

## Writing Across the Content Areas Social Studies Grade 5 Jamestown: A Colony on the Edge of Ruin

**Standards: (Common Core)** [RH.6-8.1](#). Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. [RH.6-8.2](#). Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions [W.8.2](#). Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

### Introduction:

Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts, and Jamestown, Virginia, were the first two colonies established by the English on the North American continent. While neither of these colonial ventures found it easy to establish a successful and independent settlement, the Virginia colony found the going particularly rough. *In the first 20 years the death rate in Virginia was more than two times higher than the death rate during the first severe winter in Plymouth Colony and far exceeded the death rate in Europe during the height of the plague.*



As a student of history you have been asked to join with historical colleague(s) to determine just what conditions would result in a *death rate that was 75 to 80 percent, a figure that historically is staggering.*

**Task:** Your challenge is to examine the clues provided and construct a theory that explains what happened in the Virginia colony.

**Specifically: Why did this occur? Who was dying? Why did it continue for over 20 years? Make sure that your theory is built upon the clues provided and explains the connections between and among them.**

### Directions

Generate some preliminary hypotheses about what happened in the Virginia colony.

Join an "Historical Study Team" and share your hypotheses with other members of your group.

Record your ideas on paper.

The clues are on the 15 cards.

Distribute the clues as equally as possible among members of your team.

Have each member read through the clues.

Discuss the clues as a whole team. Begin to place related clues into groups. Look for connections, cause/effect relationships, anomalous clues, etc.

Record any important observations that your team makes. Also record any new hypotheses that it develops.

Determine which hypotheses is best supported by the given data. Refine it.

Prepare a 1 page paper in which you will share your hypothesis with the other teams.

## **Content for a Working Rubric**

Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information

Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

Establish and maintain a formal style.

Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

## IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION IN OLDE VIRGINIA

Immigration	Surviving Population of Colony After 2 Years
1613 ..... 600	1615 ..... 70
1615 ..... 2,000	1617 ..... 200
1618 ..... 3,750	1620 ..... 700

## COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES

Europe during the Plague .....	30%
Plymouth Colony (first winter only) .....	40%
Olde Virginia (first 20 years).....	60%

## ***BULLETINS***

*Two soldiers who deserted were found murdered in the town square, their mouths stuffed with bread.*

*George Sanders has been arrested for the murder of his wife. He was apprehended sitting on the floor of his house rubbing salt on her body.*

## Virginia Company Servant Policy

### THE HEADRIGHT POLICY

Any man who pays the passage (\$150.00) for a servant from England to Virginia, plus his room and board (\$25.00 a year), shall receive the services of that man for seven years plus a grant of 50 acres to his farm.

All government officials shall be paid 100 acres of land for every two years of service.

## LETTER FROM THIRD GOVERNOR

*Sirs:*

*The colony is in great disarray. Only five or six houses are standing. The palisade (fence surrounding the town) has fallen down. The complete store of horses, goats, hens, sheep, and even cats and dogs has disappeared. The church is being used as a storehouse for produce, and every inch of town has been ploughed and planted, including the streets themselves.*

## TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND INCOME

<b>Worker</b>	<b>Production .....</b>	<b>Income</b>
1 Worker	300 lbs per year .....	\$ 2,200.00
1 Man & 2 Boys (family)	500 lbs per year .....	\$ 4,500.00
<b>4 Workers</b>	900 lbs per year .....	<b>\$13,950.00</b>

## AVERAGE TOBACCO EXPORTS FROM VIRGINIA

1613 .....	200 lbs
1616 .....	2,500 lbs
1617 .....	18,839 lbs
1618 .....	49,518 lbs

## GROWING TOBACCO

Tobacco is an extremely difficult crop to grow because planting must be very precise. The crop is extremely susceptible to pests and must be constantly weeded and tended. Harvesting is slow and backbreaking, and once harvested, the tobacco must be dried over a carefully watched slow fire that generates both smoke and heat.

## INTERESTING LAWS

Every man in the colony shall plant two acres of corn or be fined \$50.00

**2 Years Later**

Every man in the colony shall plant two acres of corn or be fined \$100.00

**1 Year Later**

Every man in the colony shall plant two acres of corn or forfeit all his crops and be whipped.

**2 Years Later**

Every man in the colony shall plant two acres of corn or forfeit all his crops, be whipped, and be made a slave for one year.

Hay may be used only for the care and feeding of animals. Penalty \$200.00.

## TRUE FACTS FROM AGRICULTURE

In one week a man could plant, tend, and harvest sufficient corn to feed himself for one year. An average agricultural worker in England made less than \$25.00 per year.

## CAPTAIN'S DIARY FROM THE SHIP BONA NOVA

*Arrived in Jamestown on September 20th, the year of our Lord 1615, with 140 passengers. Twenty-five died during the voyage. Of the 140 survivors (most are young men) all but 36 have had their passage paid by investors. The majority of the immigrants are of ill health, and many are weak from lack of a good diet.*

## LETTER FROM LONDON-BASED VIRGINIA COMPANY TO GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

*Dear Governor:*

*It has been brought to our attention that our housing for settlers in the colony is inadequate and that to build proper quarters takes due time. Therefore, we suggest strongly that guest houses be built to house the newcomers upon their arrival.*

*Signed, John Rolfe, Esquire*

## LETTER FROM GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA COLONY TO VIRGINIA COMPANY IN LONDON

*Dear Sirs:*

*We welcome the increase of new settlers to our land. There is much to do, and we need hardworking men of strong body and character. However, I request that you decrease the number of passengers in favor of carrying increased amounts of food supplies.*

*Respectfully,*

*Governor Samuel Araall*

## BULLETIN

It was reported that for the third time this month a group of settlers living outside the stockade were massacred by Indians.

## MEDICAL REPORT

Virginia is an unhealthy place to live. The wells are contaminated, causing outbreaks of typhoid fever and malaria.