

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Introduction



The first permanent English settlement in North America was founded at Jamestown in 1607. At this time, North America already had settlements created by both the Portuguese and Spanish. England chose to locate its settlement in Virginia. In this interactivity, click on each of the labels along the Road to Success to learn how the English voyaged to the New World, arrived and established the Jamestown settlement, developed an economy based on tobacco, and created a government. Click the compass to return to the Road to Success at any point in this interactivity.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

The Voyage



In December 1606, three ships left England on a journey to the New World. *The Discovery* was captained by John Ratcliffe. *The Godspeed* was captained by Bartholomew Gosnold and the *Susan Constant* was captained by Sir Christopher Newport. In April of 1607, the English arrived on the coast of Virginia. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Stock Companies



Stock Companies

- Joint-stock companies formed when several different investors pooled their money together in order to support the settlement.
- The goal of the company was to make a profit.

Unlike the Spanish and Portuguese settlements, English settlements were funded by stock companies. A specific type of stock company called a joint-stock company formed when different investors pooled their money together and supported the settlement. The goal of the company was to make a profit from the exported resources. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Virginia Company

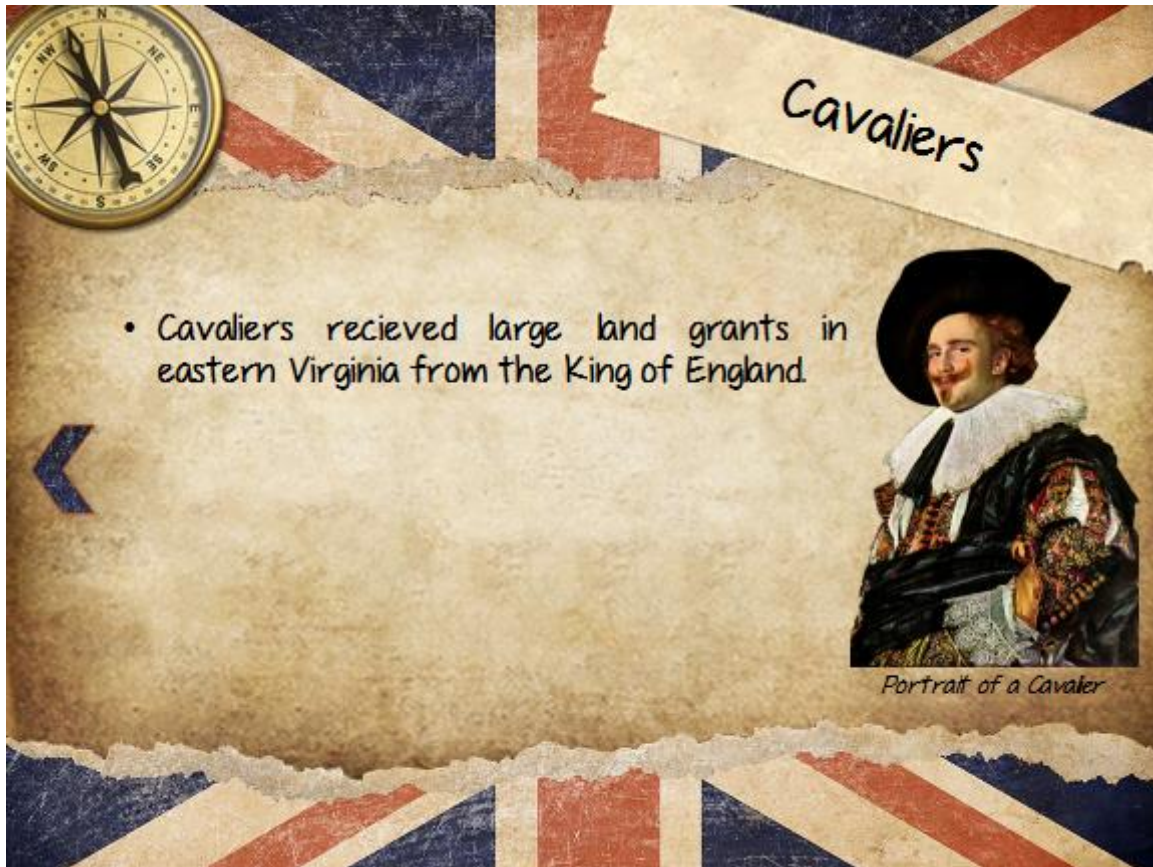


A joint-stock company named the Virginia Company was granted a charter by King James I in 1606. The goal of this stock company was to establish a permanent settlement on the eastern shores of North America. In a stock company, all stockholders were entitled to four-fifths of all gold and silver profits. The King was entitled to the remaining one-fifth. On May 24, 1624, the Virginia Company's charter was revoked by King James I due to overwhelming financial problems and politics. Once the charter was revoked, the Jamestown settlement became part of the Virginia Colony. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Cavaliers

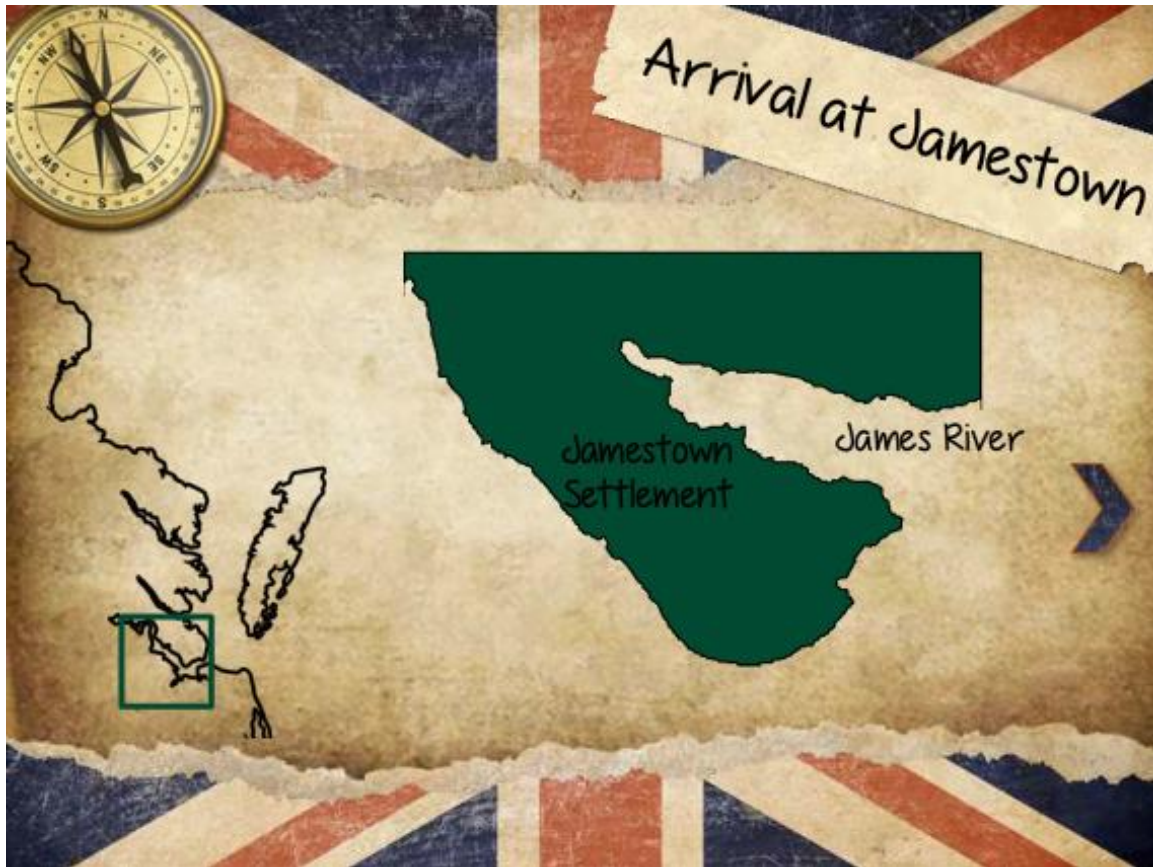


After the Virginia Company settled Jamestown, other settlers referred to as cavaliers came to Virginia seeking economic opportunities. Cavaliers received large land grants in eastern Virginia from the King of England. Click the compass to return to the Road to Success.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Arrival at Jamestown



