

Jamestown's Place

See how land and water shaped important events at Jamestown.

3.3.d “connecting geography to major historical events.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each geographic feature or water condition. Then draw an arrow from each underlined detail to the event or result it helped cause.

A Settlement Shaped by Water

- ① In 1607, English settlers built Jamestown on a low peninsula beside the James River in Virginia. Water surrounded three sides of the site. The settlers' leaders thought the surrounding water would help them defend the settlement from attack. The deep river also let English ships sail close to shore with settlers, tools, and supplies from England.
- ② Jamestown's low land had marshes and standing water. Mosquitoes bred there and spread disease. The river water near the settlement was often salty at high tide and dirty from waste. During the hard years of 1609 and 1610, many settlers became sick or weak. These water and health problems made the Starving Time even more dangerous.
- ③ The settlers lived near Powhatan Indian communities. Nearby rivers were travel routes, so Powhatan people and English settlers could meet to trade food and other goods. As the English settlement grew, it needed more land and food. Competition for these resources led to conflict between the English and Powhatan peoples in the years that followed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the water around three sides of Jamestown affect the settlers' choice of site?

2 What did the deep James River allow English ships to do, and why was that important?

3 Name two water conditions at Jamestown. How did they make the Starving Time more dangerous?

4 How did nearby rivers first help Powhatan people and English settlers interact? What later caused conflict?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a new settlement. In three sentences, name one geographic feature, tell how it affects an important event, and explain the result for the settlement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each geographic feature or water condition. Then draw an arrow from each underlined detail to the event or result it helped cause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the water around three sides of Jamestown affect the settlers' choice of site?	Leaders thought the surrounding water would help defend the settlement from attack.
2	What did the deep James River allow English ships to do, and why was that important?	Ships could sail close to shore and bring settlers, tools, and supplies from England.
3	Name two water conditions at Jamestown. How did they make the Starving Time more dangerous?	Marshes and standing water helped mosquitoes spread disease, and river water could be salty or dirty. These problems made settlers sick or weak during the Starving Time.
4	How did nearby rivers first help Powhatan people and English settlers interact? What later caused conflict?	Rivers were travel routes that helped them meet and trade. As the English settlement grew, competition for land and food led to conflict.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Harbor was built beside a wide, safe bay. The bay let ships bring food after a storm ruined nearby farms. Because of this location, the settlement survived its first winter.

Accept answers that correctly connect a geographic feature or condition to an event or result from the passage. For the open response, accept a logical three-sentence feature, event, and result connection.