

Early English Settlements

Essential Question

Why did the English settle in North America?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

charter (p. 60)	headright (p. 61)
joint-stock company (p. 60)	burgesses (p. 61)

Academic Vocabulary

expand (p. 61)

Key People and Events

Sir Francis Drake (p. 59)

Sir Walter Raleigh (p. 59)

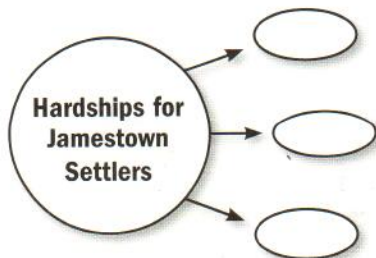
Captain John Smith (p. 61)

Pocahontas (p. 61)

House of Burgesses (p. 61)

Reading Strategy

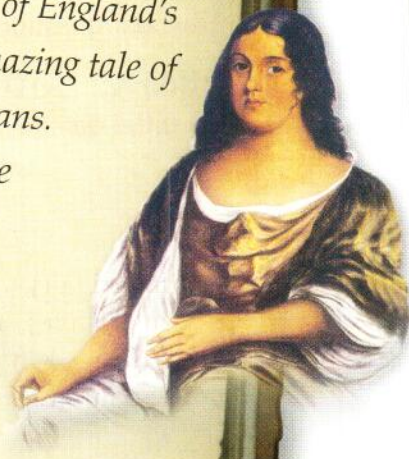
Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to list the hardships faced by the Jamestown settlers.



American Diary

Captain John Smith, a leader of England's Jamestown colony, told an amazing tale of his capture by Native Americans. According to Smith, the Native Americans were prepared "to beat out his brains." Just then, Pocahontas, the 11-year-old daughter of Chief Powhatan, "got his head in her arms, and laid her own upon his to save him from death." The gesture moved the chief to spare Smith's life.

—from The Generall Historie of Virginia



England in America

Main Idea After defeating the Spanish Armada, England became more interested in establishing colonies in North America.

History and You Do you like reading mystery novels? Read to learn about the disappearance of the English colonists on Roanoke Island.

The story of Smith and Pocahontas, whether true or not, comes from the earliest period of English settlement in America. Compared to the Spanish, who were their economic rivals, the English were slow to seek colonies.

The Spanish Armada

Trading rivalry and religious differences had been pushing England and Spain toward war for years. King Philip II, the powerful ruler of Spain, wanted to put a Catholic ruler on the throne of England. He did not consider Queen Elizabeth, a Protestant, the rightful ruler of England.

Also, English adventurers, such as **Sir Francis Drake**, had attacked Spanish ships and ports. Philip thought that Elizabeth should punish Drake for his raids. Instead, she honored Drake with knighthood. Philip

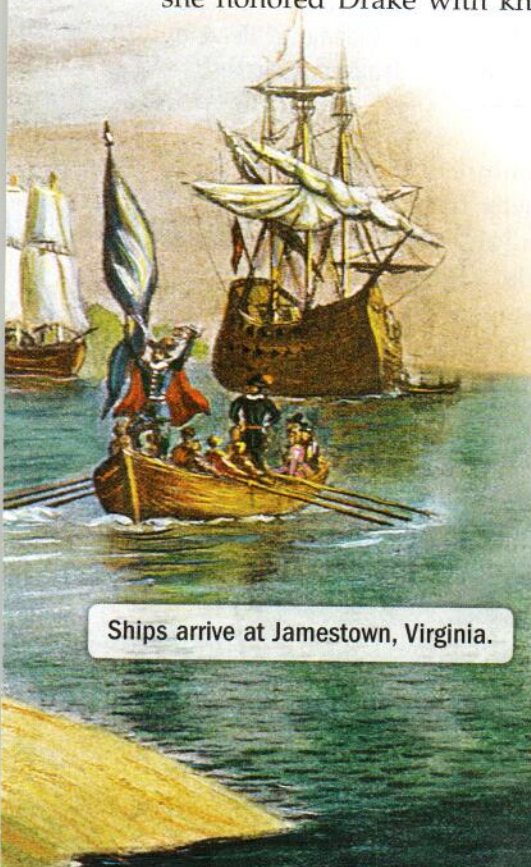
sent the Spanish Armada, Spain's fleet of warships, to conquer England, but it failed completely. Although war between England and Spain continued until 1604, the defeat of the armada marked the end of Spanish control of the seas. The way was clear for England to start colonies in North America.

The Lost Colony of Roanoke

The English had made several attempts to establish a base in North America. Sir Humphrey Gilbert claimed Newfoundland for Queen Elizabeth in 1583. However, before he could find a place for a colony, Gilbert died at sea.

