

Why Did the English Settle in America?



In 1585
Queen Elizabeth I of
England
sent Sir Walter Raleigh
to begin a colony in the New
World (America).



The colonists landed on Roanoke Island (off the coast of present day North Carolina).

Within a year the colonists were starving and fighting with the neighboring the Powhatan and Croatoan Indians.

When an English ship stopped in the harbor, Raleigh and many of the settlers sailed home. 15 men decided to stay behind.

Roanoke Island (Lost Colony)

In 1587, Raleigh sent more colonists to Roanoke. This time, the colonist brought their wives and children. They discovered that the 15 men who had stayed behind had been killed. John White, the newly-arrived governor of Roanoke, determined that the men had been killed by Native Americans. He ordered his men to attack the Powhatan Indians, thinking they were the killers. Instead, the men attacked the Croatoans by mistake. These Indians had been their friends and had helped the settlers, but after the battle the Croatoans were their enemies.



Fun fact: John White's granddaughter, Virginia Dare, became the first English baby born in the New World.

All of this fighting forced John White to return to England for supplies, leaving 117 colonists behind. England and Spain then went to war and their fighting prevented White from returning for three years. When White finally came back to Roanoke he found that the settlers had disappeared without a trace. Today no one knows what happened to these colonists.

Jamestown Colony



20 years later King James I gave the Virginia Company the right to settle in what is now North Carolina. They named their settlement *Jamestown* after him.

The site they chose was marshy and lacked safe drinking water.

The settlers lacked some skills necessary to provide for themselves.

Many settlers spent more time searching for gold than finding food.

Many settlers died of starvation and disease.

Captain John Smith



As leader of the Jamestown Colony, Captain John Smith helped to restore order with one simple rule:

“He that will not work, will not eat.”

He also initiated trading relationships with the Powhatan Indian tribes lead by Chief Powhatan.

However, due to an injury he left the colony to return to England in 1609.

Pocahontas

Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, believed the English and American Indians could live in harmony. Pocahontas began a friendship with the colonists that helped them survive.



Women in Jamestown



The first women arrived in Jamestown in 1620.

The Virginia company sent 100 women to help “make the men more settled.”

Living in the colonies was difficult for the women.

They had to make everything from scratch - clothing, food, and medicines.

The arrival of women made it possible for the settlers to establish families and made Jamestown a more permanent settlement.

The First Africans in Jamestown



It is believed the first Africans in Jamestown arrived as indentured servants (worked as servants for 5-7 years and were then freed). Records show that 15 black men and women were living in the colonies.

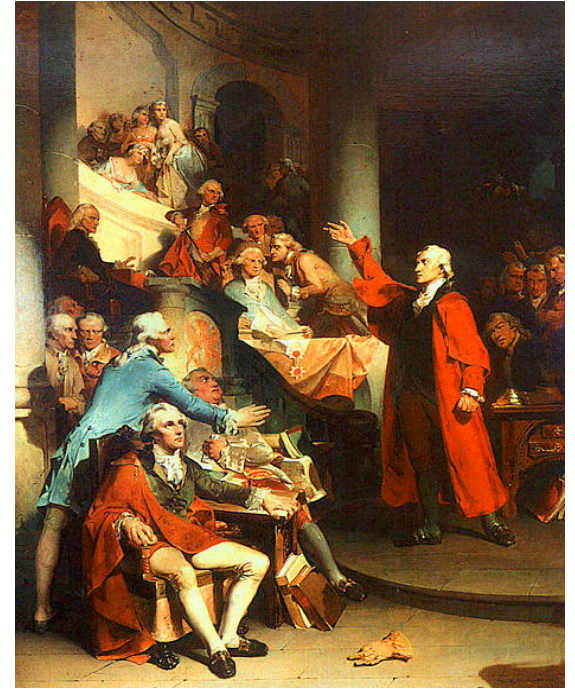
In early Virginia colonists were not allowed to enslave Africans. Africans could own land and property in Virginia.

In 1619, a Dutch ship landed in Jamestown with 20 Africans. The Dutch sold the Africans to the Virginians to help grow tobacco.

The Virginia House of Burgesses



The Virginia Company set up a different type of government. The new government asked settlers to give their opinion about every important decision made in the colony.



Colonists elected male representatives to the government, called burgesses. The burgesses met in an assembly called the House of Burgesses. Together with the governor and his council, they made the laws for the colony.

The House of Burgesses marked the beginning of a representative government. In a representative government, voters elect representatives to make laws for them.

The Virginia house of burgesses was the first elected legislative body in America giving settlers the opportunity to control their own government.