

"Jamestown" Study Packet

Virginia Studies 4.3 a-g

Student Name _____ Test Date _____

Parent signature _____

The following is the essential knowledge each student should have.

3a - The student will demonstrate knowledge of the first permanent English settlement in America by explaining the reasons for English colonization.

• Reasons for English Colonization in America

- England and some European countries were in competition to increase their wealth and power by expanding their empires to America.
- The English *investors/stockholders* hoped the settlers would find silver and gold in North America.
- *King James I of England issued a charter (1st Charter) authorizing this group of investors to form the Virginia Company of London to settle men and boys in North America.*
- This new American settlement/colony would hopefully furnish the raw materials (*natural resources*) that could not be grown or obtained in England, while opening new markets for trade.

• The Jamestown Settlement

- Jamestown was primarily an economic venture to increase England's wealth and power.
- The stockholders/investors of the Virginia Company of London financed the settlement of Jamestown.
- Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in North America in 1607.

3b - The student will demonstrate knowledge of the first permanent English settlement in America by describing how geography influenced the decision to settle at Jamestown.

• Exploring Sites/Land along the James River

On April 26, 1607, three small ships (Susan Constant, Godspeed, and the Discovery) sailed around the Eastern Shore into the Chesapeake Bay for the purpose of beginning a permanent English colony in the land they named Virginia. Captain Christopher Newport and the other voyagers took seventeen days to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of the region for such an undertaking.

• Selecting the Location of the Jamestown Settlement

When the settlers arrived in 1607, the land (now known as Jamestown) was located on a narrow peninsula bordered on three sides by the James River. Today, the Jamestown settlement is located on an island in the James River.

• Initial Reasons for Choosing the Jamestown Location

- The settlers had *written instructions from their investors (Virginia Company of London)* to go inland and find a suitable place to build their new colony.
- The English settlers chose a small, narrow peninsula on which to build their Jamestown fort.
- The location they selected could be easily defended from the Spanish attacking them *from the Chesapeake Bay and/or the Atlantic Ocean.*