

## *Why did settlers come to Jamestown?*

- **Virginia Company**- Merchants charged with planting an English Colony in North America
- John Smith, the leader of the Virginia Company was granted permission by **King James I** in **1606**
- Came in search of silver and gold, monarch was promised **1/5th** of all precious metals found by the colonists

**John Smith**- A 20 year old veteran who was instructed to lead the Virginia Company in finding gold/silver and creating a colony for King James I

**Virginia Company**- Two joint-stock companies, Virginia Companies of London and Plymouth

## *Why and how did the Jamestown Colony fail?*

- 1624 Starving Times- 500 people first departed with Captain John Smith, within 6 months 60 people were left
- People became so desperate they started to eat horse skins, and it was even reported that a man killed his wife and ate certain parts of her body
- They found no gold and were extremely unsuccessful, dealing with disease from the infected river and hunger from no resources
- These people were not used to doing hard labor so many refused to work which caused potential food to be lost

## *So what saved the colony?*

- Unsuccessful in finding gold the colonists were beginning to lose hope, however they discovered tobacco which caused a big boom for the colonists
- Thanks to John Rolfe in 1612 who created a strain of tobacco infused with weed the colonists became successful

- New systems put in place in order to encourage citizens of England to join settlers and work on producing food and tobacco
- Headright system: Each new arrival received 50 acres of land and another 50 acres for each family member who migrated to the colony, the colony then sky-rocketed
- In exchange for passage to North America, and food and sheltered upon arrival, an indentured slave agreed to 4-7 years of labor for the colony.

**Headright system:** A system put in place by colonists in order to encourage English families to come to the Americas, for each new arrival they received 50 acres of land, as well as another 50 acres for each family member who arrived with them.

**Indentured Slaves:** A system put in place by colonists in order to encourage English citizens to come over and work for colonists. They were promised food and shelter if they agreed to 4-7 years of labor for the colonists.

### *How did colonists interact with Natives?*

- The failure of the colony caused them to become hostile with Natives, demanding certain crops from them
- When Natives refused things got ugly, colonists would set fire to local villages and kidnapped Natives in order to bargain for crops, and oftentimes they would kidnap children
- According to the accounts of John Smith the Natives took him hostage and were threatening to kill him until Pocahontas stopped them and saved him from being killed
- However, John Smith abandoned Pocahontas, which led her to believe he was dead
- She eventually married John Rolfe, the very first tobacco farmer
- This created a temporary peace among the Natives and Colonists however it didn't last long

### *What is Jamestown's lasting impact?*

- Jamestown was a failure, it was doomed from the beginning, and looked like there was no hope
- However, the colonists pushed on and eventually had the amazing discovery of tobacco
- The spirit of entrepreneurship, a concept so present in our idea of the American dream

- Much like the colonists we can make ourselves from nothing to something, we can change history