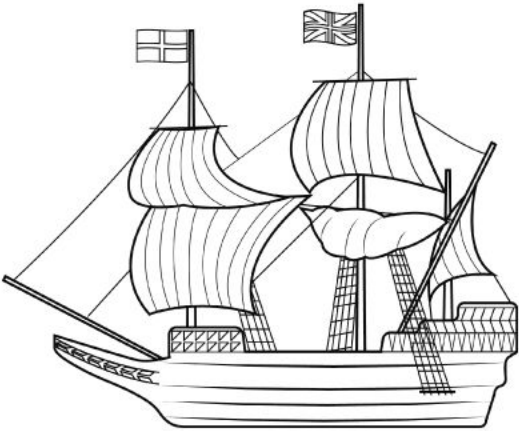


Name _____

Social Studies

Jamestown - the first English colony



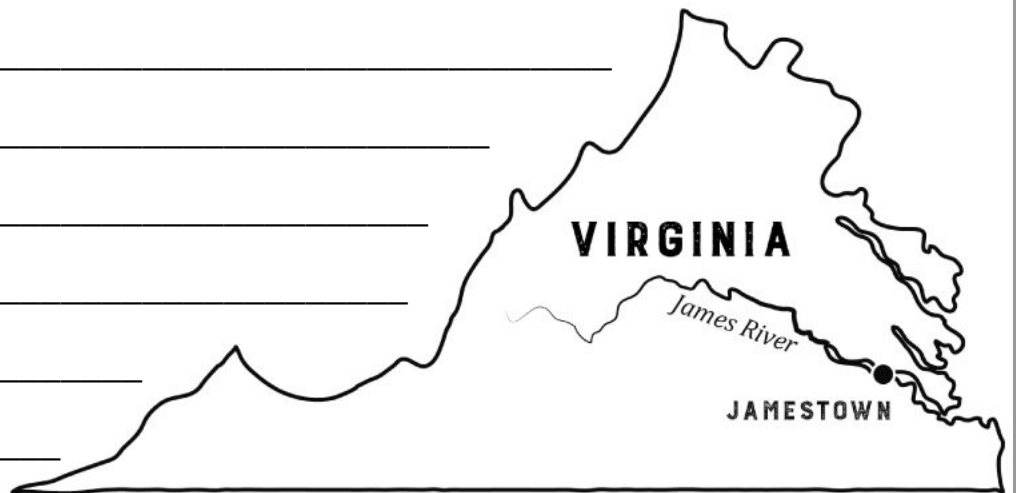
Jamestown was the first English colony to create a permanent settlement in North America. There had been a previous attempt with a settlement called Roanoke, however, that settlement had disappeared.

The 105 men who settled Jamestown were expected to discover vast amounts of gold, establish a successful and profitable colony, and potentially find a river that ran through the whole of North America.

The new colonists landed in Jamestown on May 14th, 1607. They picked an area that was near a river passage and easily defensible, and named the river after their King (James). They soon discovered that they were surrounded by disease carrying mosquitoes and marshy land that was difficult to farm.

THE SUSAN CONSTANT

What do you think were the expectations for the settlers when they first arrived at Jamestown?
What tasks did they need to complete?



Early on the new settlers were able to build some fort walls for protection, some small temporary dwellings, and they cleared land for a few crops. The Native Americans near by, of the Powhatan tribe, were initially friendly.

As time wore on however, issues began to appear. The colonists clearly didn't have enough food stored for winter. There was a tremendous amount of work required to sustain the new colony, and some of the settlers were less willing to work than others. That first winter, only 35 settlers survived. Historians have determined that settlers died from disease, a lack of clean drinking water, and starvation.

What types of problems did the colonists have in Jamestown?



