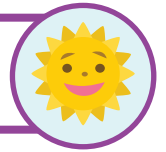




Colonial America: Jamestown



Name: _____

Date: _____

Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in North America. In 1606, King James I of England approved a charter for the Virginia Company to establish a new colony in North America. In the hopes of finding fortune, 144 men traveled aboard three ships, leaving England in December 1606. They arrived four months later in what is now Virginia.



Jamestown Colony

When they arrived, they explored the coast in search of a place to settle. They picked an island in what was later named the James River. Unfortunately, the Algonquins, a Native American tribe, were already living in the area when the settlers arrived. Though the Algonquins tried to protect their home, the newcomers had more advanced weapons and claimed the land for themselves, driving the Algonquin people from their home. Under the direction of Captain John Smith, the English built a triangular shaped fort to protect themselves from future attacks from the displaced Native Americans. They named their new settlement Jamestown after King James I.

The first few years in Jamestown were difficult for the settlers. Harsh winters and disease plagued the people of Jamestown, and more than half of the original settlers died from starvation during the first winter.

Eventually, a new colonist named John Rolfe introduced tobacco and Jamestown began growing it as a cash crop, which they shipped back to England in exchange for money and supplies. This new source of income helped the colony grow rapidly over the next several years.

ANSWERS

1. Who were the original inhabitants of the area that was settled by the English?

The Algonquins

2. Name three challenges that the people of Jamestown faced.

Disease, harsh winter weather, and starvation

3. What did the settlers do to earn money?

Grow and export tobacco

4. Imagine that you are a Native American living near Jamestown. How would you feel about the new settlers?

Answers will vary