Two Colonial Beginnings

Compare why Jamestown and Plymouth began and how they survived.

5.C.1 "Examine and compare the Jamestown and Plymouth settlements as the foundations of American culture and society. Describe the region prior to English settlement as the home to established and self-governing Native societies representing..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline why each settlement began, and circle one example of Native help to each settlement. Write 1 beside Jamestown's form of self-government and 2 beside Plymouth's.

Two Settlements, Different Beginnings

1. Long before English ships arrived, Native peoples lived in established communities across the Atlantic coast. In Virginia, Powhatan led an alliance of communities; in New England, Wampanoag communities governed themselves. These peoples grew food and traded with other Native groups over long routes. English settlers entered lands that were already home to many cultures. Some English newcomers sought profits from land and trade; others sought freedom to practice their religion.

2. In 1607, English investors founded Jamestown in Virginia to earn a profit. Captain John Smith helped organize work and trade with Powhatan communities, whose food helped the colony survive. Still, many settlers died during the Starving Time when food ran short. John Rolfe later grew tobacco for sale, attracting workers, including indentured servants. Conflicts over land worsened. In 1619, colonists formed the elected House of Burgesses, showing plans to stay.

3. In 1620, Pilgrims founded Plymouth in New England to practice their faith without persecution. Their Mayflower Compact promised that settlers would make rules together. Governor William Bradford led them through harsh winters. Tisquantum shared farming knowledge, and Ousamequin, a Wampanoag leader, made an alliance with Plymouth. Native help supported the settlement, but contact also brought misunderstandings and conflict. Unlike Jamestown's investors, the Pilgrims came mainly for religious reasons.

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. How did Native peoples help each settlement? What difference does the passage describe in the settlers' relationships with Native peoples?

3. What challenge did Jamestown face, and what different challenge did Plymouth face?

4. How did settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth each practice self-government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are advising a new settlement. In four sentences, recommend a plan that uses one survival lesson from Jamestown and one from Plymouth, explains how you would treat Native peoples fairly, and tells how settlers would make decisions.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline why each settlement began, and circle one example of Native help to each settlement. Write 1 beside Jamestown's form of self-government and 2 beside Plymouth's. 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?	**Investors founded Jamestown to earn a profit. Pilgrims founded Plymouth to practice their religion without persecution.**
2	How did Native peoples help each settlement? What difference does the passage describe in the settlers' relationships with Native peoples?	**Powhatan communities traded food that helped Jamestown survive, but conflicts over land worsened. Tisquantum shared farming knowledge with Plymouth, and Ousamequin made an alliance with it.**
3	What challenge did Jamestown face, and what different challenge did Plymouth face?	**Many Jamestown settlers died when food ran short during the Starving Time. Plymouth's settlers faced harsh winters.**
4	How did settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth each practice self-government?	**Jamestown formed the elected House of Burgesses. Plymouth's settlers used the Mayflower Compact to promise to make rules together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would store food for hard times because Jamestown's settlers suffered when food ran short. I would learn farming methods from Native neighbors who were willing to teach, as Plymouth's settlers learned from Tisquantum. I would trade fairly and ask permission before using land because Native peoples already lived there. Settlers would make rules together, as the Pilgrims promised in the Mayflower Compact.

Accept other accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the open task, look for a lesson from each settlement, a specific way to respect Native peoples, and a way for settlers to make decisions.