

4-1 Notes

The Virginia Colony

The Drive to Colonize

1. Failure of Roanoke change how the English did colonies
 - a. Joint Stock Company
 - i. Sir Thomas Smith helped organize. Even put out an ad trying to attract people to come.
 - ii. why would they want to come?
 1. Stone walls had forced tenant farmers off land
 2. over population in cities
 - a. homelessness and significant unemployment

Settlement in Jamestown

1. 4/26/1607...first of three ships of the London Co arrived at Virginia
 - a. 105 men...No women...why?

A Rough Start

1. settled about 50 miles inland on the James River.
2. named colony after King James
3. totally ill prepared for challenges ahead...most were looking to make \$ and return
 - a. No families
 - b. most didn't know how to farm, carpentry...they were entrepreneurs.
 - i. most spent time looking for gold...
 - c. bad site
 - i. swampy area
 - ii. salty water...brackish.
 - iii. weakened by long journey
 - iv. John Smith takes over...things improve *briefly*
 1. plant crops
 2. improve housing

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v. by winter...2/3 dead...the rest were starving and weak

The Powhatan Confederacy

1. an alliance of Algonquian Indians led by Wahunsonacock (wah-huhn-SUH-nuh-kahk)
2. traded crops for English made goods
3. also taught colonists to farm
4. not always peaceful relations
 - a. colonist often took food from Powhatans by force
 - i. Wahunsonacock confused...quote p.95

The Starving Time

1. 1609...400 more settlers arrived
2. Smith (injured earlier) returned to England
 - a. leadership void!
 - b. disease and famine nearly destroyed colony
 - i. by summer 1610 only 60 colonists remained
3. 1611...
 - a. new governor arrived Sir Thomas Gates, (dept gov) Thomas Dale
 - i. strict laws, harsh punishments, hard work were mandatory
 - ii. high death rates continued...

Growing Tobacco

1. Colony is still not turning a profit!
2. Tobacco had become popular in England in the 1560's but local variety was too harsh.
 - a. John Rolfe introduced a West Indian version in 1612
 - i. popular, but not everyone liked smoking...

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1. King James "...loathsome, hateful, and harmful..."
- ii. made Jamestown profitable

War in Virginia

1. Rolfe helped create peace (temp) with the Powhatan
 - a. married Pocahontas (daughter of chief) in 1614
 - i. she died in 17' (in England)
 - ii. Chief Wahunsonacock died in 18'
2. Dependency on Powhatan had faded...relationship faded as well
 - a. wanted indian land to grow tobacco
 - b. as colony expanded the relationship deteriorated
 - i. Governor Francis Wyatt...the Powhatan..."were but a thorn in our sides."
3. 1622...War erupted between Jamestown and the Powhatan
 - a. Colonists killed the current Chief (brother of Wahunsonacock)
 - b. Powhatan attack later in year
 - i. 350 (half) colonists dead
 1. Rolfe was among the dead...impact?
 - ii. 20+ years of conflict
 - iii. 44' last major attack by the Powhatan
 - iv. war over in 46'
 - c. England was no help to the colonists
 - i. charter was cancelled in 24'...became a royal colony

Daily Life in Virginia

1. people lived on farms scattered about not in larger organized towns

Tobacco Culture

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1. Plantations developed
 - a. Headright System
 - i. if a colonist paid their way, got 50 acres and an additional 50 per person brought with them.
 - ii. Life was tough..
 - b. early families found it very difficult
 - c. first single women didn't arrive until 1619
 - i. Co. tried to encourage more women by offering land grants and marriage opportunities
 - d. families tried to be self sufficient
 - i. handmade almost everything
 - ii. most "lessons" happened at home... no schools few churches

Labor Problems

1. High death rates lead to a serious labor and population shortage
2. most individuals couldn't pay for trip over
 - a. solution...indenture
 - i. 4-7 years of dedicated labor in exchange for passage to the colony
 1. 75%+- of early colonists had lived under indenture
 - a. Margaret Williams...passage, food, clothing, and lodging in exchange for 4 years labor
 - ii. many died before indenture was over
 - b. solution b...Slavery

Africans in Virginia

1. First ship (Dutch) arrived in 1619
 - a. some were indentured, some were slaves
 - b. black and white indentured worked/lived side by side
 - i. blacks who survived their indenture were free and some went on to

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become successful farmers.

2. Indenture was preferred initially over purchasing slaves
 - a. cheaper and easier to replace
 - i. many had to be replaced because of high death rate
 - ii. as death rate dropped, slavery became more popular
3. By the mid 1600's lifelong servitude was widespread and made tobacco plantations very profitable

Bacon's Rebellion

1. By the late 1600's there were many "poor, indebted, discontented, and armed" colonists in Virginia
2. The poor began protesting
 - a. that the members of the House of Burgesses collected money to benefit themselves
 - b. a lack of farmland
 - c. many moved out of the colony into American Indian territories
3. Nathaniel Bacon led a group of slaves, freed slaves, and servants against "friendly" American Indians.
 - a. Gov. Berkeley tried to calm Bacon and his followers
 - i. Bacon responded by attacking Jamestown
 1. burned much of the colony
 - b. Rebellion fails when...
 - i. Bacon gets sick and dies
 - ii. 23 of remaining rebels caught and hanged
 - c. Outcome...
 - i. not able to make peace easily with local tribes
 - ii. expanded use of slave labor