

ORAL QUIZ ON THE FOUNDING OF JAMESTOWN

This quiz is based on *The Jamestown Colony*, by Gail Sakurai. The points and level of detail given below are those which a lower-grammar student might be expected to know from his reading, though he may not include every detail. You may also use these points to prompt your student.

1. What were the names of the three ships that set sail from England to Virginia?
The three ships that set sail from England to Virginia in the winter (December 20th) of 1606 were the Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery.
2. Where did the colonists settle, and why did they choose this location?
After weeks of searching for suitable land, in May of 1607, the colonists settled on a small peninsula of land near the James River, which they named Jamestown in honor of King James I. This land was chosen because it could be easily defended against land or sea attacks and the water around it was deep enough for ships to anchor close to the shore.
3. Who was the powerful leader of the American Indians whom the English colonists met as they explored the Chesapeake Bay area?
The Indian chief Powhatan ruled over thirty tribes of ten thousand Powhatan people who lived in about two hundred villages along the rivers and shores of the Chesapeake Bay.
4. How did the Indians respond to the coming of the English settlers to their lands?
Some of the Indians were friendly and welcomed the settlers and traded corn with them. Others were angry that these strangers were trying to settle their lands. They tried to chase them away by shouting and shooting arrows at them.
5. What was the reaction of the colonists to the Indians they encountered?
The colonists believed that Virginia belonged to England and that they had the right to establish a settlement in this area. As a result, they didn't seem to respect the fact that the Indians had been living in Virginia for thousands of years.
6. Describe the fort that the colonists built on their settlement.
Built to enclose nearly an acre of land, the fort was a triangular-shaped structure made from tree lumber with watchtowers and cannons at each corner for protection against attacks.
7. What were some hardships the colonists faced soon after establishing their settlement?
Unfortunately, their settlement was not in the best location. It did not have a fresh water supply, so many got sick from drinking the unhealthy river water. Their provision of food dwindled and they could not safely hunt, fish or tend their cornfields because unfriendly Indians were a threat. Also, the settlers quarreled with each other. Many of them were of nobility and not use to hard, manual labor and did not have any practical skills that were needed in such difficult circumstances.
8. How did Captain John Smith help to resolve some of the problems?
John Smith was an able leader and very well equipped in survival skills that the settlement desperately needed. Because of these abilities, he was put in charge of trading with the Indians for much needed food and provisions. His help kept the colonists from starving!
9. What dangerous incident happened to John Smith, and how did the Indian princess Pocahontas help him?
While exploring the area, John Smith was captured by Powhatan Indians and taken to chief Powhatan. As he was about to be killed it is said that Pocahontas intervened and begged her father, Powhatan, to spare John Smith's life, which he did.
10. What eventually happened to Pocahontas?
After being taught about Christianity, Pocahontas became a Christian and shortly after married John Rolfe, a colonist of Jamestown. They had one son (Thomas), and their marriage ended the fighting between the Indians and the colonists for eight years (known as the Peace of Pocahontas). Two years later after moving to England, Pocahontas became ill and died.

1. WHAT WERE THE NAMES OF THE THREE SHIPS THAT SET SAIL FROM ENGLAND TO VIRGINIA?

FAILING *POOR* *FAIR* *GOOD* *EXCELLENT*

COMMENTS: _____

2. WHERE DID THE COLONISTS SETTLE, AND WHY DID THEY CHOOSE THIS LOCATION?

FAILING *POOR* *FAIR* *GOOD* *EXCELLENT*

COMMENTS: _____

3. WHO WAS THE LEADER OF THE INDIANS WHOM THE COLONISTS MET IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA?

FAILING *POOR* *FAIR* *GOOD* *EXCELLENT*

COMMENTS: _____

4. How did the Indians respond to the coming of the English settlers to their lands?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

5. What was the reaction of the colonists to the Indians they encountered?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

6. Describe the fort that the colonists built on their settlement.

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

7. WHAT WERE SOME HARDSHIPS THE COLONISTS FACED AFTER ESTABLISHING THEIR SETTLEMENT?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

8. HOW DID CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH HELP TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

9. WHAT INCIDENT HAPPENED TO JOHN SMITH, AND HOW DID POCAHONTAS HELP HIM?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

10. WHAT EVENTUALLY HAPPENED TO POCAHONTAS?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

