

READING: Introduction to Jamestown Colony

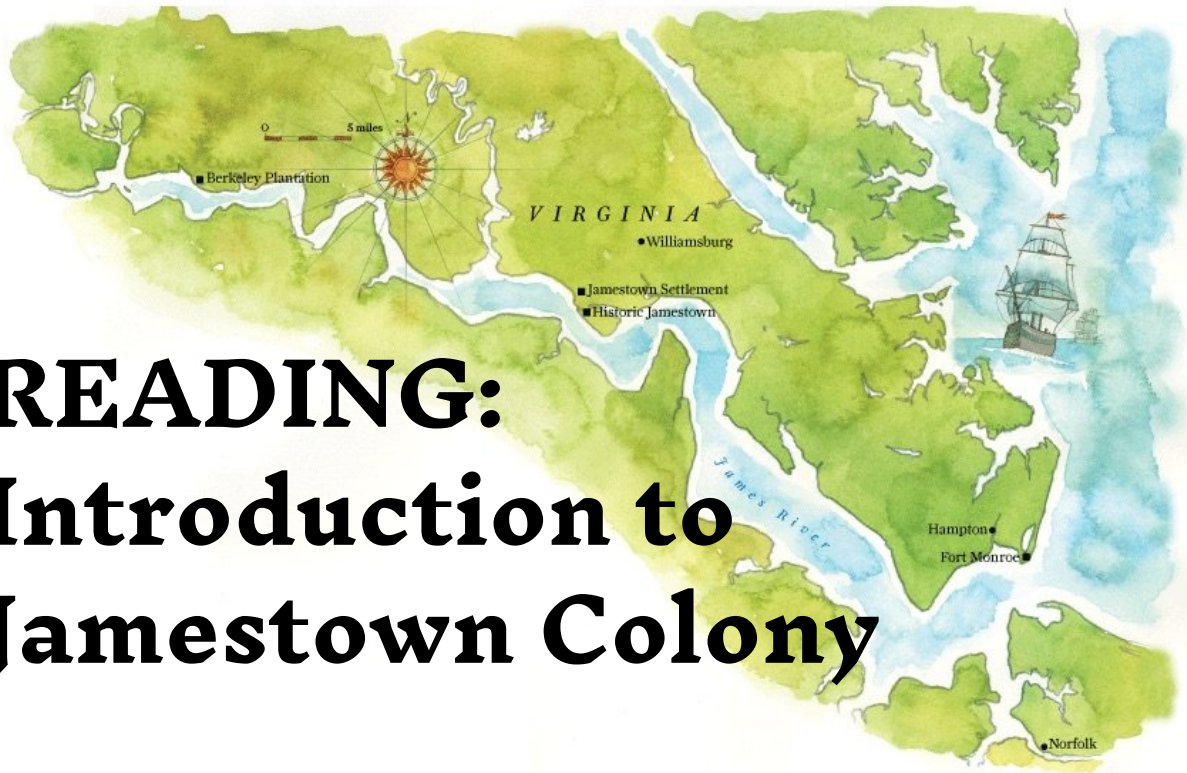


Illustration by Steve Stankiewicz

GRADES

Upper Elementary

SKILLS

Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize text, define words and phrases from text

OBJECTIVES

Review the essay and use the graphic organizer to summarize the main ideas, supporting details, and develop related vocabulary.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Britannica Kids Essay about Jamestown
Graphic Organizer



JAMESTOWN



Jamestown was the first permanent English colony in North America. It was located on a piece of land in the James River, near what is now Williamsburg, Virginia.

The people who founded Jamestown were members of the Virginia Company of London. King James I of England gave them the right to settle along the east coast of North America. Their goal was to find ways to make money.

The 105 colonists, all men, arrived in North America in May 1607. The first years were hard. Many of the colonists died from illness and lack of food. One of their leaders during this time was Captain John Smith.

The Native Americans of the region, called the Powhatan confederacy, sometimes gave the colonists food. But the two groups did not always trust each other.

In 1609 the Native Americans stopped sharing food with the colonists. They also attacked colonists who left the Jamestown fort. As a result more than 80 percent of the colonists died during the winter of 1609–10. This period was called the Starving Time.

More colonists arrived in 1610. In 1612 a colonist named John Rolfe began growing tobacco. The colonists sold tobacco to England, which helped Jamestown to survive.



In 1614 Rolfe married Pocahontas, the daughter of the chief of the Powhatan confederacy. This brought eight years of peace between the colonists and the Native Americans.

The colonists formed a democratic government in 1619. In the same year the first Africans arrived. The colonists treated Africans first as servants and later as slaves.

In 1624 Virginia became a royal colony, ruled by the king of England. Jamestown was Virginia's capital at first. In 1699 the capital was moved to Williamsburg.

Name: _____

Note-Taking

Directions: Use this organizer to take notes on the essay about Jamestown

list key words

words I need to define

summary of main points

timeline of key events

questions I have