

Survive Jamestown

Mission: Lead the first permanent English colony through its first seven years. Make each decision, watch the meters, and then compare your choice with what REALLY happened. Why did Jamestown almost fail, and what finally saved it?

Big question: What challenges did Jamestown face, and how did its choices affect its survival?

★ Warm-up: Survival ranking

You land in a new place. Rank these 1–3.

Find fresh water ✓ **Usually first.**

Plant food ✓ **Needed before winter.**

Key vocabulary

Colony	A settlement ruled by a faraway country.
Investor	A person who gives money hoping to earn more.
Cash crop	A crop grown to sell.
Powhatan	The confederacy of Algonquian-speaking nations led by Chief Powhatan (Wahunsenacawh).

1 Box 1

Make the first decisions

In the simulator: Make the first 3 decisions.

Which early mistake hurt Jamestown's FOOD supply the most?

☐ Searching for gold instead of planting ☐ Building a fort ☐ Choosing a leader

✓ **Searching for gold instead of planting**

2 Box 2

Finish the story

In the simulator: Make all 6 decisions and read the ending.

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Cause and effect

Put these events in cause-and-effect order.

Put in order: Colonists search for gold instead of farming • Food runs out • The Starving Time • Tobacco makes the colony profitable

1. **Colonists search for gold instead of farming**

2. **Food runs out**

3. **The Starving Time**

4. **Tobacco makes the colony profitable**

4 Box 4

Two sides of tobacco

What were the effects of tobacco? Choose all that apply.

Choose all that apply.

☐ The colony made money ☐ More colonists came ☐ Colonists took more Powhatan land

☐ The Starving Time began

✓ **The colony made money; More colonists came; Colonists took more Powhatan land**

5 Box 5

Why did Jamestown survive?

What was the MOST important reason Jamestown survived? Support your claim.

Claim

Look for: Names a reason; at least 10 words

Evidence

Look for: Uses a detail from the simulation; at least 12 words

Reasoning

Look for: at least 12 words

6 Box 6

Legend: the Powhatan view Legend only

Write 3–4 sentences about Jamestown from the Powhatan people's point of view. How might they have seen the colonists and tobacco farms?

Look for: Takes the Powhatan perspective; at least 30 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

What challenges did Jamestown face, and how did its choices affect its survival?

Look for: Jamestown nearly failed because of a poor site, a search for gold instead of food, conflict with the Powhatan, and the Starving Time. Hard work rules and tobacco, a cash crop, saved the colony, but tobacco's spread also took Native land and led to forced labor.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	10M-E

 Investigator

E8D-I

 Legend

2G2-L

 Watch for these misconceptions

- "All Native Americans lived the same way." Hundreds of nations had different languages, homes, and economies.
- "The land was empty when colonists arrived." Native nations had lived there for thousands of years.
- "All colonists came for religious freedom." Many came for land, money, or were forced (enslaved Africans).