Name _____

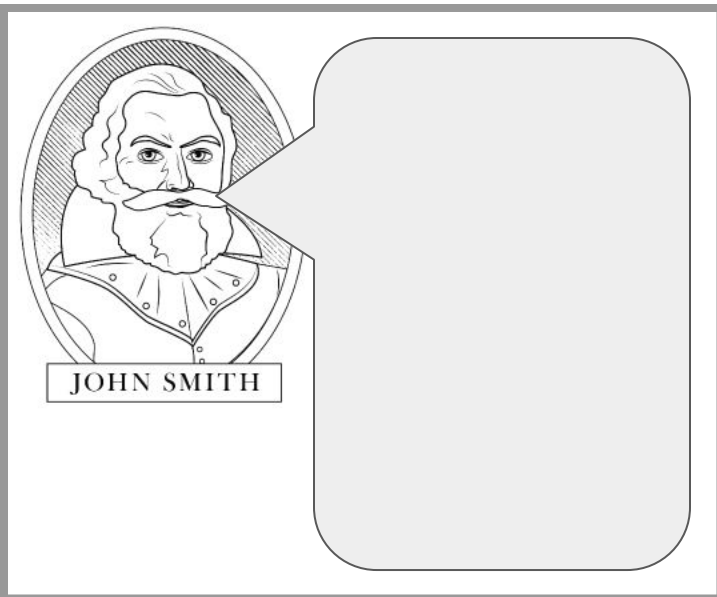
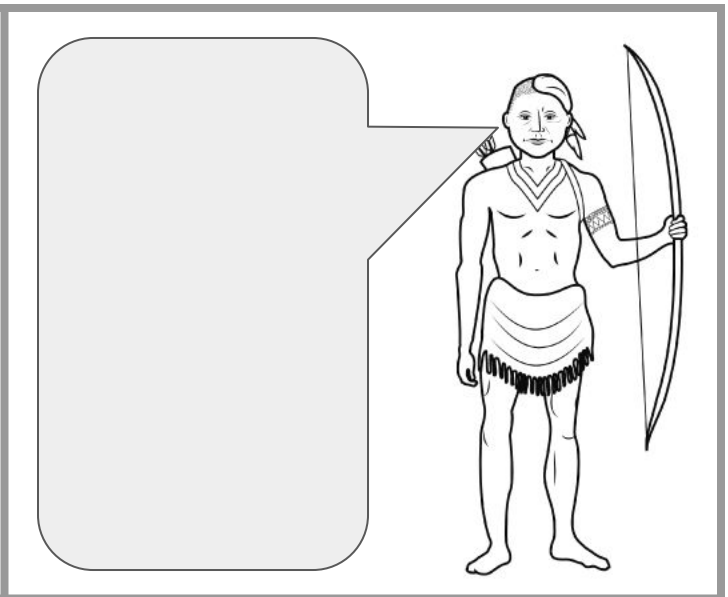
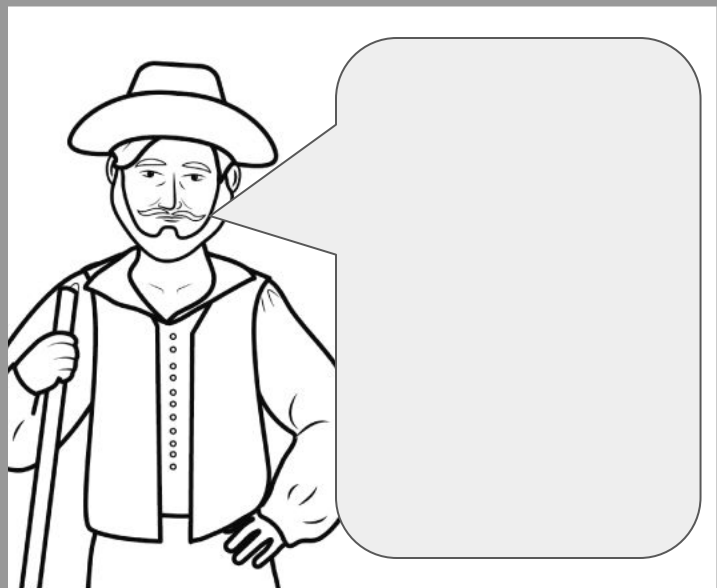
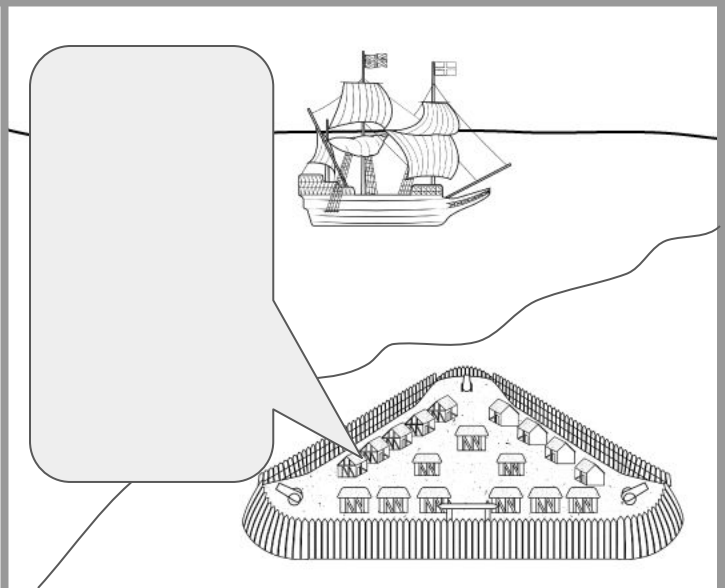
Social Studies