The following year, Queen Elizabeth gave **Sir Walter Raleigh** the right to claim land in North America. Raleigh sent an expedition to find a good place to settle. His scouts made an enthusiastic report of Roanoke Island, off the coast of present-day North Carolina.

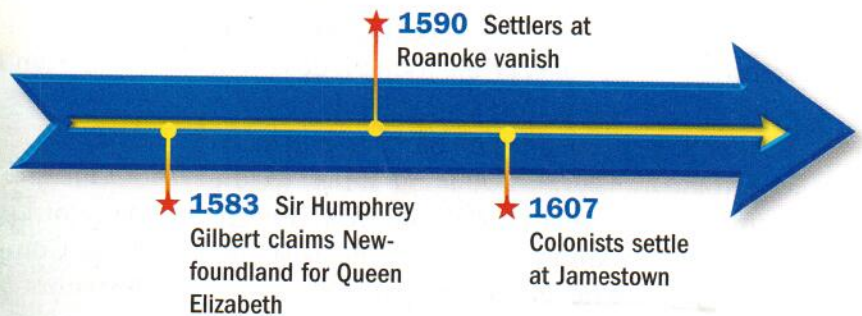
The first settlers, 100 men, had a difficult winter on the island and returned to England. In 1587 Raleigh then sent 91 men, 17 women, and 9 children to Roanoke. John White, artist and mapmaker, led the group. Shortly after arriving on the island, White's daughter gave birth. Virginia Dare was the first English child born in North America.



Ships arrive at Jamestown, Virginia.

Time Line Early English Settlements

Settling America Most of the early English settlements were founded by private investors who asked the English monarch for charters, or documents, that granted the right to establish colonies in America. Later, England's government placed direct controls on the American colonies.



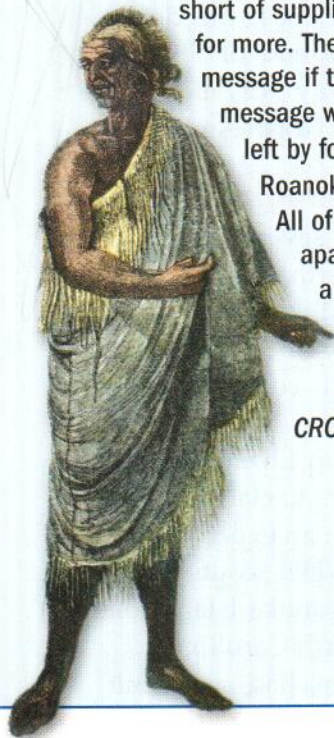
Critical Thinking

Theorizing Why do you think people in England invested in the founding of colonies in America?

Primary Source Roanoke, the Lost Colony

A Mysterious Disappearance Colonists arrived at Roanoke Island in July 1587. When they began to run short of supplies, John White returned to England for more. The colonists agreed to leave a message if they moved to another location. The message would include a cross if the colonists left by force. When John White returned to Roanoke, everyone had disappeared. All of the homes had been taken apart. Around the homes was a wall of tree trunks, and carved on one of the trunks was the single, mysterious word: **CROATOAN**.

Upon his return, John White wrote in his journal: "one of the [chief] trees or postes at the right side of the entrance had the barke taken off, and 5 foote from the ground [was written] CROATOAN without any crosse or signe of distresse."



Critical Thinking

Drawing Conclusions Besides the word *Croatoan*, what other clues did the colonists leave behind?

White explored the area and drew pictures of what he saw. In a book illustrated by White, another colonist described the Native American towns the settlers encountered:

PRIMARY SOURCE

"Their towns are small . . . a village may contain but ten or twelve houses—some . . . as many as twenty."

—from *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*

Nine days after his granddaughter's birth, White returned to England for supplies. Although he had hoped to be back within a few months, the war with Spain delayed his return for nearly three years. When he returned to Roanoke, White found it deserted. Finding the word *Croatoan* carved on a gatepost, White believed the colonists had gone to Croatoan Island, about 50 miles to the south. Bad weather kept White from investigating, or examining further. The Roanoke colonists were never seen again.

Reading Check **Explaining** Why were England and Spain at war in the late 1500s?

Jamestown Settlement

Main Idea The first permanent English settlement in North America was at Jamestown.

History and You What obstacles would you have to overcome to create a home in the wilderness? Read to learn about the hardships of the Jamestown settlers.

For a time, the failure of the Roanoke colony discouraged others from planning English colonies in North America. However, the idea emerged again in 1606. Several groups of merchants sought **charters**, documents granting the right to organize settlements in an area, from King James I.