When the settlers reached Virginia, they sailed along a river until they reached the tip of a peninsula. It was here that the members of the Virginia Company decided to establish their settlement, which they would name Jamestown. They also named the river along which they had sailed the James River. Both of these names were in honor of King James I. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Location



For many reasons, the location of Jamestown was ideal for English settlers. Surrounded by water on three sides, settlers were able to see for miles along the James River. This made it easy to identify approaching ships, and defend the settlement. Welcomed arrivals, such as ships bringing resources and additional settlers to Jamestown, were easily able to dock along the peninsula. Prior to the arrival of the Virginia Company, Jamestown was unoccupied by Native Americans. This made the land easy to settle. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Conditions

Conditions

Winter

1607

- Settlers were focused on finding gold and silver.
- Settlers refused to work the land or gather seafood.
- By the winter of 1607, only 38 settlers were still alive in Jamestown.

The settlers were focused on finding goods and precious metals, like silver and gold, to export. They were less concerned with working the land in order to provide food. Many of the settlers were English nobility, and were accustomed to a life of leisure. They refused to work the land or gather seafood. As a result, there was famine in Jamestown. Many settlers died as a result of starvation and disease. By the winter of 1607, only 38 settlers were still alive in Jamestown. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Native Americans



In the spring of 1609, six hundred new settlers arrived in Jamestown. The Powhatan, a Native American tribe which had maintained an amiable relationship with the settlers, became annoyed by the influx of new people. With each new arrival, settlers encroached more and more on the Native Americans' territory. They also brought sickness and disease to the New World, killing many Native Americans. In an effort to force the settlers away from their settlements, the Powhatan began destroying the settler's farms and killing their livestock. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Starving Time



Starving Time

- Conditions at Jamestown reached their lowest point.
- Lack of food led to a "starving time," when many settlers died due to starvation and disease.
- Only sixty settlers survived the winter.

By the winter of 1609, conditions at Jamestown had reached their lowest point. The lack of food led to what became known as the "starving time", when many settlers died due to starvation and disease. Of the six hundred new settlers that had arrived in Jamestown, only sixty survived the winter. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

New Leadership

New Leadership

- Leaders took control of the settlement requiring labor for food.
- Settlers who refused to work were severely punished.
- Conditions at Jamestown improved.

No Work, No Food

Because of the lowly living conditions, the settlers who remained at Jamestown decided to leave. As they traveled, they were met by another group of English settlers, traveling from the Virginia Company's colony in Bermuda. This new group convinced the settlers to remain with them in Jamestown. Their leaders took control of the settlement, requiring labor for food. They issued severe consequences for those who declined to follow the law. They often beat, or put to death, settlers who refused to work. As a result, the settlers became more disciplined, and living conditions began to improve. Click the compass to return to the Road to Success.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Economy



Also among the new group of settlers was Englishman John Rolfe. In 1612, Rolfe crossbred a Brazilian strain of tobacco with one grown by the Native Americans. His newly created tobacco strain was shipped back to England, where it became extremely popular. It was nicknamed "brown gold", and quickly became one of the settlements' highest-grossing cash crops. By the end of the 1620s, the settlers had exported over one and a half million pounds of tobacco per year. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Economy



