Some European countries were in competition to increase wealth and power and wanted to expand their empires to America.

**What were reasons for English colonization in America?**
- To find silver and gold in America
- To establish an American settlement to furnish raw materials while opening new markets for trade

**Why did the settlers choose the narrow peninsula for the site of Jamestown?**
- Instructions from England told them to go inland and find a suitable place for the colony.
- The location could be easily defended from Spanish attacks by sea.
- The water along the shore was deep enough for ships to dock.
- They believed the site had a good supply of fresh water.

**What was the importance of Jamestown?**
- First permanent English settlement in British North America
- Founded in 1607 on a narrow peninsula bordered on three sides by the James River
- Provided natural resources, such as timber and iron
- Financed by stockholders of the Virginia Company of London
- Now located on an island in the James River, due to erosion of Jamestown peninsula

**What were the Virginia Charters?**
- Granted by the King of England
- Defined the physical boundaries of the colony
- Established a settlement in North America
- Extended English rights to the settlers
As Jamestown grew, Virginia’s system of government evolved. How did the General Assembly evolve?

- The governor of Virginia called a meeting of a General Assembly—two representatives, called burgesses, from each Virginia division, along with the governor’s Council and the governor.
- They met as one legislative body.
- At that time, only certain free adult men could be burgesses. It gave these settlers the opportunity to take part in controlling their own government.

- The burgesses became a separate legislative body, called the House of Burgesses.
- They met separately from the governor’s Council as one of the two legislative bodies in the General Assembly.
- The current Virginia General Assembly dates back to 1619 with the establishment of the General Assembly and its burgesses in Jamestown.

1619 | 1640s | TODAY

How did Virginia become a more diverse colony by 1620?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>EFFECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africans arrived in Virginia against their will in 1619. Portuguese sailors brought African men and women from what is present-day Angola.</td>
<td>Their arrival made it possible for the Jamestown settlement to expand the tobacco economy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional English women arrived in 1620.</td>
<td>Their arrival made it possible for more settlers to start families, which helped to establish Jamestown as a permanent colony in Virginia.</td>
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English settlers found Virginia life harder than they had expected. Why was it hard and what changes took place to ensure their survival?

**HARDSHIPS**

1. The chosen site was marshy and lacked safe drinking water.

2. Drought reduced amount of available food.

3. Settlers lacked some necessary skills to provide for themselves.

4. Many died of starvation and disease.

**CHANGES**

1. Ships arrived bringing supplies and new settlers.

2. Through the strong leadership of Captain John Smith, a forced work program was instituted.

3. New settlements were built away from the unhealthy environment of Jamestown.

4. An emphasis was placed on agriculture.

What kind of interactions occurred between the English settlers and the native peoples?

**Captain John Smith**

He initiated trading relationships with the Powhatan Indians. The native peoples traded food, fur, and leather with the English in exchange for tools, pots, and copper for jewelry.

**Chief Powhatan**

He was chief of many tribes. He provided leadership to his people and taught the settlers survival skills.

**Pocahontas**

She was Powhatan’s daughter. She served as a contact between the native peoples and the English.

**The Native Peoples**

They showed the settlers how to plant corn and harvest tobacco. Over time, the Indians realized English settlements would continue to grow. They came to see the settlers as invaders who would take over their land.