The Virginia Company

One group of merchants, the Virginia Company of London, received a charter. The Virginia Company was a **joint-stock company**. Investors bought stock, or part ownership, in the company in return for a share of its future profits. Settlers in America were to search for gold and establish trade in fish and furs.

In December 1606, the company sent 144 settlers in three ships to build a new colony in North America. In April 1607, the ships entered Chesapeake Bay and then sailed up a river flowing into the bay. The colonists named the river the James and their new settlement Jamestown to honor their king.

Jamestown Survives

The colonists faced hardships of disease and hunger. The colony survived its first two years because of 27-year-old **Captain John Smith**, an experienced explorer. Smith forced the settlers to work, explored the area, and sought corn from the local Native Americans led by Chief Powhatan. When John Smith returned to England, Jamestown lacked a strong leader. The winter of 1609–1610 became known as “the starving time.” Fighting also broke out with the Native Americans.

The Virginia colonists finally discovered a way to make money for the investors by growing a type of tobacco using seeds from the West Indies. Soon planters all along the James River were raising tobacco.

The colony of Virginia began to prosper. Relations with the Native Americans improved after a colonist, John Rolfe, married **Pocahontas**, the daughter of Chief Powhatan. Land ownership was **expanded** when the Virginia Company gave a **headright**, or land grant, of 50 acres to settlers who paid their own way to the colony. Colonists also participated in government. The **House of Burgesses** first met in 1619. The **burgesses** were representatives of the colony’s towns, and they could make local laws for the colony.

When the Virginia Company sent women to Jamestown, marriage and children became a part of life in Virginia. Another part of that life was slavery, first recognized in Virginia law in the 1660s.

By the 1620s, the Virginia Company faced financial troubles with Jamestown returning little profit. In 1624 King James canceled the company’s charter and made Jamestown England’s first royal colony in America.

Reading Check **Analyzing** Why was the House of Burgesses important?

Section 1 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

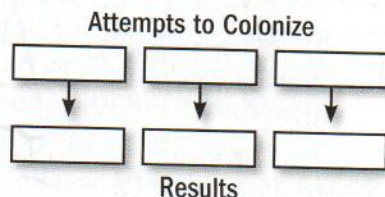
- Use each of the following terms in a paragraph about the Jamestown settlement: **charter**, **joint-stock company**, **expand**, **headright**, **burgesses**.

Main Ideas

- Making Connections** Why was the defeat of the Spanish Armada important to England’s quest for overseas colonies?
- Explaining** How did the Jamestown settlement survive the first two years?

Critical Thinking

- Making Inferences** Why do you think the king of England let a group of merchants try to establish a colony in North America?
- Organizing** Use a diagram like the one below to describe three attempts by the English to establish colonies in North America and the results.



- Descriptive Writing** Imagine that you are a Native American who witnessed the arrival of the Jamestown colonists. Describe your first impression of these people in a report to Chief Powhatan.

Answer the Essential Question

- Why did the English settle in North America?

Jamestown

On May 14, 1607, English colonists began work on a settlement near the James River. They built a triangular fort of upright logs, about an acre in size, in just 19 days. Made of a storehouse, a church, and a number of houses, the fort was near water deep enough for ships to anchor. It also was in a secure place, where enemy ships could not fire directly into the fort. Relations with the local Native Americans were often difficult, although at times the colonists were able to trade copper and iron goods for badly needed food.

How Did Geography Affect Jamestown?

The Jamestown settlers faced the hardships of an unfamiliar climate—colder winters and warmer, humid summers. They also discovered that they had built their fort beside the dirtiest part of the James River. River water was drinkable only part of the year; in the summer, it turned salty and slimy. By autumn, disease, salt poisoning, and starvation had killed almost half the colonists.



Strategic Location Jamestown's upriver location, well inland from the Atlantic Ocean, was chosen in part because of its strategic position for defense of the river as well as to hide from Spanish ships that might be in the area.

Jamestown was built on a swampy, uninhabited site along the James River, which brought salty water from the ocean in the summer.



Jamestown Fort, 1607 The walls along the land sides were each 100 yards (91 meters) long. The wall along the river was 140 yards (128 meters) long.



The Scope of Suffering

Master George Percy was 27 years old when he helped establish the Jamestown Colony in 1607. He was one of the 38 aristocrats in the expedition and later served twice as the colony's governor before he returned to England.

"There were never Englishmen left in a foreign country in such misery as we were in this new-discovered Virginia."

Analyzing Geography

- 1. Location** Why did the colonists choose Jamestown as their settlement site?
- 2. Analyzing** In what ways was the fort's location a poor choice?