

Survival at Jamestown

Trace the hardships and changes that helped the colony last.

VS.3.e “describing the hardships faced by settlers at Jamestown and the changes that took place to ensure survival including, but not limited to trade with the Powhatan, the leadership of Captain John Smith, land ownership...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each hardship, circle each change that helped Jamestown survive, and number the circled changes in the order they appear.

A Colony Learns to Survive

- ① In 1607, English settlers built Jamestown beside the James River in Virginia. The site had deep water for ships, but it also had mosquitoes, swampy ground, and salty or dirty drinking water. Many settlers were not used to farming or hard physical work. Disease, hunger, and conflicts made life dangerous. During the starving time of 1609-1610, many colonists died.
- ② Captain John Smith helped lead the colony during its early struggles. He urged settlers to work to produce food and build needed shelters. Smith also worked to trade with the Powhatan people for corn and other food. This trade helped the English survive, although relations between the two groups were often tense and sometimes turned violent.
- ③ Other changes gave Jamestown a better chance to last. In 1612, John Rolfe began growing a tobacco crop that English buyers wanted. Tobacco became a successful commercial crop, meaning it was grown to sell for profit. The Virginia Company also gave land to settlers and used headrights to reward people who paid for new settlers' travel. Land ownership encouraged more people to come and farm.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two conditions at the Jamestown site that made life difficult for settlers.

2 How did Captain John Smith's leadership help the colonists survive?

3 How did trade with the Powhatan people help Jamestown?

4 How did tobacco and land ownership each help Jamestown last?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence message from a new Jamestown settler to family in England. Describe one hardship, explain two changes that could help the colony survive, and tell how each change helps.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each hardship, circle each change that helped Jamestown survive, and number the circled changes in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two conditions at the Jamestown site that made life difficult for settlers.	Mosquitoes, swampy ground, and salty or dirty drinking water. Accept any two.
2	How did Captain John Smith's leadership help the colonists survive?	He urged settlers to work to produce food and build shelters.
3	How did trade with the Powhatan people help Jamestown?	The English traded for corn and other food, which helped them survive.
4	How did tobacco and land ownership each help Jamestown last?	Tobacco was grown and sold for profit. Land grants and headrights encouraged more people to come and farm.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Life here is hard because disease and hunger have made many people sick or weak. Trading with the Powhatan people can bring corn when our food is scarce. Growing tobacco to sell can bring profit, so the colony can buy supplies and keep going.

Accept equivalent hardships and survival changes that are supported by the passage. For the message, accept any accurate hardship and two accurate changes with clear explanations of how they help survival.