Economy

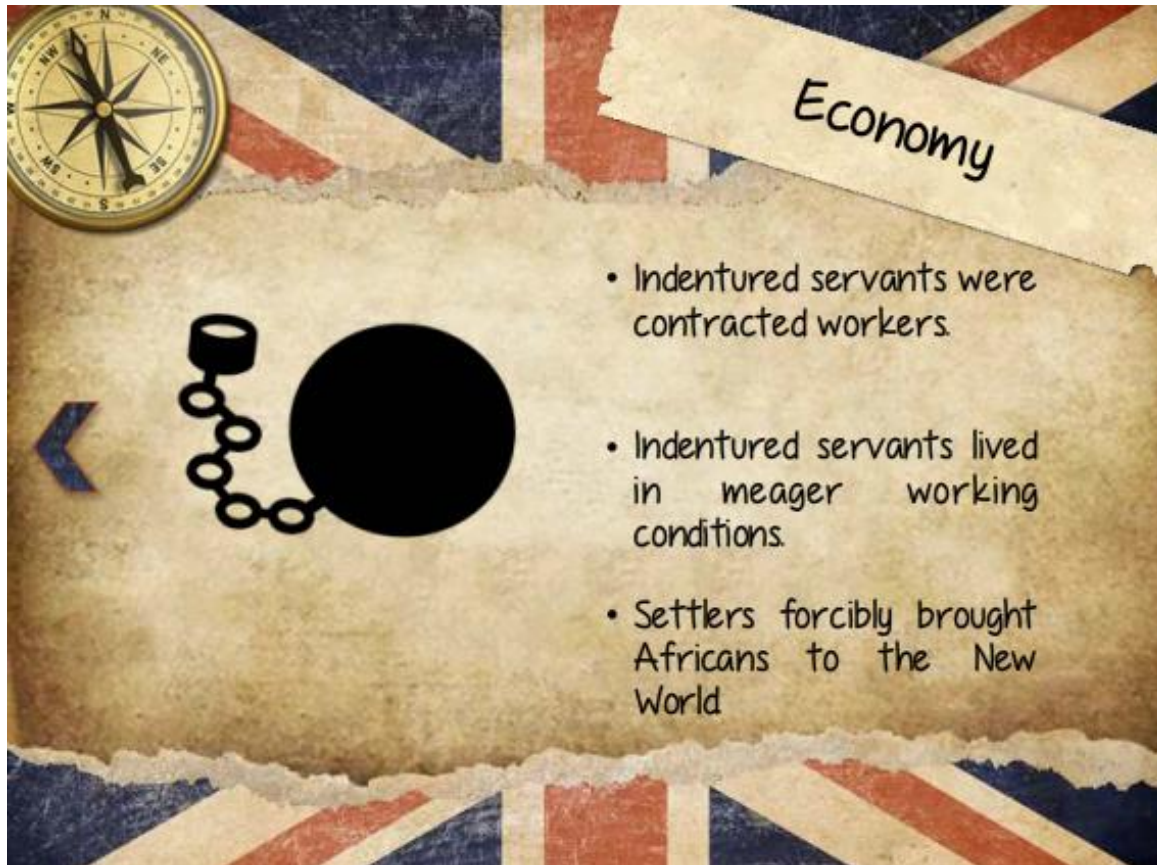
- A vast amount of manpower was required to meet the demands of the tobacco boom.
- Land grants led to a huge increase in immigration to the settlement.

A vast amount of manpower was required to meet the demands of the tobacco boom. Laborers were needed to maintain and harvest the tobacco fields. The Virginia Company attempted to entice English citizens into settling in Jamestown by offering fifty acres of land to anyone willing to pay to travel, or for another person to travel, to the settlement. As you might imagine, these land grants lead to a huge increase in immigration to the settlement. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Economy



