**STANDARD VS.3A**

**REASONS FOR COLONIZATION**

Some European countries, including England, were in competition to increase their wealth and power by expanding their empires to America.

The first permanent English settlement in America was Jamestown, founded in 1607 as an economic venture.

Explain the reasons for English colonization

- England wanted to establish an American colony to increase her wealth and power - to compete with other European nations.
- England hoped to find silver and gold in America.
  - An American settlement would furnish raw materials while opening new markets for trade.

Jamestown

- Jamestown was primarily an economic venture.
- The stockholders of the Virginia Company of London financed the settlement of Jamestown.
- Jamestown, founded in 1607, became the first permanent English settlement in British North America.

**STANDARD VS.3B**

**REASON FOR JAMESTOWN LOCATION**

The location and physical characteristics of the Jamestown site influenced the decision to settle there.

The English believed the natural resources at Jamestown would benefit England.

When the settlers arrived in 1607, they founded Jamestown on a narrow peninsula bordered on three sides by the James River.

- Today, Jamestown is located on an island in the James River due to the erosion of the Jamestown peninsula.

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 (Spanish).
- The water along the shore was deep enough for ships to dock.
- They believed they had a good supply of fresh water.

**STANDARD VS.3C**

**VIRGINIA COMPANY CHARTERS**

The King of England had the power to grant charters allowing settlement in North America.

Importance of Virginia charters

The King of England granted charters to the Virginia Company of London to:

- establish a settlement in North America
- define the physical boundaries of the colony
- extend English rights to the settlers

**STANDARD VS.3D**

1619 - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As Jamestown grew, Virginia’s system of government evolved.

System of government

In 1619, the governor of Virginia called a meeting of the General Assembly.

- The General Assembly included two citizen representatives, called burgesses, from each of the divisions of Virginia along with the governor’s council, and the governor.
- They met as one legislative body. At that time, only certain free adult men had a right to take part.

The current Virginia General Assembly dates back to 1619 with the establishment of the General Assembly and its burgesses in Jamestown.

- It was the first elected legislative body in English North America giving some settlers the opportunity to take part in controlling their own government.

House of Burgesses
By the 1640s, 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 of the General Assembly.

Changes that resulted in survival
- The arrival of ships bringing supplies and new settlers
- The forced work program and strong leadership of Captain John Smith, and
- The development of new settlements that spread away from the unhealthy environment of Jamestown.
- The emphasis on agriculture

**STANDARD VS.3E**

**AFRICANS & WOMEN ARRIVE**

Virginia became a more diverse colony by 1620.

Portuguese sailors captured African men and women from what is present-day Angola.

- The legal status of these early African men and women as either servants or slaves in Virginia is unknown.
- Africans arrived in Virginia against their will in 1619.
- The arrival of Africans made it possible to expand the tobacco economy.

The arrival of women in 1620 made it possible for the settlers to establish families and a more permanent colony in Virginia.

**STANDARD VS.3F**

**JAMESTOWN HARDSHIPS**

The English settlers found life in Virginia harder than they had expected.

Hardships faced by the settlers
- The site they chose to live on was marshy and lacked safe drinking water.
- A drought at the time of settlement reduced the amount of food available to everyone in Virginia
- The settlers lacked some skills necessary to provide for themselves.
- Many settlers died of starvation and disease.

**STANDARD VS.3G**

**ENGLISH & POWHATAN**

The native peoples and the English settlers in Virginia established trading relationships and for a while had positive interactions.

Captain John Smith initiated trading relationships with the native peoples.

- The native peoples traded food fur, and leather with the English in exchange for tools, pots, and copper for jewelry.

The native people contributed to the survival of the Jamestown settlers in several ways.

- Powhatan, chief of many tribes, provided leadership to his people and taught the settlers survival skills.
- Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, served as a contact between the native peoples and the English.
- The native peoples showed the settlers how to plant corn and harvest tobacco.

Over time, the native peoples realized the English settlement would continue to grow.

- The native peoples came to see the settlers as invaders who would take over their land