

Point Comfort Arrival

Examine the 1619 arrival of captive Africans in Virginia.

USI.4.b "examining the arrival of the first Africans to colonial America at Old Point Comfort (Fort Monroe);"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts that tell where the Africans arrived, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside facts that show what happened before they reached Virginia.

A Record From 1619

- ① In late August 1619, an English ship called the White Lion arrived at Point Comfort in Virginia. The place is now part of Fort Monroe near Hampton. The ship carried "20 and odd" Africans, meaning about twenty people. English colonists traded food and supplies for some of the captive Africans. This event was recorded by Virginia colonist John Rolfe.
- ② The Africans had been forced onto a Portuguese slave ship after being captured in west central Africa, in the region of Ndongo, now part of Angola. The White Lion had attacked that ship at sea. The people at Point Comfort did not choose to come to Virginia. They arrived after violence, capture, and a dangerous ocean crossing.
- ③ The arrival at Point Comfort is important because it began a painful chapter in Virginia's history. At first, records do not clearly show the legal status of each African person. Over time, Virginia created laws that made slavery lifelong and hereditary for many Black people. Studying the event means naming where it happened, tracing how people arrived, and recognizing that they were human beings, not cargo.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Where did the White Lion arrive in 1619, and what present-day place includes that site?

2 What evidence from the passage shows that the Africans did not choose to come to Virginia?

3 Use the passage to describe the journey of the Africans before they reached Point Comfort.

4 What changed over time in Virginia after the 1619 arrival?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about the 1619 arrival at Point Comfort. Include the place and year, one detail about how the Africans arrived, and why this event is important to Virginia history.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline facts that tell where the Africans arrived, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside facts that show what happened before they reached Virginia. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where did the White Lion arrive in 1619, and what present-day place includes that site?	It arrived at Point Comfort in Virginia. Point Comfort is now part of Fort Monroe near Hampton.
2	What evidence from the passage shows that the Africans did not choose to come to Virginia?	They were captured in west central Africa and forced onto a Portuguese slave ship.
3	Use the passage to describe the journey of the Africans before they reached Point Comfort.	They were captured in the Ndongo region of west central Africa, forced onto a Portuguese slave ship, and then brought to Point Comfort after the White Lion attacked the ship at sea.
4	What changed over time in Virginia after the 1619 arrival?	Virginia created laws that made slavery lifelong and hereditary for many Black people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1619, the White Lion brought captive Africans to Point Comfort in Virginia. They had been captured in west central Africa and forced onto a Portuguese slave ship. This arrival began a painful chapter that led to laws making slavery lifelong and hereditary for many Black people.

Accept equivalent wording that identifies Point Comfort, now part of Fort Monroe, and accurately traces the forced journey from west central Africa. For the museum label, check for all three required parts and respectful, historically accurate language.