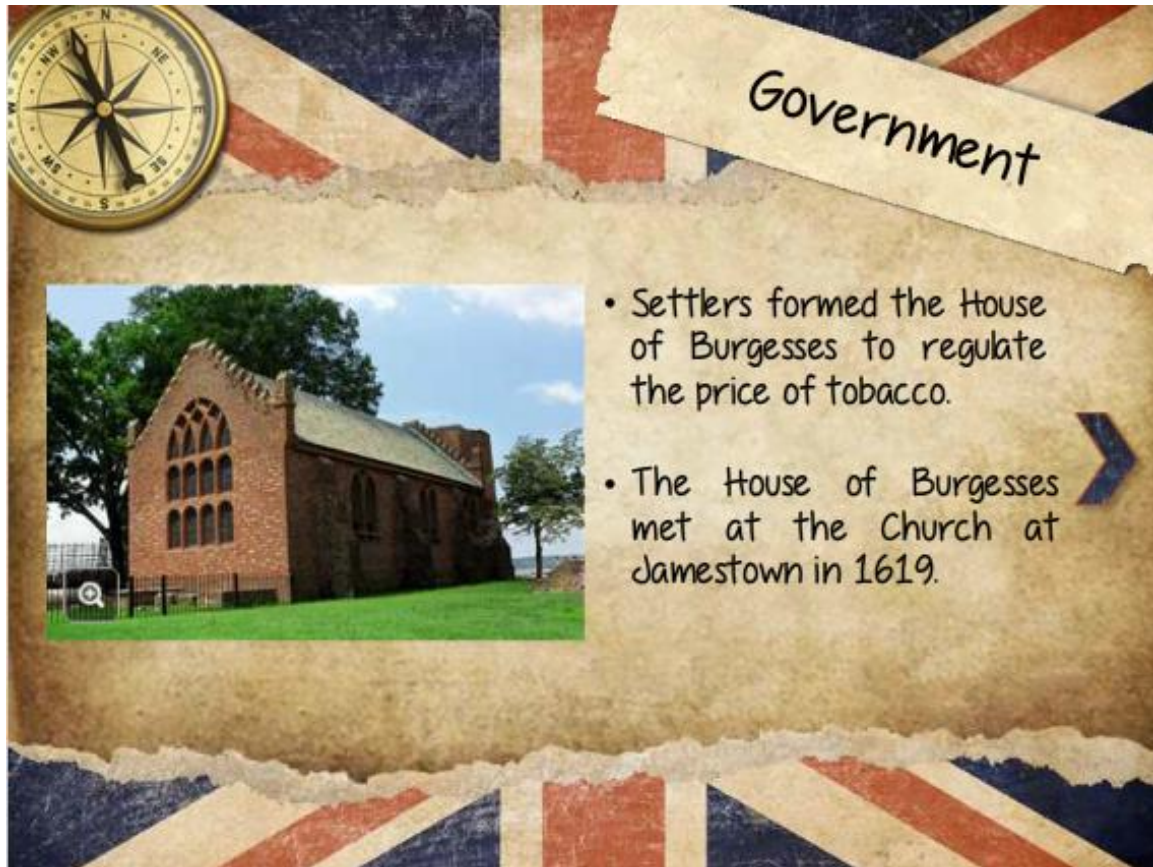
Many landowners imported indentured servants from England to work the plantations. Indentured servants were contracted workers who agreed to work the plantations for a period, generally ranging from four to seven years, in exchange for passage to the New World.

The indentured servants lived in meager conditions, however, and many did not survive the years of harsh labor. As the accounts of the adversities of indentured servants reached Europe, many English laborers decided against a voyage to the New World. By the end of the 17th century, the number of indentured servants immigrating to North America greatly decreased. Beginning in 1619, settlers forcibly brought Africans to the New World to work on their booming plantations. Click the compass to return to the Road to Success.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Government



Government

- Settlers formed the House of Burgesses to regulate the price of tobacco.
- The House of Burgesses met at the Church at Jamestown in 1619.

