Colony Builders

How three people shaped early American colonies

SS24.4.4a "Describe the contributions of key individuals who established and developed early American colonies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each person's name and underline the actions that show how that person helped a colony. Use your marks to explain each person's contribution.

Three Ways to Build a Colony

1. In 1607, English settlers built Jamestown in Virginia. The first years were hard. Food ran short, and many settlers became sick. John Smith helped lead the colony in 1608. He told settlers to work on shared jobs, such as building shelter and growing food. He also traded with nearby Powhatan communities for food. Those exchanges helped the settlers survive, though relations between the groups were often tense.

2. In 1681, William Penn received land from the English king and founded Pennsylvania. Penn was a Quaker, a member of a Christian group that faced punishment for its beliefs in England. He wanted his colony to welcome people from different religious groups. Penn set up a government with an elected assembly and sought peaceful agreements with the Lenape, who already lived on the land. His plans drew many settlers.

3. In 1733, James Oglethorpe helped start Georgia, the last of the thirteen English colonies. He led settlers to a site beside the Savannah River, where they built the town of Savannah. Oglethorpe laid out its streets around open squares and helped organize the colony's defense. Georgia stood between South Carolina and Spanish Florida. His work helped the new colony grow and protect the English colonies to its north.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did John Smith's actions help the settlers at Jamestown survive?

2. How did William Penn's beliefs shape the colony he founded?

3. Describe two ways James Oglethorpe helped establish Georgia.

4. How were Penn's and Oglethorpe's contributions to their colonies different?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are helping start a new colony. In four sentences, propose two decisions inspired by two different people in the passage, and explain how each decision could help your colony.

ANSWER KEY

Colony Builders

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.4a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each person's name and underline the actions that show how that person helped a colony. Use your marks to explain each person's contribution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did John Smith's actions help the settlers at Jamestown survive?	**He organized shared work and traded with Powhatan communities for food.**
2	How did William Penn's beliefs shape the colony he founded?	**Because Quakers had faced punishment for their beliefs, Penn wanted Pennsylvania to welcome people from different religious groups.**
3	Describe two ways James Oglethorpe helped establish Georgia.	**He led settlers to the site of Savannah and laid out its streets around open squares. He also helped organize the colony's defense.**
4	How were Penn's and Oglethorpe's contributions to their colonies different?	**Penn shaped Pennsylvania's government and religious policies. Oglethorpe helped build Savannah and organize Georgia's defense.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my new colony, I would ask everyone to help grow food, as John Smith did at Jamestown. Working together could keep families fed when supplies are low. I would also let settlers elect an assembly, following William Penn's plan in Pennsylvania. An elected assembly could give people a voice in making rules.

Accept answers that accurately connect each person's actions to their effect on a colony. For Your Turn, look for two distinct decisions based on two different people, with a reason each decision would help.