New settlers arrived early in the spring of 1608 with fresh supplies, however, the struggles continued. Captain John Smith brought order to the colony for a time by demanding that those who wanted to eat must work also. Smith left the colony when he was injured in a gunpowder explosion and returned to England for medical care that October.

The worst winter for the settlers came between 1609 and 1610. A drought had set in, and Native Americans were much less willing to share their food supplies. The colonists became more demanding, and confrontations eventually broke out between the Powhatan tribe and the settlers. Through that winter, the settlers ate the last of their food supplies, any animals that they could find (including their dogs and rats), and the leather from shoes or their boots. They didn't have the strength to venture beyond their forts for food or water. The 60 settlers who were left by spring were emaciated and sickly.

The settlers attempted to abandon the fort after "the starving time." They made preparations to leave, however, supply ships arrived within the nick of time and they were able to stay.

Directions: Each of the following cartoon panels shows one scene from Jamestown's early years. Complete the panels by adding in text.

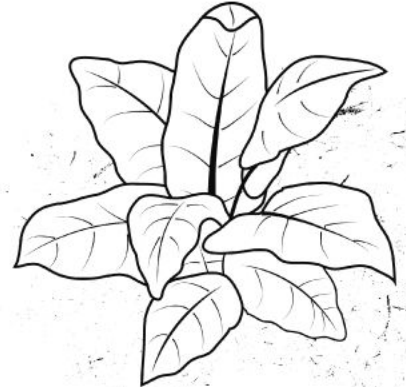
	
	

Name _____

Social Studies

Life in Jamestown gradually improved. John Rolfe, one of the settlers, brought tobacco seeds. Tobacco grew well in the Virginia soil, and it became the crop most commonly grown by the colony. That money fueled investment in the colony, and it began to thrive. Indian and colonist relations improved, and Pocahontas, the daughter of the Chief Powhatan, was wed to John Rolfe.

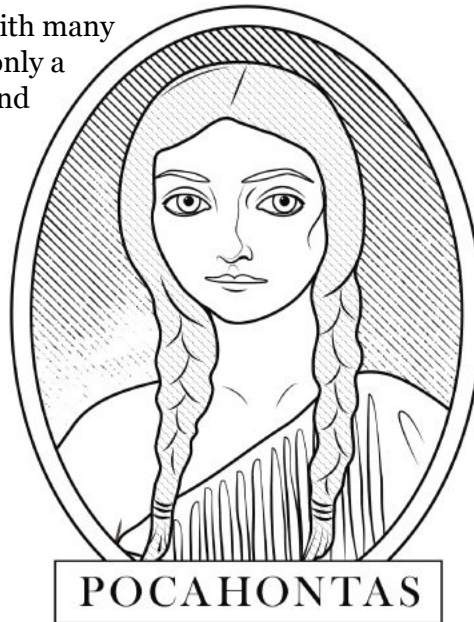
THE TOBACCO PLANT



Cheap labor became more and more in demand as tobacco increased in production. In 1619, the first African slaves arrived in Jamestown. Initially, they worked alongside indentured servants. However, slavery would become more common as African slaves were recognized as the cheaper labor option.

How did the colony become successful?

The story of Pocahontas is filled with many myths and inaccuracies. She was only a child when she met John Smith, and the two were never involved romantically. Pocahontas was her nickname, and her real name was Matoaka. Although Smith wrote accounts telling that Pocahontas had once saved his life, historians believe that it may have been a tribal ritual meant to scare Smith.



She did eventually marry Rolfe, but only after she and her first husband (a Native American named Kocoum) were divorced. She and Rolfe had a child named Thomas. She traveled to London in 1616, and she was treated like a celebrity by the English. While in England she died from an illness at age 21. Most historians believe that she died of some type of pneumonia.

What are some myths or inaccuracies that you've heard about Pocahontas?
