

H. Colonization Begins (Jamestown, 1607)

1. After a number of failed efforts the first successful English colony was created at Jamestown in a land the English called “Virginia” in 1607.
2. In order to be able to defend themselves against Indian attacks, the settlers chose an island in the James River as the site for their fort.
3. Because too many of the colonists tried to find gold instead of growing food, they started to run out of their food stores.
4. Captain John Smith, one of the expedition’s leaders, sailed up river to meet with the Indian tribes in the area, learn their language, and obtain food. According to a famous story, Smith was captured and brought before the leader of the tribes in the area, chief Powhatan. Powhatan decided to execute Smith, but his daughter Pocahontas threw herself down over Smith’s body and begged for his life to be spared.
5. After that, Smith imposed a basic rule on the colony: “he that does not work, shall not eat!” (Looking for gold did not count as “work.”) Thanks to him, the colony survived.

I. The Success of Jamestown

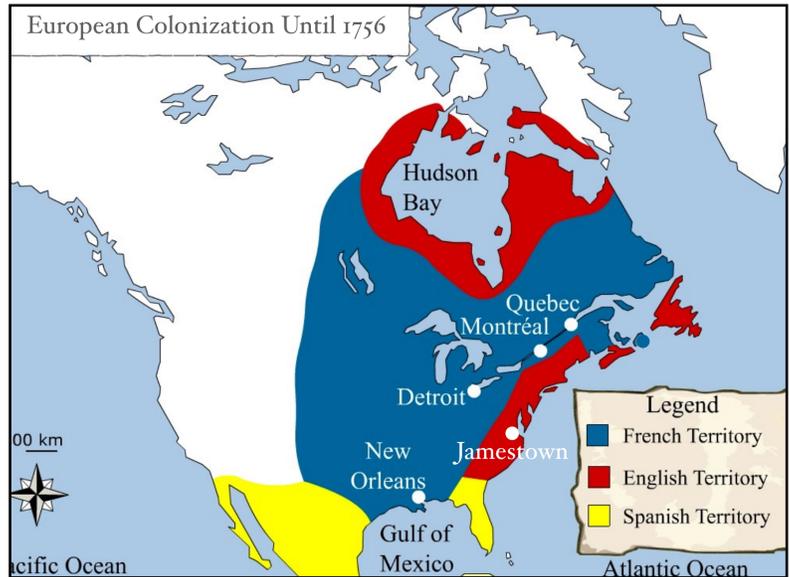
1. Jamestown succeeded as a colony when its settlers found a way to make themselves valued members of the “Anglosphere” of trade by producing something that was desired in England.
2. A colonist named John Rolfe learned how to grow Caribbean tobacco in Virginia, which was a product previously only available from Spain,.
3. Soon most of the Jamestown settlers were farming tobacco for sale in England.



An illustration of Jamestown shows the fortified settlement next to the James river.

J. Quebec and the Rise of New France (1608)

1. France, a long-time enemy and rival of both England, also sent explorers to find a new route to Asia.
2. Their first permanent settlement in North America was Quebec (1608) created by Samuel de Champlain.
3. Small numbers of traders and missionaries came to New France and began exploring the continent as well. Soon they had discovered the Great Lakes and the rivers that lead to the Mississippi and claimed all the land down to “Louisiana,” named in honor of the French king, Louis XIV.
4. In terms of its area, French territory in America was very large, but it was mostly empire.



Jamestown and Quebec shown as parts of English and French claims.

K. The French and Indian Wars

1. There were four major “French and Indian Wars” between France and England for control of North America. Only the last one really matters and it is known as *the* French and Indian War (1756-63), or, because it is part of a larger world-wide conflict mainly between France and England, the Seven Years’ War (1756-63).
2. In 1754, before the larger war broke out, battles occurred at the site of present-day Pittsburgh, where the French had erected a fort to control the Ohio river. One of the officers in charge of British efforts was none other than a young Colonel *George Washington*.
3. In 1759, at the Battle of Quebec, two large European armies faced each other in America. The English captured Quebec, and the rest of the French colonies were easy to take thereafter.
4. In 1763, by the terms of the Treaty of Paris, England controlled North America almost entirely.



A famous painting by the artist Benjamin West shows the *Death of General Wolfe*, the British commander. The men on the left, however, are pointing to a soldier racing towards the group who has the French flag with him, symbolizing Britain’s victory in the decisive battle for Quebec.