

Notes: Building Jamestown

The First English Colony

- ☆ **England** is jealous of Spain’s American empire and seeks its own riches.
- ☆ First English colony at **Roanoke Island** (1585) fails twice—all of the settlers vanish without a trace.

Challenge and Survival in Jamestown

In **1607**, a **charter** is granted by **King James I** to establish a colony at **Jamestown, Virginia**. The royal charter says the colonists have the same rights as **English citizens**.

Reasons for Jamestown’s Struggles	Reasons for Jamestown’s Success
Swampy climate causes malaria and disease.	A representative government is established.
Settlers are more interested in finding gold than in farming.	Tobacco proves easy to grow and is popular in Europe.
Settlers have poor relations with local Native Americans.	Peace with Native Americans after Pocahontas marries John Rolfe.

Representative Government

- ☆ To attract new settlers, **the first representative government in the English colonies is set up**.
- ☆ Representatives, known as burgesses, first meet in an assembly called the **House of Burgesses** in **1619**.
- ☆ The idea that people had political rights comes from the **Magna Carta**—a charter signed by King John in 1215, that **limited the power of the monarchy**—and **set up Parliament**, the representative assembly of England.

New Arrivals

- ☆ Jamestown grew after 1619—addition of **women** who married, worked, and raised families in the colony.
- ☆ **African slaves** also arrived in 1619 to work in the tobacco fields and on the farms.

Notes: Seeking Religious Freedom

How did European states control or regulate religion?

- ☆ European **Protestants** and **Catholics** fought religious wars.
- ☆ Most European rulers supported particular religions and did not tolerate others.
- ☆ People who did not practice the established state religion were often **persecuted**. It was not easy for people to practice religion freely in Europe during the 1500s.

Religious separatists decided to leave Europe and settle in North America to seek religious freedom.

- ☆ English Separatists—known as **Pilgrims**—first settled in Holland (Netherlands) in the early 1600s.
- ☆ They wanted their children to grow up English.
- ☆ They sailed for North America on the **Mayflower** to establish a colony—landing in **November 1620** at Cape Cod in **Massachusetts**.
- ☆ They called their new settlement **Plymouth**.

Why did the colonists at Plymouth feel they needed the Mayflower Compact?

- ☆ Their charter was for a colony in Virginia, but they were **not** settling within its boundaries.
- ☆ Not all the colonists on the **Mayflower** were Pilgrims.
- ☆ They wrote a framework for governing the colony—**they agreed to make and abide by laws that ensured the good of the colony**.
- ☆ The **Mayflower Compact** reflected the English tradition of governing through **elected representatives** and **individual rights**.

How were the Pilgrims able to survive early hardships?

- ☆ The Pilgrims’ first years in North America were **difficult**.
- ☆ They had not brought enough food to get them through the winter, and they did not have enough time to **build proper shelters** or **plant new crops**.
- ☆ In the spring, they planted crops and received help from neighboring Native Americans, especially **Squanto**.
- ☆ In the fall, they had a good harvest and celebrated with **Thanksgiving**.