Although there were other Europeans who had visited and even tried to establish colonies on the eastern coast of the New World, the British were the first to establish a permanent colony. They named their fort Jamestown.

What did the original Jamestown settlers experience? Was the New World everything they had expected? Who else lived there before they arrived? What hardships did the settlers encounter? What eventually became of Jamestown? Inquiring minds want to know.

The Project:

• You and your group will take on the role of newspaper reporters to create a front-page edition newspaper for the Jamestown Settlement.
• Each of you will research and write one article on a specific topic.
• Your final project will be a newspaper you create that includes all of your articles, along with pictures you create that go along with your articles.
• If your group has fewer than five people, you may omit the Interest Column.
• If some members of your group would like to write more than one article, they may ask the teacher for subject matter which has not been selected by anyone in the class, and add on to their group newspaper.

The Articles (one article per group member):

Top News Story—Your job is to write a top news story article to be the featured story of your newspaper. This article should be about some event that had a great effect upon most of the people living in the Jamestown settlement. Ideas for this article include: Travel to Virginia, The Tobacco Economy, The Virginia Company, The Starving Time, The House of Burgesses, Women in Jamestown, Indentured Servants, or Powhatan Indians. This story should grab the reader’s attention, making him or her want to read your newspaper. However, it must be based upon facts you uncover in your research. A picture that supports your article in some way, and is drawn by you, must be included with your article.

Who’s Who Feature—Your job is to write an article about one individual who was important to the Jamestown settlement. Your article may include who this person is, what they do for a living, why they came to the New World (if they were not born here), what, if any, plans they have for their future, and any other information you determine is important to who they are. Suggested individuals include Pocahontas, Captain John Smith, John Rolfe, and Powhatan. A picture that supports your article in some way, and is drawn by you, must be included with your article.

Editorial—Your job is to write an article based upon your opinion of some aspect of Jamestown. Editorials are articles on the writer’s opinion, not just factual news. They typically write about issues that affect many people. You must, however, support your opinion with facts. Look at the suggested articles for the Top News Story, but write an opinion piece. You must select a different topic than the article chosen for the Top News Story. Include an illustration, drawn by you, which supports your opinion.

Object of the Day—Your job is to write about a tool, piece of clothing, toy, or any interesting item that is part of the Jamestown culture. Archeological finds are a great starting place for this article. Tell what the item is, how it was used, and why it was important to the colonists. An illustration of the object, drawn by you, must be included with your article.

Interest Column—Food, fun or fashion in Jamestown. Your job is to write a story about either a food found only in the New World, what colonists did for fun, or fashions in Jamestown. Your article will explain all the details about the topic—where the items come from, how food is prepared, games played or fashions worn. A picture that supports your article in some way, and is drawn by you, must be included with your article.
Directions:

- Before you begin research for your articles, you need an overview of the history of Jamestown:
- Take notes on the research you do, following the “who”, “what”, “where”, “why”, and “how” of newspaper journalism. Write down important information, making sure to spell names correctly.
- Each person in your group should keep track of the information they research for the group’s topic, and then the entire group shares the information together as needed.
- Find the information on the resource list at the bottom of this handout, the notes we did in class, and any other source you find useful.

Now that you have good background notes on Jamestown history, decide who will write which article!

1. Re-read the guidelines for your project, and select a particular topic. Sign up with the teacher for the topic your group decides on. Topics that must be covered and are not selected may be assigned.

Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Virginia Company</th>
<th>Traveling to Jamestown</th>
<th>Early Problems - The site</th>
<th>Early Problems - The people</th>
<th>The Powhatan People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Powhatan</td>
<td>Pocahontas</td>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td>Lord De La Warr</td>
<td>The Starving Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>John Rolfe</td>
<td>New people come to Virginia - Women</td>
<td>New people come to Virginia - Indentured Servants</td>
<td>New people come to Virginia - Africans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Burgesses</td>
<td>Robert Hunt: Jamestown's First Chaplain</td>
<td>Ambler Family in Virginia</td>
<td>Jamestown Churches</td>
<td>Jamestown in the Civil War</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Check out [http://earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/past/index.html](http://earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/past/index.html) to see what old newspapers looked like. Be sure to click on each image, to enlarge each picture. Think about how you want your newspaper to look. The look of your newspaper is called the "Layout."

