Choices at Jamestown

Examine John Smith's leadership and diplomacy.

5.C.1.5.A "leadership and diplomacy of Captain John Smith"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one example of Smith directing settlers, circle one example of Smith dealing with Powhatan leaders, and put a 1 beside an effect of trade and a 2 beside an effect of threats.

Leading a Struggling Colony

1. In 1607, English settlers built Jamestown beside the James River in Virginia. Many became sick, and food was scarce. Captain John Smith helped lead the settlement during these hard years. In 1608, he became president of its governing council. Smith expected settlers who were able to help gather food, build shelters, and do other needed work. His rules aimed to keep the struggling colony alive.

2. Jamestown also depended on nearby Powhatan communities, who already lived in the region and grew corn. Smith met with Powhatan leaders and traded English goods for food. Trading took talks and choices from both sides. When corn came to Jamestown, settlers had more to eat. These meetings show diplomacy, the use of talks and agreements between groups, even when their goals are not the same.

3. But Smith did not rely only on friendly talks. At times, he used threats or force to get food, which increased conflict with Powhatan communities. Powhatan leaders made their own decisions about whether to trade, refuse, or resist. Smith's leadership helped the settlers survive, but it did not make relations peaceful. Looking at both his choices and their effects gives a fuller picture of his role at Jamestown.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Smith lead settlers when food was scarce?

2. How did Smith use diplomacy to help Jamestown get food?

3. What effect did Smith's use of threats or force have on relations with Powhatan communities?

4. Why would calling Smith only a peaceful diplomat leave out part of the story?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Jamestown needs food, and a Powhatan leader is deciding whether to trade. Write a three-sentence plan for Smith that gives settlers a job, proposes a fair trade, and explains how his choices could reduce conflict.

ANSWER KEY

Choices at Jamestown

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.5.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one example of Smith directing settlers, circle one example of Smith dealing with Powhatan leaders, and put a 1 beside an effect of trade and a 2 beside an effect of threats. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Smith lead settlers when food was scarce?	**He expected settlers who were able to work to help gather food, build shelters, and do other needed jobs.**
2	How did Smith use diplomacy to help Jamestown get food?	**He met with Powhatan leaders and traded English goods for food.**
3	What effect did Smith's use of threats or force have on relations with Powhatan communities?	**It increased conflict with Powhatan communities.**
4	Why would calling Smith only a peaceful diplomat leave out part of the story?	**He traded with Powhatan leaders, but he also used threats or force to get food.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Smith could ask settlers to repair the food storehouse and count what they already have. He could ask a Powhatan leader what goods their community wants and offer those goods for corn if the leader agrees. By listening and letting the leader choose, Smith could seek food without threats and reduce conflict.

Accept answers that connect a specific action to leadership, diplomacy, or its effect. For the open task, look for three sentences that include a job for settlers, a trade the Powhatan leader can choose to accept, and a way to reduce conflict.