

Permission to Settle

Read how a royal charter helped begin Jamestown.

VS.3.c “describing the importance of the Virginia Company of London Charter (April 10, 1606) in establishing the Jamestown colony;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that tell what the charter allowed or helped the Virginia Company do. Circle the detail that connects the charter to the founding of Jamestown.

A Charter Starts a Plan

- ① On April 10, 1606, King James I gave a charter to the Virginia Company of London. A charter is an official document from a ruler. It gave the company permission to establish an English colony in Virginia. Without this permission, the company did not have the king’s legal support for its plan or its leaders.
- ② The company needed money, ships, supplies, and workers for an overseas settlement. Its leaders used the charter to seek investors, people who gave money in hopes of earning a profit. The charter showed that the company had authority from the king. It did not pay for the voyage, but it helped the company organize and support the plan.
- ③ With the charter’s authority, the company sent three ships from England in December 1606. The settlers traveled across the Atlantic Ocean and established Jamestown in Virginia in May 1607. Jamestown faced serious problems, but its founding began with the company’s legal right to create a colony. The document connected the king’s permission to the settlers’ actions there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Who gave the Virginia Company of London its charter, and when was it given?

2 What did the charter give the company permission to do?

3 How did the charter help the company seek support for its plan?

4 Explain how the 1606 charter was connected to the founding of Jamestown in 1607.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine that a group wants to start a new English colony. Write two sentences explaining what a charter from the king could give the group and why the charter would matter before the group sails.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that tell what the charter allowed or helped the Virginia Company do. Circle the detail that connects the charter to the founding of Jamestown. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who gave the Virginia Company of London its charter, and when was it given?	King James I gave the charter on April 10, 1606.
2	What did the charter give the company permission to do?	It gave the company permission to establish an English colony in Virginia.
3	How did the charter help the company seek support for its plan?	It showed that the company had authority from the king, which helped its leaders seek investors.
4	Explain how the 1606 charter was connected to the founding of Jamestown in 1607.	The charter gave the company the legal authority to create a colony. Using that authority, the company sent settlers, who established Jamestown in May 1607.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A charter could give the group legal permission from the king to start a colony. It matters because the document shows the group has authority to organize people, ships, and support before sailing.

Accept responses that explain that a charter gives official or legal permission from the ruler to establish a colony. The response should also state that this authority helps the group organize or gain support for its plan.