Needing to regulate the price of tobacco, the settlers formed the House of Burgesses. In 1619, the House of Burgesses met at the Church at Jamestown to discuss this and other issues. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Government

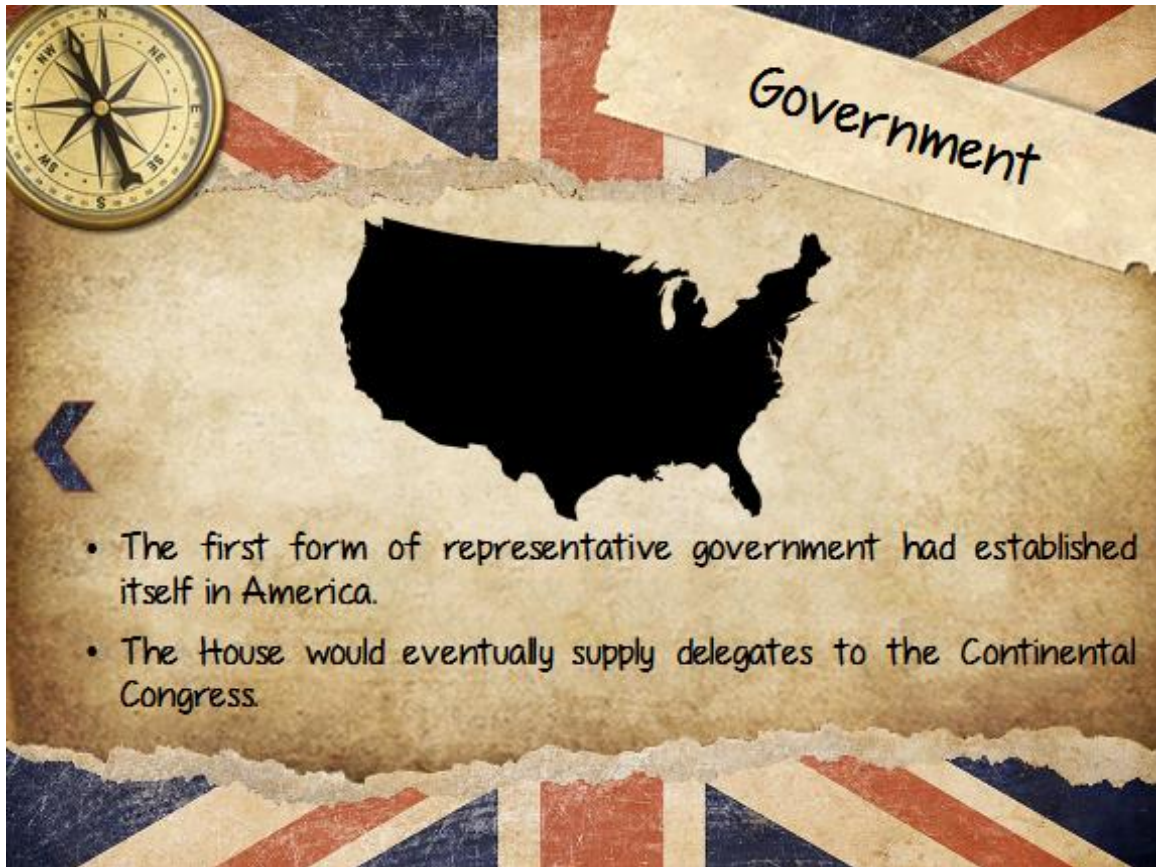
Government

- The House was composed of two representatives from eleven districts.
- The purpose of the House was to raise taxes and make laws.

Eventually, the structure of the House of Burgesses would include two representatives from each of Virginia's eleven districts. The purpose of the House was to raise taxes and make laws. However, the English governor had the right to veto any laws the House passed. Click the arrow to continue learning about the Jamestown settlement.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Government



Although only white males who owned land were allowed to vote, the first form of representative government had established itself in America. The House of Burgesses would eventually supply delegates to the Continental Congress. These delegates would lead the thirteen colonies to separate from Great Britain. Click the compass to return to the Road to Success.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 1 Content: The Jamestown Settlement Notes

Success

Success

- Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

whro
EDUCATION

EXIT

Although Jamestown struggled at first, the development of an economy based on tobacco stabilized the settlement. This development created consistent trade with England and sparked further expansion. Jamestown had become the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Click the compass to return to the Road to Success or click **EXIT** to close this interactivity.