

Shared Read

TIME
FOR KIDS®

Where It All Began

Ed. Georger/National Geographic/Getty Images

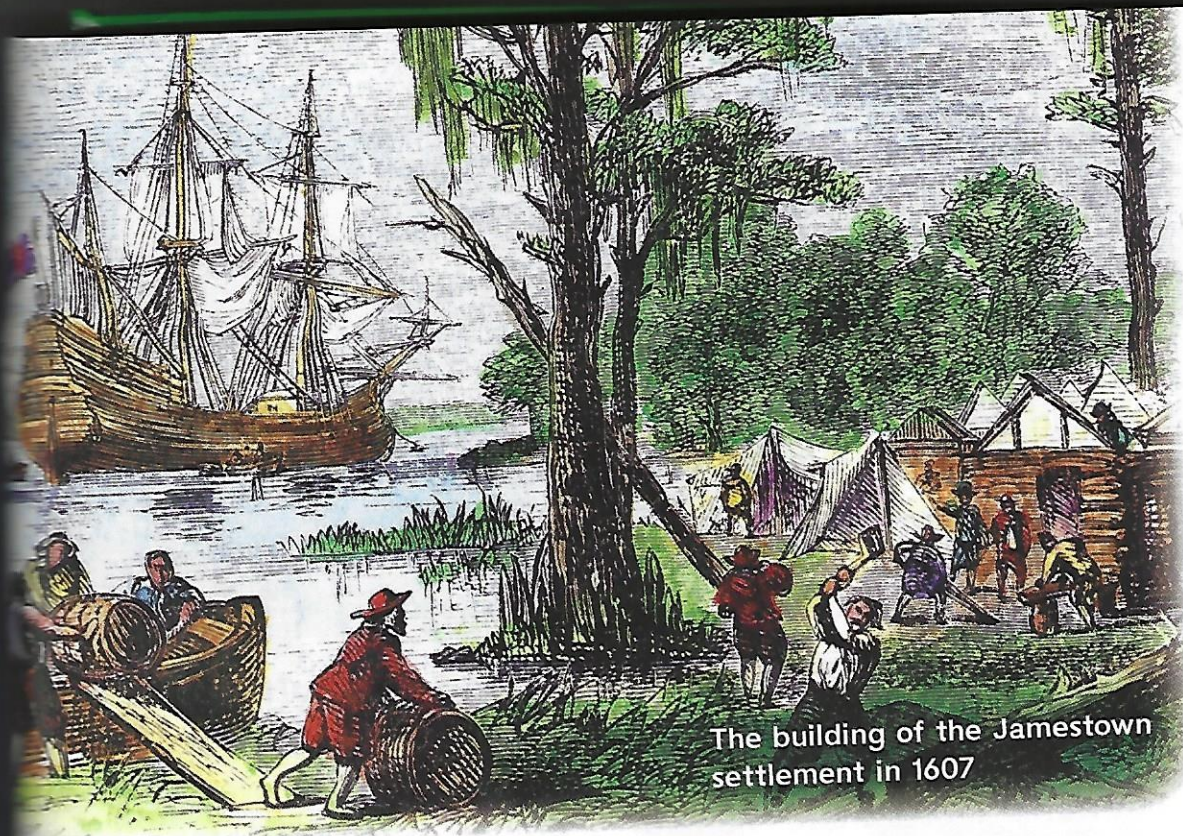


Essential Question

How can learning about the past help you understand the present?

Read about the Jamestown settlement.

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The building of the Jamestown settlement in 1607

Take a tour of Jamestown, Virginia, the birthplace of America.

They thought they were lost. The *Susan Constant*, the *Godspeed*, and the *Discovery* had sailed from London, England, on December 20, 1606. The **expedition** was bound for Virginia, carrying 144 people.

Finally, on April 26, 1607, the ships sailed into Chesapeake Bay. In the words of one voyager, they found "fair meadows and goodly tall trees." On an island in a river, they built a fort and named it after their king, James. Jamestown would become the

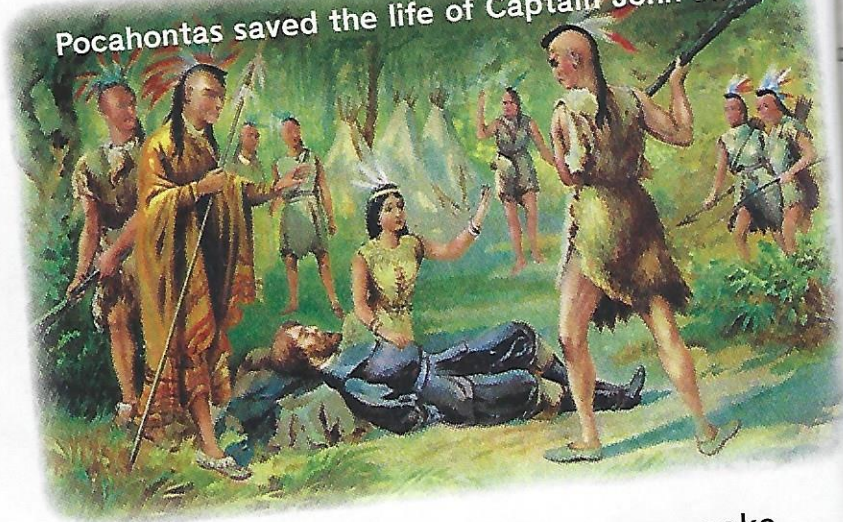
first successful, **permanent** English settlement in the New World.

The Struggle to Survive

There is a proverb that says, "Ignorance is bliss." In the case of the 104 men and boys who came ashore, this was true. They were faced with **tremendous** challenges. The water from the James River was not safe to drink, and food was scarce. Two weeks after the settlers arrived, 200 Indians attacked them.

