

How did people get around in Virginia?

Mostly they rode horses. Slaves did not have horses of their own, but just about everybody else did. There were no cars or trains or planes in those days.

The Virginia colonists loved horseback riding and would rather ride than walk. The Indians thought that was funny. They said the colonists were so lazy they needed six legs instead of two just to visit a neighbor.



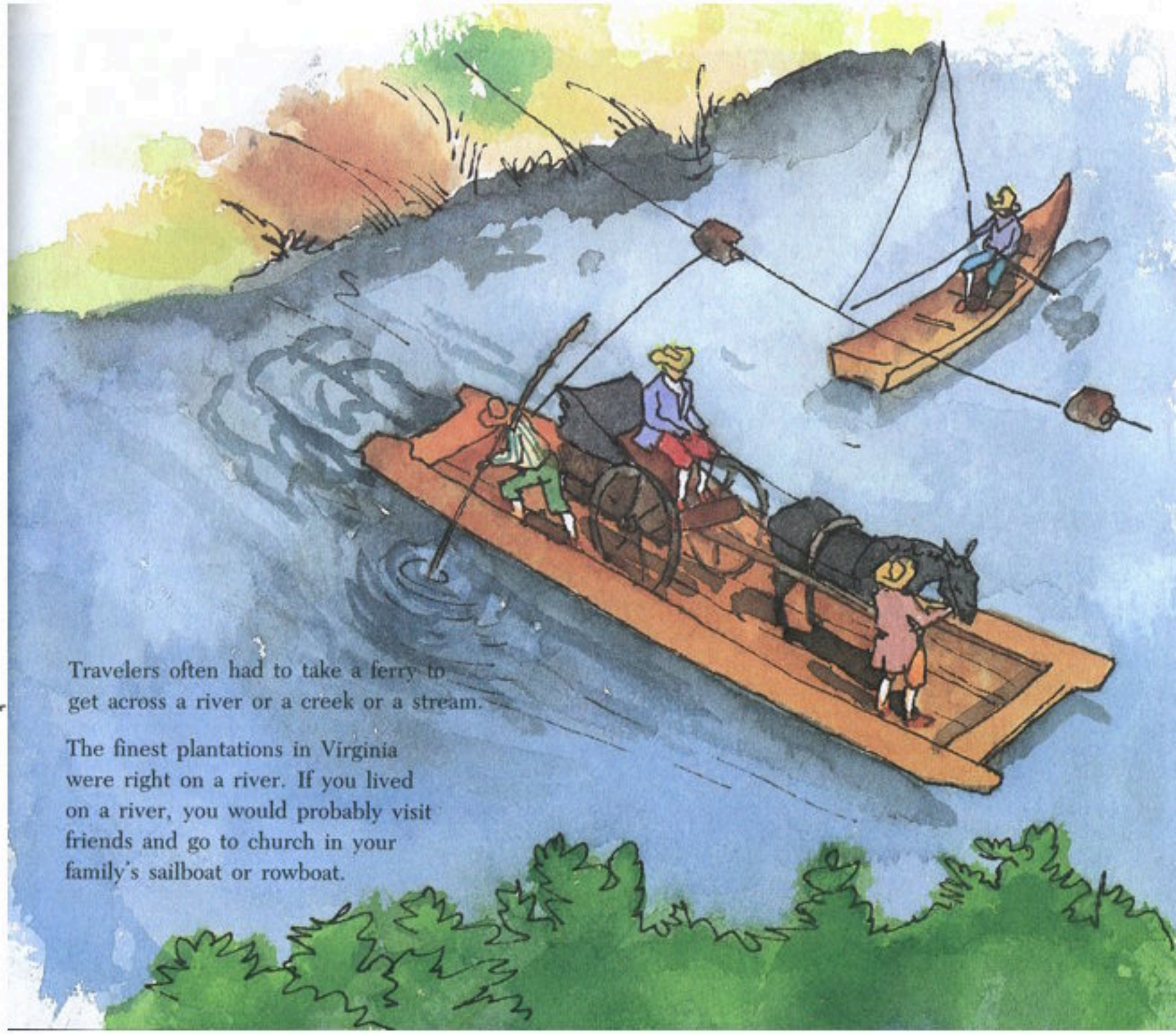
On a long trip, a traveler would often take two horses — one to ride on and one for the baggage. You might ride through dark forests, across muddy streams, and over rocks. You could get lost in a swamp or caught in a storm.

It might take a whole day to go twenty or twenty-five miles.

Rich planters and their families often rode in carriages that were pulled by horses. Carriages cost a lot of money, and they could be used only where the roads were good.



An ordinary farmer could not afford a carriage. He used a wagon instead.



Travelers often had to take a ferry to get across a river or a creek or a stream.

The finest plantations in Virginia were right on a river. If you lived on a river, you would probably visit friends and go to church in your family's sailboat or rowboat.