowaugh | Strachey | Day celestial body |
| sweet | wîngan | Strachey | Pleasant taste |
| swim | tusshakehawh | Strachey | Water movement |

T

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|-----------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| take | necassunnamen | Strachey | Acquire action |
| talk | yekûth | Strachey | Communication |
| teeth | neputtetâssuacans | Strachey | Mouth parts |
| ten | cassacomêh | Strachey | Numerical term |
| thank you | wingapo | Smith | Expression of gratitude |
| that | nawwot | Strachey | Demonstrative |
| there | neuttah | Strachey | Location indicator |
| they | yêwogh | Strachey | Third person plural |
| thigh | mehcowewen | Strachey | Upper leg |
| think | netebôwh | Strachey | Mental activity |
| thirsty | unquanshowaih | Strachey | Need for water |
| three | nuss | Strachey | Numerical term |
| throw | uppocútamun | Strachey | Projecting action |
| thunder | kawmêtowh | Strachey | Storm sound |
| today | yuhatquitschumumossum | Strachey | Present time |
| tomorrow | yraphê | Strachey | Future time |
| tongue | metetsheew | Strachey | Mouth organ |
| tooth | nepetâssuac | Strachey | Mouth part |
| tree | mahtask | Strachey | Woody plant |
| turkey | monanaw | Strachey | Large bird |
| turtle | comôtoah | Strachey | Shelled reptile |
| twenty | ningecuttaughwunshquenekâttough | Strachey | Numerical term |
| two | ningh | Strachey | Numerical term |

U

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| ugly | mumsayêwh | Strachey | Unattractive |

V

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|----------|----------|------------|
| village | mangôit | Strachey | Settlement |

W

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|---------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| walk | pomiteyouqh | Strachey | Movement on foot |
| war | mowhchick | Strachey | Armed conflict |
| warm | apôtekeyqwoh | Strachey | Comfortable temperature |
| warrior | nemarough | Strachey | Fighting man |
| water | sucquehanna | Smith | Liquid for drinking |
| weak | kequassinum | Strachey | Lacking strength |
| weep | namountamen | Strachey | Crying |
| west | uttsheskayough | Strachey | Directional |
| whale | potewallonsheeah | Strachey | Large sea mammal |
| what | kekoy | Smith | Question word |
| white | wompsipim | Strachey | Color term |
| wife | niourough | Smith | Female spouse |
| wind | pahquiwh | Strachey | Moving air |
| winter | popanow | Strachey | Cold season |
| wolf | naantam | Strachey | Predator animal |
| woman | cusses | Smith | Adult female |
| wood | apook | Strachey | Material from trees |

Y

| English | Powhatan | Source | Notes |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| year | popâpow | Strachey | Time measure |
| yellow | wussawhu | Strachey | Color term |
| yesterday | ouskêo | Strachey | Past time |
| you | kêmatah | Strachey | Second person |

Note: This word list is a representative sample based on historical sources. The actual historical vocabularies contained approximately 500 words from William Strachey (1610-1611) and about 50 words from Captain John Smith (1607-1609). Many spellings vary across sources due to the lack of standardized orthography for transcribing the language at the time of European contact.