

Study Guide



Chapter 3, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 70–73

EARLY ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS

KEY TERMS

charter	Right to organize settlements in an area (page 71)
joint-stock company	Shares of stock or ownership in a company are sold to investors for a share of future profits (page 71)
burgesses	Elected representatives (page 73)

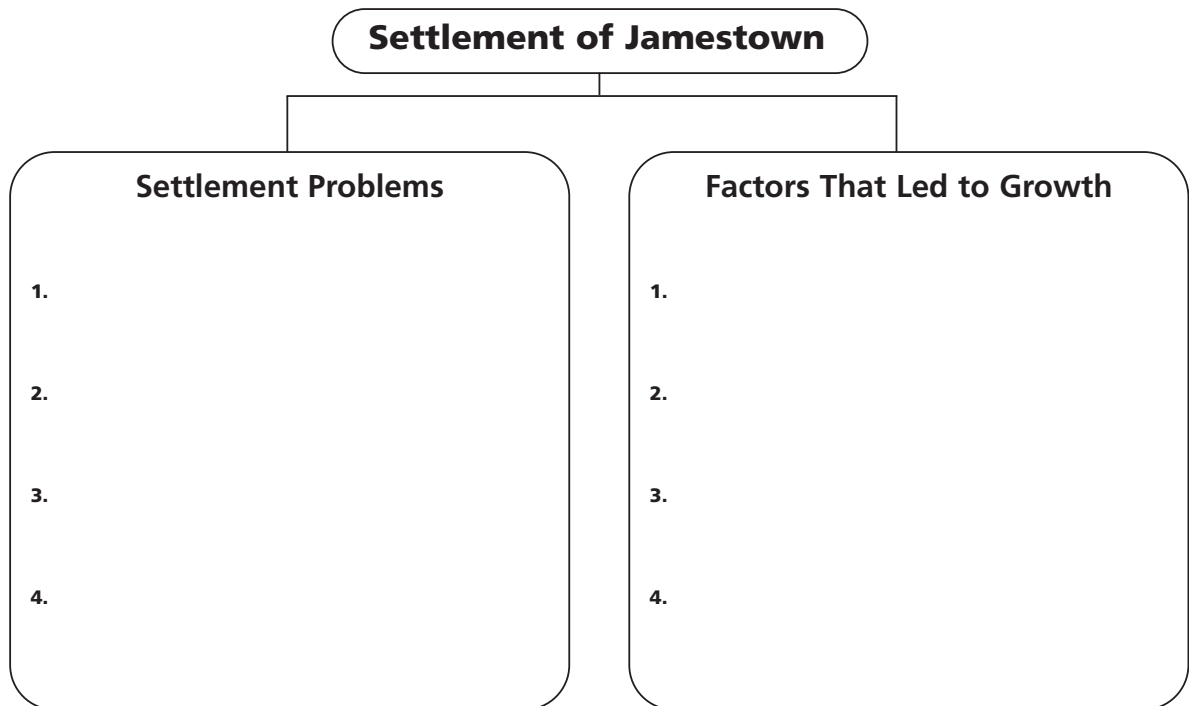
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever moved from one place to live in another? Did you move far away? What kinds of changes did you face? What factors made it difficult to move?

This section focuses on the difficulties the first English colonists faced when they settled in Virginia.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the problems the colonists faced and how they overcame those problems.



Study Guide

Chapter 3, Section 1 *(continued)*



READ TO LEARN

- **England in America** (*pages 70–71*)

For years England and Spain disagreed over trading issues and religious differences. King Philip II, the ruler of Spain, was upset that England had left the Catholic Church and was ruled by a Protestant. He was also upset that Sir Francis Drake and others were attacking his ships and ports. In 1558 King Philip sent the Spanish Armada, a powerful naval force that dominated the seas, to invade England. Spain lost badly. While the loss did not end the rivalry or the war, it made it possible for England and other countries to establish settlements in North America.

England sent several groups to North America to establish settlements without much success. In 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert claimed Newfoundland for England, but died before he could establish a colony farther south. In 1584 Sir Walter Raleigh and his scouts selected Roanoke Island, off the coast of what is now North Carolina, for colonization. The first group Raleigh sent returned home to England after a harsh winter. The second group started a colony, led by John White. White went back to England for more supplies and more settlers. When he returned nearly three years later, the settlers were gone. He never found them. This discouraged other settlement attempts.

1. What happened to the first English attempts at settlement in North America?

- **Jamestown Settlement** (*pages 71–73*)

In 1606 several merchants requested permission from King James I to establish settlements and trade in North America. King James I granted a **charter**, or formal agreement, to the Virginia Company of London. It was a **joint-stock company** owned by investors for a share of future profits. The settlers were expected to make a profit for the company by searching for gold and becoming fur and fish traders. They named their new settlement Jamestown after the King of England. The soil was swampy, the food scarce, and the work difficult. Mosquitoes carried and spread diseases. By spring, only 38 out of the original 144 colonists were still alive. The next two years were not much better.

Study Guide



Chapter 3, Section 1 (continued)

Jamestown survived its first two years because of Captain John Smith, a soldier and explorer. Lack of food continued to be a problem, but local Native Americans brought the settlers corn. Only 60 settlers out of 300 survived the winter of 1609–1610.

Everything changed once the settlers discovered they could successfully grow and sell tobacco and make a profit. Tobacco became an important crop in the colony. A settler, John Rolfe, married Pocahontas, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, and tension between the settlers and the Native Americans lessened. As the colony grew, the primarily male settlers became unhappy with the rules and orders of the Virginia Company of London. Ten towns in the colony each sent two representatives, or **burgesses**, to an assembly called the House of Burgesses, where they made their own laws for the colony.

Until 1619 most of the settlers in the Jamestown settlement were men. Then the Virginia Company sent 90 women to the settlement. Colonists who wanted to marry the women paid the company a fee in tobacco. Families were started and the settlement grew.

Africans also came to Virginia to work in the tobacco fields. Some Africans were free and owned property. Others were servants who agreed to work for a certain length of time in return for passage to America. In time, many more were brought against their will and were sold to the tobacco farmers as slaves.

In the early 1620s, the Virginia Company had financial problems. King James took control of the colony in 1624. He cancelled the charter with the Virginia Company of London. The Jamestown settlement became the first royal colony in America.

2. What crop saved the Virginia colonists?
