

3e - The student will demonstrate knowledge of the first permanent English settlement in America by identifying the importance of the arrival of Africans and women to the Jamestown settlement.

Jamestown became a more diverse colony by 1620.

• Arrival of African People

- During the summer of 1619, a ship arrived at Jamestown carrying people of African descent against their will.
- Portuguese sailors captured African men and women from what is present-day Angola. *Angola is located in West Central Africa.*
- The status of these early African men and women as either servants or slaves in Virginia is unknown.
- *During this time, John Rolfe experimented with different types of tobacco plants and shipped Virginia's first cash crop of tobacco to England. It became a huge success. The Jamestown settlers could not keep up with the demand. They needed more people to grow the sweeter-tasting tobacco.*
- The arrival of these African men and women made it possible to expand the tobacco economy.
- *The cultivation of tobacco, Virginia's first successful cash crop, boosted the economy and quickly became dependent upon a large force of African slaves.*

• Arrival of Additional English Women in 1620

- They (*the Virginia Company of London*) sent a large group of unmarried English women to the Jamestown settlement. The women arrived in 1620. Their presence enabled the settlers to marry and to begin families. *The women also increased the quality of life for the men by cooking better meals, sewing clothes, and taking care of the sick*

3f - The student will demonstrate knowledge of the first permanent English settlement in America by describing the hardships faced by settlers at Jamestown and the changes that took place to ensure survival.

• Hardships Faced by the Jamestown Settlers

- *From 1607 to 1609, Jamestown was a struggling outpost with very little direction and support from the Virginia Company of London. The Jamestown settlers found it harder than expected.*
- *The marshy land surrounding the Jamestown settlement usually flooded. This flooding caused unsafe, brackish drinking water.*
- *The settlers lacked some of the skills necessary to provide for themselves. They did not realize they should have cleared some of the forestland to plant crops during the spring and summer seasons.*
- *Many settlers died of starvation and disease.*

• Changes that Resulted in Survival

- *The arrival of supply ships from England provided the supplies they needed to survive.*
- *The strong leadership of Captain John Smith and his forced work program (If you don't work, you don't eat....) ensured their survival.*
- *The emphasis on agriculture resulted in survival of the Jamestown settlement.*
- *Settlers soon learned how to live off Virginia's rich natural resources.*
- *Farming became the most important way of life. Since the Coastal Plain (Tidewater) region of*