

Settling an Empire

Trace why England established colonies and how settlement changed North America.

SS.8.A.2 "Examine the causes, course, and consequences of British settlement in the American colonies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cause of British settlement, circle each event that shows how settlement spread or developed, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside three different consequences clearly stated in the third paragraph.

Britain's Colonies Take Shape

- ① England began establishing colonies in North America in the early 1600s for several reasons. Investors hoped colonies would produce valuable goods, open markets, and strengthen England against rival European powers. In 1607, the Virginia Company founded Jamestown, seeking profit. Its settlers struggled with disease, hunger, and conflict, but tobacco became a profitable export. In 1620, Pilgrims founded Plymouth after leaving England to practice their religion more freely. These different motives shaped colonies established during the next century.
- ② During the seventeenth century, English settlement spread along the Atlantic coast. The Crown granted charters to companies and proprietors, while some religious groups organized colonies under English rule. Massachusetts Bay, founded in 1630 by Puritans, developed towns with local meetings. In the Chesapeake and farther south, planters grew tobacco or rice for export. These crops relied increasingly on enslaved African labor. New England's economy included farming, fishing, trade, and shipbuilding, showing that colonial regions developed differently.
- ③ British settlement brought major consequences. Colonists claimed land already inhabited by Native peoples, leading to displacement, warfare, and treaties that often favored colonial expansion. The growth of slavery in several colonies created harsh racial laws and a society divided by legal status. Colonies also built representative assemblies and local institutions, giving many settlers experience with self-government. England tried to control colonial trade through mercantilist laws. Over time, disputes about trade rules, taxes, and political authority helped create tensions between Britain and its colonies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the main reason for founding Jamestown differ from the Pilgrims' main reason for founding Plymouth?

2 Give two examples showing that English colonies developed differently by region during the seventeenth century.

3 What happened when colonists claimed land inhabited by Native peoples?

4 What laws did England use to control colonial trade, and what later disagreements did they help create?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly five sentences that trace one cause of British settlement through one event in the course of settlement and two consequences. Use at least three specific facts from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cause of British settlement, circle each event that shows how settlement spread or developed, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside three different consequences clearly stated in the third paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the main reason for founding Jamestown differ from the Pilgrims' main reason for founding Plymouth?	Jamestown was founded to seek profit for the Virginia Company. Plymouth was founded by Pilgrims seeking greater religious freedom.
2	Give two examples showing that English colonies developed differently by region during the seventeenth century.	Accept two accurate examples, such as New England's farming, fishing, trade, and shipbuilding compared with Chesapeake and southern exports of tobacco or rice. Massachusetts Bay also developed towns with local meetings.
3	What happened when colonists claimed land inhabited by Native peoples?	Native peoples faced displacement and warfare, and treaties often favored colonial expansion.
4	What laws did England use to control colonial trade, and what later disagreements did they help create?	England used mercantilist laws. These laws helped create disputes about trade rules, taxes, and political authority between Britain and the colonies.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Profit was one cause of British settlement because investors wanted valuable goods and markets for England. The Virginia Company founded Jamestown in 1607 to seek profit. Tobacco later became a profitable export from the Chesapeake. As settlers claimed more land, Native peoples faced displacement and warfare. Colonial representative assemblies also gave many settlers experience with self-government, which later contributed to tensions with Britain over political authority.

Accept equivalent wording supported by the passage. For the open response, check for exactly five sentences, a connected cause-event-consequence explanation, and at least three accurate passage facts.