

## Terms and People

- **charter** – a document issued by a government that grants specific rights to a person or company
- **John Smith** – Englishman sent in 1608 to lead Jamestown
- **representative government** – the form of government in which voters elect people to make laws for them

## Terms and People

- **pilgrim** – a person who takes a religious journey
- **Squanto** – a Native American who helped the Pilgrims in Plymouth by showing them how to grow native plants for food

# Early English Settlements



## **Objectives**

- Explain why England wanted to establish colonies in North America.
- Describe the experience of the settlers who founded the first permanent English colony in Jamestown.
- Explain how the Pilgrims managed to survive their first years in the Plymouth Colony.



## **How did the English set up their first colonies?**

England was a monarchy, but the powers of royalty were limited by law and by Parliament.



The king granted charters to groups of people who wanted to establish colonies.



**The Colonies would provide new markets for English products and raw materials for English industries.**



In the late 1500s, the English began to establish colonies on the east coast of North America.



**Some colonists came for land, others for gold, and still others for religious freedom.**

## Two Early English Colonies

### **First Roanoke Colony**

- The first colony at Roanoke Island, off the coast of present-day North Carolina, was established in 1585.
- It was abandoned a year later.

### **Second Roanoke Colony**

- The second colony at Roanoke Island was established in 1587.
- Because of a war with Spain, England was unable to send a ship to visit the colony until 1590.
- By then, the colony had disappeared without a trace.

In 1607, England's King James I granted a **charter** to a group of merchants to establish a colony called Virginia in North America.

The merchants, who formed the Virginia Company of London, were eager to gain a share of the wealth of the Americas.





The first colonists—about 100 men—arrived in Virginia in the spring of 1607.

They built a fort they called Jamestown, which proved to be England's first permanent settlement in North America.

Jamestown barely survived its first year because many colonists:

- died of diseases such as malaria
- wanted to look for gold, not farm



Local Native Americans, led by a chief named Powhatan, gave the colonists some food.

By the spring of 1608, only 38 of the original colonists were still alive.



That fall, **John Smith** was sent from England to lead the colony.



Under his firm leadership, the colonists planted crops and built buildings.

**Meanwhile, hundreds of new colonists—including the first English women to settle in Jamestown—arrived.**



To get more food, Smith raided Native American villages, which angered Powhatan.



In the fall of 1609, Smith returned to England after being injured in an explosion.

With Smith gone, conditions quickly worsened.



Powhatan decided to drive the English away, and he began by refusing to give them more food.



The terrible winter of 1609–1610 is called the “starving time,” because by the spring, only 60 colonists were still alive.

Despite the hard times, Jamestown began to prosper.

<b>Jamestown Survives</b>	
<b>Efforts of the Virginia Company</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The company sent new colonists, offered free land to existing colonists, and sent new leaders to restore order in the colony.</li></ul>
<b>Efforts of the Colonists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The colonists found a dependable source of income to sustain the colony: tobacco.</li><li>• By the 1580s, smoking tobacco had become popular in parts of Europe.</li><li>• The colonists' success in growing and selling tobacco drew new colonists from England.</li></ul>

The colonies developed a tradition of **representative government**.

In 1619, Virginia's lawmaking body, the House of Burgesses, was elected.



**The House of Burgesses marked the start of representative government in North America.**

In 1619, a Dutch ship arrived from the West Indies and sold 20 Africans to the Virginia colonists as slaves.

In the early days of the colony, enslaved people had a chance to earn their freedom after working a certain number of years.



**Permanent slavery for Africans was not established in Virginia until the late 1600s.**



In the 1500s, English subjects were expected to support the Church of England, and they could be punished if they had different religious beliefs.



The Separatists wanted to separate from the Church of England and practice Christianity in their own way.



Between 1607 and 1609, several groups of Separatists left England and settled in Holland.

In 1620, one group of Separatists decided to leave Holland and settle in Virginia.

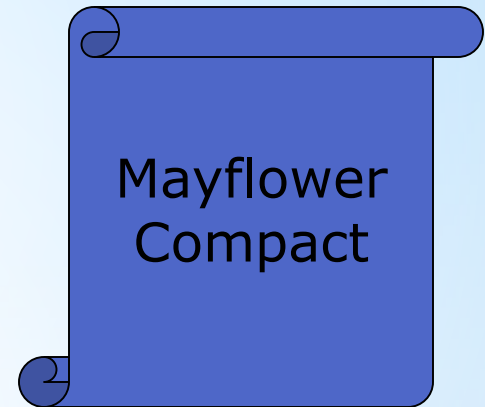
The **Pilgrims** sailed for Virginia aboard a ship called the *Mayflower*.



A storm blew them off course, and so they landed in present-day Massachusetts.

The Pilgrims called their new home Plymouth.

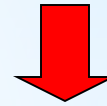
Before leaving the ship, 41 men signed the Mayflower Compact, a document that called for a **representative government**.



**The Mayflower Compact was the first document in which American colonists claimed a right to govern themselves.**

During the winter of 1620–1621, half of the Pilgrims died from hunger or disease.

In the spring, a local chief gave the Pilgrims food, and another Native American named **Squanto** taught the Pilgrims how to plant crops.



**In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims set aside a day to give thanks, which is now celebrated as the first Thanksgiving celebration.**

# Quiz

1. sent from London in 1608 to lead Jamestown
  2. a document granting specific rights to a person or company
  3. system where voters elect people to make laws for them
  4. Native American who helped the Pilgrims plant crops and catch eels
- a. Charter
  - b. John Smith
  - c. Roanoke
  - d. representative government
  - e. Squanto
  - f. persecute

5. \_\_\_\_\_ was established during the 1580s and was eventually abandoned.

6. England's first permanent settlement in North America was called \_\_\_\_\_ .

7. Virginia developed a dependable source of income for itself by growing \_\_\_\_\_.

8. The House of \_\_\_\_\_ marked the start of representative government in North America.

9. What was the Mayflower Compact?