3. Once you have gathered all your information, begin writing your article. Be sure to revise and edit with members of your group.
4. When your article is completed, think of a unique title, or headline. The headline should grab the reader's attention, and make them want to read your article. It should also be in larger font or print than the rest of your article. Add your byline. This is the line that says “by (your name)” Proofread and edit again.

5. Meet within your group to begin designing your newspaper. Create a rough draft of what it will look like, and where each article and picture will go.

6. Using butcher paper supplied by your teacher, begin working on your newspaper. Start with the name of your newspaper, then the articles. Add pictures last.

7. Practice how you will present your newspaper to the class. Everyone in the group must help with the presentation.

**Article Resources**

**General Jamestown Information- Good for all Writers**
- Virtual Tour of Jamestown
- The Virginia Company
  [http://www.apva.org/history/vaco.html](http://www.apva.org/history/vaco.html)
- Founding of Jamestown
  [http://www.apva.org/history/timeline.html](http://www.apva.org/history/timeline.html)
- Settlers’ Occupations
  [http://www.apva.org/history/list.html](http://www.apva.org/history/list.html)
- General history of Jamestown

**Tobacco, Economics, Politics**
- More history, includes tobacco and politics
  [http://www.tobacco.org/History/Jamestown.html](http://www.tobacco.org/History/Jamestown.html)
- Growth/Economics
- Tobacco
  [http://www.virginiaplaces.org/vacities/jamestowncap.html](http://www.virginiaplaces.org/vacities/jamestowncap.html)

**Powhatan**
- Powhatan & Settlers
- Trade
- Trade between English and Algonquin
  Powhatan

**Indentured Servants**
- Laws about Indentured Servants
- African Indentured Servants
  [http://www.nps.gov/colo/Jthanout/AFRICA_NS.html](http://www.nps.gov/colo/Jthanout/AFRICA_NS.html)

**Women in Jamestown**
- Women arrive in Jamestown
- Women in Jamestown
  [http://www.nps.gov/colo/Jthanout/Women.html](http://www.nps.gov/colo/Jthanout/Women.html)

**The Starving Time**
The Starving Time
http://www.beyondbooks.com/ush72/2c.asp

Starving Time http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h533.html

**House of Burgesses**

The House of Burgesses http://www.beyondbooks.com/ush72/2f.asp


House of Burgesses http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1151.html


**Who’s Who Information**

Captain John Smith http://www.preservationvirginia.org/rediscove very/page.php?page_id=25

Pocahontas http://www.apva.org/history/pocahont.html

Pocahontas http://www.apva.org/ngex/poca.html

John Rolfe http://www.apva.org/history/jrolfe.html


Chief Powhatan http://powhatan.org/chief_powhatan.html

Lord De La Warr http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Thomas-West,-Lord-de-la-Warr

**Archaeology**

Artifacts at Jamestown http://www.apva.org/ngex/thing.html

More Artifacts http://www.apva.org/exhibit/date.html

Armor http://www.apva.org/exhibit/armor.html

**General Interest Articles**

Jamestown Food http://www.apva.org/exhibit/eats.html

Food Timeline http://www.gti.net/mocolib1/kid/food.html

Recipes http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/food/foodhdr.cfm

Interesting Facts about food http://hastings.ci.lexington.ma.us/Colonial/Life/Food/Kitchen.trivia.html

Colonial Foods, toys, clothing, etc. http://lincoln.midcoast.com/~wps/3ripley9899/ripley.html

Clothing http://www.history.org/History/clothing/

*Original idea obtained and adapted from:
http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/schools/catoctin*