

Jamestown - 1607

1606 – The Virginia Company is issued a charter from King James I giving them permission to settle lands between present day North Carolina and the Potomac River. It guaranteed that colonists of this area (Virginia) would have the same rights as English citizens.

Charter: _____

Spring of **1607** – 105 colonists land in Virginia (Chesapeake Bay) and begin to settle along the James River. They faced adversity from the start.

- Unhealthy Water
- Mosquitos spread malaria
- Many settlers suffered and/or died from diseases
- Governing Council (13 men who ruled the settlement) argued and did little to plan for the colony's success
- Starvation

John Smith “saves” Jamestown - Smith, a young soldier, notices that they are not planting a sufficient amount of crops and instead spent their time searching for Gold, to no avail. He develops a plan to save the colony, which is near failure, in the summer of 1608.

- Stern Rules – forced colonists to work if they wanted to eat
- Visited Indian villages – Powhatan (most powerful chief in the area) agreed to supply corn to the villagers. Faced conflict and bloody warfare with the Native Americans.
- Smith returns to England in 1609. Jamestown still struggles – Thomas Gates arrive in 1610 with hopes to prosper but finds only 60 of the original 700 colonists. He returns home after his own men begin to starve.

Tobacco REALLY saves Jamestown – in 1612 the colonists began to grow tobacco. While King James originally hates it, smoking catches on, and by 1620 England imported more than 30,000 pounds of tobacco per year. Virginia began to succeed.