



Jamestown – The Early Years Study Guide

TEST DATE: _____

You will need to know the following items for the test.

(Don't forget you can always bring home your yellow notebook to study with as well)

Reason to start an English Colony– Economic venture (money) to gain wealth and power so they could compete with other European nations.

How did England plan to increase its wealth and power?- (1) they hoped to find gold and silver (2) send raw materials (such as timber and iron) to England (3) an American colony would open a new market for trade

Who financed (or paid for) Jamestown? - Virginia Company of London

Important date- First settlers English arrived in Jamestown in 1607.

Jamestown was the **first permanent English** settlement in America

Jamestown was a **peninsula** in 1607. Today it is an **island**.



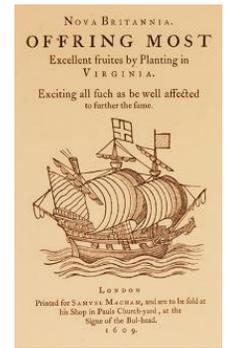
People to know:

- **Captain John Smith** – strong leader, “If you do not work, you do not eat.” He also started a trading relationship with the native peoples
- **Powhatan Indians** – Indians who helped the colonists survive, traded with the colonists, and taught them how to plant corn and tobacco (lived in Werowocomoco)
- **Powhatan** – Chief of many tribes who provided leadership to his people and taught the colonists survival skills
- **Pocahontas** – daughter of Powhatan who served as a contact between native people and settlers
- **King James I** – granted the charters to the Virginia Company of London



Charters: (granted by King James I)

- granted the Virginia Company of London the right to establish a colony in North America
- extended English Rights to the colonists in Jamestown
- defined the borders of the Jamestown Colony



Reasons for site choice

- Instructions from England told the settlers to go inland and find a suitable place for their colony.
- The location could be easily defended from attack by sea (by the Spanish).
- The water along the shore was deep enough for ships to dock.
- They believed the site had a good supply of fresh water.

Reasons why Jamestown was a poor site to settle

- Poor drinking water and it was swampy with mosquitoes that carried disease



Hardships in Jamestown

- Many settlers died from starvation and disease
- Most of the settlers lacked skills need to provide for themselves
- The site they chose was marshy and did not have safe drinking
- There was a drought at the time of settlement which reduced the amount of food available for the settlers



Changes that resulted in survival

- Strong leadership of John Smith and his forced work program (*if you don't work you don't eat*)
- the start of new settlements away from the unhealthy environment of Jamestown
- the arrival of supply ships bringing fresh supplies and new settlers
 - the emphasis on agriculture (growing their own food)

Trade in Jamestown

- Powhatan traded **food, fur, and leather** to the English settlers.
- In exchange the English traded **copper for jewelry, pots, and tools** to the Powhatans.



Over time the Native peoples realized that the English colony would continue to grow. They came to see the colonists as invaders who would take over their land.