

II. Virginia

A. The Establishment of Jamestown (1607)

1. When they first arrived, the English were attacked by an Indian tribe called the Chesapeake, and they had trouble with another tribe called the Paspaheghs.
2. To defend themselves against Indian attacks, the settlers chose an island in the James River to build their fort.
3. The site was chosen for defense, but there was no fresh water at that spot and many mosquitoes during the summer (which carried Malaria.)

B. Captain Smith Helps Save the Colony

1. Too many colonists looked for gold instead of farming, so the colony began to run out of food.
2. Captain John Smith sailed up river to meet with the Indian tribes in the area, learn their language, and obtain food.
3. Smith was captured by less friendly Indians and brought before the leader of the Indians in the area, a chief named Powhatan.
4. Powhatan decided to execute Smith, but Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas threw herself down over Smith's body and begged for his life to be spared.
5. When Smith returned to the colony he took control and established one rule: "he that does not work, shall not eat!" (Looking for gold did not count as "work.")
6. Thanks to Smith's efforts fewer colonists died, but the colony might still have failed if not for the regular arrival of new supply ships that brought more food and colonists. By 1609, 500 colonists had come to Jamestown, but only 60 had survived!

C. The Success of Jamestown

1. In 1613, a colonist named John Rolfe learned how to grow Caribbean tobacco in Virginia.
2. This was a product that Englishmen had been buying from Spain, but which they preferred to buy from an English colony.
3. Soon most of the Jamestown settlers were farming tobacco for sale in England.
4. To get more settlers to come, the London Company offered two "headrights" (100 acres of land total; one headright = 50 acres) for each person that left England and settled in America.
5. Those who could not afford the passage could have their way paid by someone else and become an "indentured servant" for seven years. After being a servant, they would get their own land, and a year's supply of food.

D. The Birth of the American Dream

1. As hard as life was in the wilderness of the colonies, those who were brave enough to come had *freedom of opportunity*. When they succeeded through their hard work, they lived much better lives than they could have hoped for in Europe.
2. In 1657, a boy named John Washington arrived in Virginia as a mate on a ship. He decided to stay, and earned a headright. Over the course of his life, he earned over 5000 acres in headrights. He was the great-grandfather of George Washington (America's first president.)