A Place to Stay

Find evidence that the English planned a lasting settlement.

5.C.1.6 "Explain the English commitment to the permanent settlement at Jamestown as evidenced through an elected representative government (House of Burgesses), private ownership of land, and the recruitment of women and families."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action the English took in each paragraph. Circle words that show how each action could help people stay in Jamestown for years.

Planning for Jamestown's Future

1. In 1619, Jamestown settlers faced decisions about life in Virginia. The Virginia Company, which ran the colony, allowed eligible men to elect representatives called burgesses. These men met with colonial leaders to make laws. Their assembly became known as the House of Burgesses. Giving settlers a voice in local decisions showed that English leaders expected a community that would keep growing, not a camp that would soon disappear.

2. A person who planned to leave soon might not spend years improving a field. In Jamestown, the Virginia Company began granting land that settlers could own privately. A family could grow crops on its own land and hope to pass it to children. That chance gave settlers a reason to build homes and care for their farms over many years, even though life in the colony was difficult.

3. At first, Jamestown had few English women and children. The Virginia Company recruited women and encouraged families to settle there. Women helped run households, worked, and added skills to the colony. Families could raise children and build lives together in Virginia. Recruiting people who might make a home across generations was another sign that the English wanted Jamestown to last instead of remain a short visit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did electing burgesses show that English leaders expected Jamestown to last?

2. Why might privately owned land make a settler want to stay in Jamestown?

3. How did recruiting women and families show a plan for more than a short visit?

4. How could owning land and bringing families work together to keep Jamestown settled?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence letter to a relative in England as an imagined Jamestown settler. Use a plan of your own to explain how elected burgesses, private land, and the recruitment of women and families could each help you stay.

ANSWER KEY

A Place to Stay

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action the English took in each paragraph. Circle words that show how each action could help people stay in Jamestown for years. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did electing burgesses show that English leaders expected Jamestown to last?	**Settlers gained a voice in making local laws, which helped them build a community meant to keep growing.**
2	Why might privately owned land make a settler want to stay in Jamestown?	**A settler could farm the land, build a home, and hope to pass the land to children.**
3	How did recruiting women and families show a plan for more than a short visit?	**Women and families could build homes, raise children, and make lives in Virginia across generations.**
4	How could owning land and bringing families work together to keep Jamestown settled?	**Families could farm their own land and hope to pass it to their children, giving them a reason to stay for years.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Uncle, I plan to make Jamestown my home instead of returning to England. Elected burgesses could speak for settlers when laws are made, so I would feel more connected to this place. If I owned a patch of land, I could plant an orchard for my family's future. Because the company recruits women and encourages families to come, my sister could join me and help make a lasting home here.

Accept different plans that accurately connect all three actions to lasting settlement. Students may describe the House of Burgesses as an elected assembly or as elected representatives who helped make laws.