The English Colonization of America
Overview

• Some European countries, including England, were in competition to increase their wealth and power by expanding their empires to America. (The New World)
Reasons for English Colonization in America

• England wanted to establish an American colony to increase its wealth and power.

• Colony – a group of people who settle in a distant territory but remain ruled by (subject to) their parent country.
Reasons for English Colonization in America

- England hoped to find silver and gold in America.
- An American settlement would furnish raw materials that could not be grown or obtained in England.
- The colony would also open new markets for England to trade with.
Economics

- Economics – the science that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
- Economics – the making, the shipping, and the use of products and services.
Economic Results of English Colonization in America

- The Virginia colony and England would become economically interdependent.
- England depended on raw materials exported (sent out) from the Virginia colony. Examples: wood used for shipbuilding.
- The Virginia colony depended on imported (brought in) manufactured goods from England. Examples: clothing, iron pots, and tools.
Stockholders

• A stockholder is someone who buys a portion of a company.
• The company uses the stockholder’s money to try and make money.
• If the company is successful, the stockholder will make a profit on his/her investment. This means the person will make money!
The Virginia Company of London and the Jamestown Settlement

- The Virginia Company of London was a company in England that was looking for investors (stockholders) to help pay the costs for a settlement in the New World at Jamestown.
The Virginia Company of London and the Jamestown Settlement

• The stockholders of the Virginia Company of London financed (paid for) the settlement of Jamestown.
The Virginia Company of London and the Jamestown Settlement

- Jamestown was primarily (mainly) an economic venture. *This means that the stockholders wanted to make money!*
- Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in North America in the year 1607.
The Important Understanding about Jamestown

- Location and physical characteristics influenced the decision to settle at Jamestown.
How Geography Influenced the Decision to Settle at Jamestown

• When the settlers arrived in 1607, Jamestown was located on a narrow peninsula bordered on three sides by the James River.

• Today, Jamestown is located on an island in the James River.
Reasons for the Site Choice of the Jamestown Location

There were three main reasons the settlers picked this area for the Jamestown settlement:

1. The location could be easily defended from attack by sea (Spanish).
2. The water along the shore was deep enough for ships to dock – a good harbor!
3. They believed they had a good supply of fresh water.
Jamestown

- Archaeologists have discovered the site of the original fort.
- The recovered artifacts give archaeologists clues about the interactions of English, African, and Indians in early Virginia.