

Jamestown (1607)

- First permanent ENGLISH settlement in America
 - Jamestown, Virginia
- King James 1st grants a charter
 - Joint-Stock companies (Investors funding colonists to go settle in “New World” and make a profit)
 - Virginia Company
 - Sends over 150 settlers

Jamestown Starts out as a Disaster

- The settlers who first went to Jamestown **were not of the working class**
 - Could not fend for themselves and **many died**.
- **Powhatan** Indian Tribe – Native Americans that lived in Virginia at the time. Traded goods with the settlers at first.
- After many colonists die because they cannot fend for themselves, **JOHN SMITH** takes charge.
 - Says “If you don’t work, you don’t eat”

Jamestown starts to grow

- Once Jamestown overcame its initial drawbacks, more settlers (**about 600**) came over.
- This **threatened the Pawhawtan people**. They now realized that their way of life could be coming to an end
- The Pawhawtan people **start to burn the colonists livestock and crops** so they could not eat.
 - This is known as **STARVING TIME** in Jamestown

Tobacco (Brown Gold)

- **John Rolfe** – Englishman who crossbreeds two types of **tobacco** and sends it back to Europe.
 - Europeans love this new tobacco and demand more of it.
- Virginia needs to colonists now to work the tobacco farms, and comes up with two different ways to get people there
 - 1) **Head-right system** – Purchaser of passage would get **50 acres of land**
 - 2) **Indentured Servants** – Would come to work for the farmers for 4-7 years. After contract was up (**NO LAND GIVEN TO THEM**). Became the poor people.

Arrival of African Laborers

- Tobacco was worth its weight in gold.
 - Indentured servants were only 1000lbs of GOLD
 - African Slave was worth 3 times that much
- (late 1600s)As the colony becomes wealthy from tobacco, and indentured servants begin to die of disease, more African slaves start to be bought to the colony.

Setting the Stage

- Remember these factors:
 - Indentured Servants were brought over to work the land, but then given no land when it was over. Became poor and settled on the frontier.
 - Native Americans were attacking them because they feared the colonists were expanding too much

Tensions in Jamestown

- Because of all of the attacking going on in Jamestown, the king revoked the companies charter.
- Became a **ROYAL COLONY** – One that is under **DIRECT** control of the king
- **Berkeley** becomes governor of Virginia and begins to **impose high taxes** on the poor in order to fund the “planters” (tobacco farmers)

Bacon's Rebellion

- The poor colonists on the frontier keep getting attacked by Native American tribes
- They are wondering why Governor Berkeley is not using their tax money to build forts for their protection
- Nathaniel Bacon raises an army of frontier settlers to demand use of tax money for forts
- The Governor refuses, Bacon and his men march on Jamestown and burn it to the ground.