VIRGINIA

Roanoke and Jamestown
EUROPEAN RIVALRIES

By the late 1500’s, Spain had established a large empire in America, making Spain very rich—and England and France very jealous.

After England defeated Spain in 1588, the English decided to establish their own colonies in North America—hoping to make England more powerful and wealthier than Spain or France.
ENGLAND’S FIRST ATTEMPT

• Queen Elizabeth I gave Sir Walter Raleigh permission to build an English colony in the New World.

• The new colony would be called Virginia.

• In 1587, a settlement was built on Roanoke Island.
THE MYSTERY OF ROANOKE

- Over 100 English settlers lived at Roanoke.

- When a supply ship arrived in 1590, the settlement was found abandoned and the people were missing---the only clue were the letters CRO carved into a tree.
What could the English learn from Roanoke?

- Roanoke proved that a colony would fail unless it was properly financed, properly manned, and properly supplied.

- A new approach was needed.
JOINT-STOCK COMPANY

- Merchants set up a new company—the Virginia Company of London.
- People would invest money in the business. The company, with government support, would run the colony and split the profits with investors.
- The company received a charter from the king.
JAMESTOWN

- Established in 1607.
- Located in present-day Virginia.
- Became the first permanent English settlement in the New World.
PROBLEMS

• Diseases such as malaria and yellow fever killed many.

• Men searched for gold rather than farm and build adequate shelters for the winter.

• Relations with the Indians were hostile.
In 1609, more than 800 additional colonists arrived at Jamestown from England.

Due to weather, Indian problems, and a lack of food---people began to starve.

People ate rats, mice, snakes, and roots to live.

By 1610, only 60 out of 800 were still alive.
SUCCESS AT JAMESTOWN

• In 1612, tobacco became the cash crop of the colony.

• 50 acres were given to each person who could pay their way to America.

• *Indentured servants* and *slaves* provided additional labor.

• The population grew to over 2000 by 1621.
SUCCESS AT JAMESTOWN
FAMOUS PEOPLE
JOHN SMITH

• Took charge when the colony was falling apart.

• Ordered construction of a fort and forced people to work instead of looking for gold.

• Traded with the Indians.

• “He that will not work shall not eat.”
JOHN ROLFE

• Developed a high grade tobacco that led to Jamestown’s success.

• Husband of Pocahontas.
POCAHONTAS

• Tradition has her saving John Smith when she was 12 and he was 39.

• Tried to bring peace between the English and Indians.

• Contrary to the movie, she was NOT in love with Smith, did not run around singing all the time, and the animals and trees did not talk to her.
DEMOCRACY IN THE COLONY

★ To give the people more control, burgesses (representatives) would meet once a year.

★ The **House of Burgesses, 1619**, became *the first representative government in America*.
With Jamestown’s success, more people came to Virginia to seek a new life, land, or fortune. More settlements arose throughout the colony. Soon, more Englishmen would come to settle other regions of North America.
WWW #2

Pick one

Include two words from the word wall in your answer.

A. Explain what might have happened if the British had failed at Jamestown?

B. Find information in your notes that proves or disproves this statement: John Rolfe was the most important settler in Jamestown.

C. Summarize in your own words why Jamestown was successful and Roanoke was not.