

SETTLEMENT OF JAMESTOWN

SC HISTORY STANDARDS : USHC.1.CO, USHC.1.P, USHC.1.E

INTRODUCTION TO JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT



THE SETTLEMENT OF JAMESTOWN: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Jamestown, Virginia: First permanent English settlement in North America (1607).

Key themes:

- the motives driving settlement
- daily routines
- interactions with Native Americans

MOTIVES FOR SETTLEMENT



WHY JAMESTOWN? UNDERSTANDING THE MOTIVATIONS

"Here every man may be master and owner of his owne labour and land...If he have nothing but his hands, he may...by industrie quickly grow rich."
John Smith

Primary Source: John Smith's Writings :
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/john-smith-writings.htm>

Economic: Search for gold, silver, and other resources.

Political: Expansion of English influence and competition with Spain.

Social: Desire for new opportunities and land for settlers.

FOUNDING AND EARLY CHALLENGES



THE HARSH REALITIES OF EARLY SETTLEMENT

"Now, all of us at Jamestown are beginning to feel that sharp prick of hunger, which no man can truly describe, but he has tasted the bitterness thereof." George Percy

Primary Source: George Percy Observations :
<https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/settlement/text1/JamestownPercyObservations.pdf>

Founding: Established by the Virginia Company.

Challenges: harsh winters, disease, and food shortages.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIVE AMERICANS



INTERACTIONS WITH THE POWHATAN CONFEDERACY

"Why should you take by force that from us that which you can have by love? Why should you destroy us, who have provided you with food What can you get by war?" Chief Powhatan

Interactions: Trade and conflict with the Powhatan people

Key figures: Pocahontas and Chief Powhatan

THE ROLE OF TOBACCO



TOBACCO: THE ECONOMIC LIFELINE

"A custome lothsome to the eye, hatefull to the Nose," King James I

Introduction of Tobacco: John Rolfe introduced a hybrid breed of tobacco to Jamestown

Impact: Economic boom and increased demand for labor. Their cash crop.

THE STARVING TIME



THE STARVING TIME: A CRISIS IN JAMESTOWN

"it was not possible for us to endure to wade in the water (as formerly) to gather oysters to satisfie our hungry stomachs, but constrained to digge in the grounde for unwholesome rootes whereof we were not able to get fo many as would suffice us, in respect of the frost at that season & our poverty & weakness, so that famine compelled us wholly to devoure those Hogges, Dogges & horses that weare then in the Collony, together with rates, mice, snakes, or what vermin or carryon soever we could light on, as alsoe Toadstooles, Jewes eares, or what els we founde growing upon the grounde that would fill either mouth or belly; and weare driven through unsufferable hunger unnaturallie to eat those things which nature most abhorred" Sir Thomas Smith

Primary Source: Journals of the House of Burgesses
<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/primary-documents/the-starving-time-and-rescue-an-excerpt-from-a-breife-declaration-of-the-plantation-of-virginia-1624/>

The severe famine during the winter of 1609-1610.

Impact: Starvation, cannibalism, and a drastic decrease in population.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES



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"In 1618, the council in London instructed the Virginia governor to initiate the first representative assembly in the colonies. It was felt that the colonists needed to have some voice in local affairs if order and economic prosperity were to be reestablished in the faltering colony." Donald Lutz

Significance: Creation of the first legislative assembly in the American colonies (1619).

Functions: Early steps towards self-governance and representative democracy.

COMPARING POINTS OF VIEW



PERSPECTIVES ON THE JAMESTOWN EXPERIENCE

"You see us unarmed, and willing to supply your wants if you will come in a friendly manner; not with swords and guns as to invade an enemy." Chief Powhatan

European Settlers: Focus on economic opportunities and hardships.

Native Americans: Impacts of colonization on their lives and societies.

How did the relationship between these two groups grow?

LEGACY OF JAMESTOWN



THE ENDURING IMPACT OF JAMESTOWN

Jamestown changed the world in many ways, but perhaps it shaped our nation most profoundly the day Africans arrived. I can't think of a more relevant place to talk about the issues facing our community today than the place where African culture became American culture. Travis Smiley

Influence on future colonization, economic practices, and governance in America.

Introduction of African Slaves in 1619.

Without Jamestown does the English Colony in North America continue? Does the United States ever exist?

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