

Why Jamestown Here?

Trace how money, land, and water shaped an early colony.

VS.3.b "describing the economic and geographic influences on the decision to settle at Jamestown;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each economic reason for settling and circle each geographic feature that affected the Jamestown site. In the margin, write E beside one economic reason and G beside one geographic reason that later caused problems.

Choosing Jamestown

- ① In 1607, the Virginia Company sent 104 English men and boys to build a colony in Virginia. The company expected the colony to earn money for its investors. Leaders hoped settlers would find gold, valuable natural resources, and trade opportunities. They also wanted England to claim land in North America before other European countries could take it.
- ② After sailing into Chesapeake Bay, the settlers chose a site beside a wide, deep part of the James River. Ships could travel there, bringing people and supplies and carrying goods away. The site was inland from the bay, so leaders thought it would be harder for Spanish ships to attack. Water surrounded three sides, which seemed easier to defend.
- ③ Yet the place had serious problems. It was low and marshy, and the settlers could not easily get clean drinking water from the river. Mosquitoes spread disease in the warm months. Many settlers spent time searching for gold instead of growing food. These geographic hardships and economic choices helped cause hunger, sickness, and deaths during the early years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What economic result did Virginia Company investors expect from the colony?

2 Give two geographic reasons that made the Jamestown site seem like a good choice.

3 Why did leaders think an inland site would be safer from attack?

4 How did searching for gold affect the settlers, and what problem did it help cause?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a new colony site. In 3 or 4 sentences, explain one geographic feature that could help the settlement, one way the colony could earn money, and one problem settlers might need to solve.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each economic reason for settling and circle each geographic feature that affected the Jamestown site. In the margin, write E beside one economic reason and G beside one geographic reason that later caused problems. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What economic result did Virginia Company investors expect from the colony?	They expected the colony to earn money for its investors.
2	Give two geographic reasons that made the Jamestown site seem like a good choice.	Possible answers: It was beside a wide, deep river where ships could travel; it was inland from the bay and seemed safer from Spanish attack; water surrounded three sides and seemed easier to defend.
3	Why did leaders think an inland site would be safer from attack?	They thought Spanish ships would have a harder time attacking a site inland from Chesapeake Bay.
4	How did searching for gold affect the settlers, and what problem did it help cause?	Many settlers searched for gold instead of growing food. This economic choice helped cause hunger, sickness, and deaths.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would choose a site beside a deep river, so supply ships could reach the settlement. Nearby forests could provide lumber to sell for money. However, settlers would need a clean spring because river water might not be safe to drink.

Accept clear paraphrases of the passage for Parts 1 and 2. For Your Turn, accept reasonable site plans that include a geographic benefit, an economic opportunity, and a realistic challenge.