John Smith, an experienced military man, became head of the colony in 1608. He had been in charge of finding local tribes willing to swap food for English copper and beads. Smith was tough with both the Indians and Englishmen. "He that will not work, shall not eat," he told the colonists. Smith knew that an attitude of every man for himself would endanger the colony.

Pocahontas saved the life of Captain John Smith.

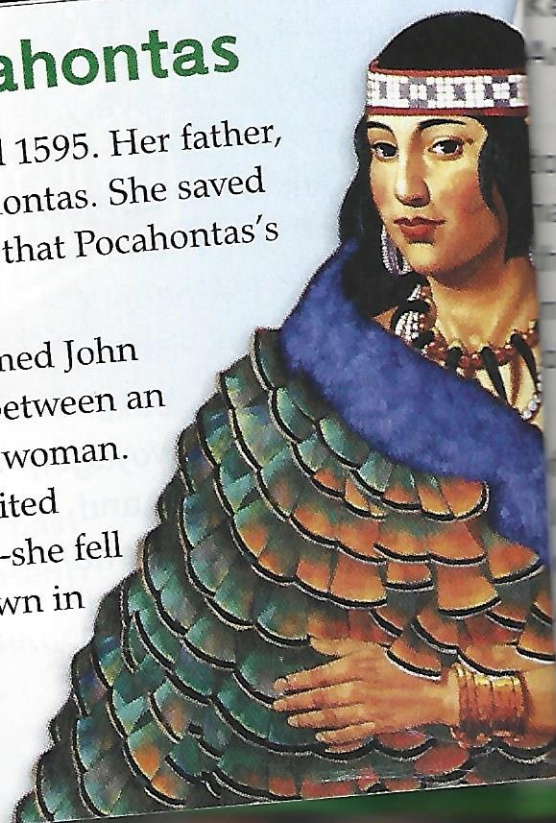


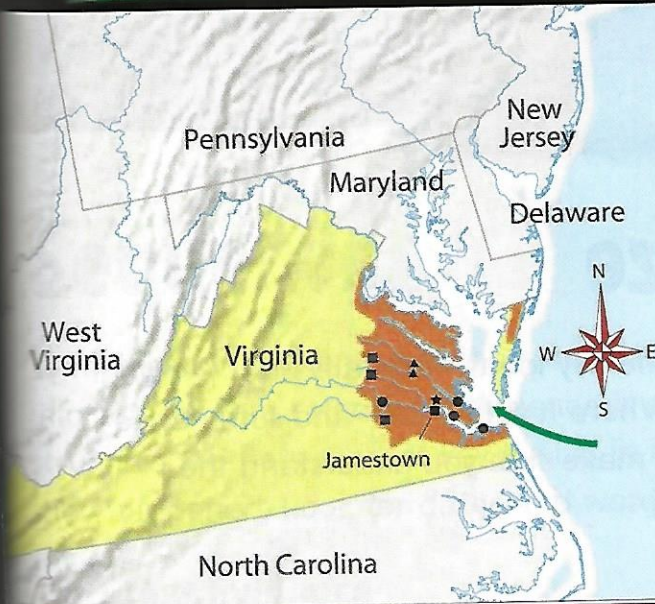
The western Chesapeake area was ruled by Chief Powhatan, who governed an empire of 14,000 Algonquian-speaking peoples. His daughter Pocahontas became an useful friend and ally to John Smith.

The Real-Life Pocahontas

Princess Matoaka was born around 1595. Her father, Chief Powhatan, called her Pocahontas. She saved John Smith's life twice, and he wrote that Pocahontas's "wit and spirit" were unequalled.

Pocahontas married a planter named John Rolfe, the first marriage in that era between an Englishman and a Native American woman. Rolfe, Pocahontas, and their son visited London. She never returned home—she fell ill aboard a ship bound for Jamestown in March 1617 and died.





**Map of Settlement of Virginia
1607-1700**

MAP KEY

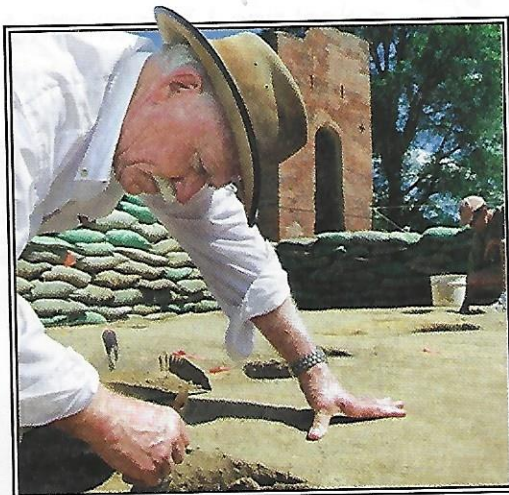
- ← Immigration (English, French, Italians, Poles, and Africans)
- Village
- Fort
- ▲ Indian Reservation
- ★ Capital
- Extent of European Settlement, 1700

Taking a Closer Look

Archaeologists digging in Jamestown have discovered Indian artifacts along with English ones, **evidence** that Indians lived in the fort for some time. "It must have been a very close relationship," says William Kelso, an expert in colonial American **archaeology**.

Kelso has worked for 10 years to **document** this site. His team has managed to **uncover** more than 1 million artifacts and has mapped out the fort's shape, its foundations, and a burial ground.

Jamestown left a record of greed and war, but it was also the start of representative government. The settlers gave America a solid foundation to build upon.



Dr. William Kelso working on the archaeological dig in Jamestown

Make Connections



Talk about what archaeologists have found at the Jamestown site.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What would you have liked to ask John Smith about Jamestown? **TEXT TO SELF**

(t) Mapping Specialists; (cr) Courtesy of APVA Preservation Virginia