

- The water along the shore was deep enough *with adequate harbor facilities* for supply ships to dock.

- They believed they had a good supply of fresh drinking water *from the James River*.

• **Reasons Why the Jamestown Settlement was a Poor Choice**

- *It was low and swampy, making it the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes that carried diseases, such as malaria.*

- *By the end of the summer, nearly half of the men were dead or dying from the diseases.*

- *Few of the English settlers knew how to farm or had the skills necessary to survive in the wilderness.*

- *Crops were not planted before the winter, and if not for some friendly Powhatan Indians who shared their corn, the Jamestown settlers would have starved.*

3c - • The Power to Grant Charters

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

• **The Importance of the Charters of the Virginia Company of London**

- **First Charter:** Allowed the establishment of a settlement in North America/the New World. (Jamestown)

- **Second Charter:** Allowed for a representative form of government in Jamestown. (Established the House of Burgesses)

- **Third Charter:** Extended the same rights to the people living in Jamestown just like they had when they were living in England. (Equal Rights)

3d - The student will demonstrate knowledge of the first permanent English settlement in America by identifying the importance of the General Assembly (1619) as the first representative legislative body in English America.

• **System of Government/The General Assembly (1619)**

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

- The General Assembly included two 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 General Assembly was the first elected legislative body of English America giving settlers the opportunity to control their own government. (*Second Charter*)

• **The House of Burgesses (Established in 1643)**

- By the 1640s, the burgesses became a separate legislative body. It was named the House of Burgesses.

- They met separately from the Governor's Council as one of the two legislative bodies of the General Assembly.

• **The Virginia General Assembly Today**

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