

DO NOT WRITE ON THE WORKSHEET!

U.S. History & Government I (H5)

English Settlers in North America

Directions: Read the following passage with your partner and complete the chart **in your notebook**. You must have at least two answers in each column.

Jamestown, Virginia 1607

John Smith was a soldier and adventurer. In 1606, he joined the Virginia Company. It was a joint-stock company which allowed investors to pool their wealth to fund a colony. In 1607, the Virginia Company sent 150 settlers (people who move to a new place) aboard three ships to North America. The colonists built a settlement along the coast of modern-day Virginia. They called the colony Jamestown in honor of King James I. It was the first permanent English colony (region controlled by another country) in the Americas.

Many English settlers wanted to get rich quick by finding gold. They did not take the time to grow food. As a result, many colonists at Jamestown died. By the winter of 1607, only 39 colonists remained alive. Then John Smith took control of the settlement. He forced the colonists to farm. He received help from the Powhatan Native Americans of the area, who offered the colonists food. Under Smith's leadership, the colony slowly recovered.

The new settlers restored order to Jamestown. They also began to grow tobacco. The colonists discovered that they could sell this crop in Europe for a great profit. The colony needed more settlers to grow more tobacco. To lure more settlers to Jamestown, the Virginia Company started the headright system in 1618. Under this system, each new person who came to the colony received 50 acres of land and another 50 acres for each family member who came.

Most of the people who arrived, however, did not come under the headright system. Most came as indentured servants. In exchange for passage to North America, as well as food and shelter, an indentured servant agreed to work on a farm for several years. After that time, the indentured servant would be free. Most indentured servants were poor English citizens in search of a new life.

Source: *The Americans*, McDougal Littell Inc., pgs. 19-20.

**** Draw this chart IN YOUR NOTEBOOK ****

People who settled Jamestown:	Reasons for leaving England:

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New England Colonies, 1620

A different group of English people settled north of Jamestown, Virginia. They were members of a religious group that wanted to purify (clean, or fix) the Church of England by removing some of its Catholic practices. Because of this, they were known as Puritans.

Puritans believed in the idea of a “priesthood of all believers.” This meant that every worshipper should experience God directly through faith, prayer, and study of the Bible – instead of through services conducted by church priests.

Some Puritans believed in trying to change the Church of England. Other Puritans chose to leave the church and form their own congregations (groups for worship). They were known as Separatists.

The English king punished anyone who broke away from the Church of England. One Separatist group, known today as Pilgrims, decided to leave England. In 1620, they arrived in North America and founded the Plymouth Colony (region controlled by another country) in Massachusetts.

In 1630, another group of Puritans sailed to North America. Like the Pilgrims, they came to practice their religion without fear of punishment. They started a settlement called the Massachusetts Bay Colony. By 1640, more than 20,000 English settlers lived there. The region would become known as New England.

Unlike the settlers in Jamestown, the Puritans were well prepared to live in this new land. They were organized and had many supplies. John Winthrop was the settlement’s first governor.

Source: *The Americans*, McDougal Littell Inc., pgs. 21-22

**** Draw this chart IN YOUR NOTEBOOK ****

People who settled in Massachusetts:	Reasons for leaving England:

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