

VS.3 JAMESTOWN

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**.

- **Natural resources** from Jamestown included **timber** and **iron**.

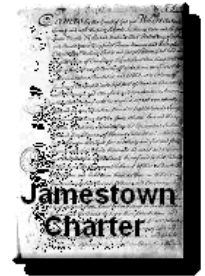
STANDARD VS.3C VIRGINIA COMPANY CHARTERS

*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.



STANDARD VS.3E AFRICANS & WOMEN ARRIVE

*This is the **first time** that **Africans** were introduced to the Virginia colony and became a **permanent** part of Virginia's population.*

Africans arrived in Virginia **against their will** in **1619**.

- The first Africans who were forcibly brought to **Old Point Comfort** were **originally free people** who were captured by **Portuguese** soldiers by hired mercenaries in an **Angolan** region of **West Central Africa**.
- With the **forced arrival** of these Africans, Virginia would create a system of people **treated as property** based on their skin color.
- The Virginia colony's **economy** was greatly **dependent** upon temporary and permanent **servitude**.
 - Within just a few years, **90%** of the Virginia population were in some form of **servitude**.
 - In these early years, Virginia would create a **disparity** between English colonists and Africans.



- The arrival of additional English **women** in **1620** made it possible for more settlers to **start families**, which helped to establish Jamestown as a **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**.

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.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**

