

# America's birthplace



On May 14, 1607, 108 men and boys sponsored by the Virginia Company of London established a colony in the New World. The colony, named Jamestown after King James I of England, became the first permanent English settlement in what is now the United States

Replicas of Jamestown ships, *Susan Constant*, centre, *Godspeed*, left, and *Discovery*



► **Jun 1606:** **King James I** grants charter to **Virginia Company** to establish colony in Chesapeake region of North America

► **Apr 26, 1607:** Fleet of three ships under **Captain Christopher Newport** lands at Cape Henry after four-month voyage

► **May 14:** Construction of fort begins to protect against attacks by Indians and Spaniards. Mosquito-infested site has deep harbour, but lacks fresh water

► **Dec:** **Captain John Smith** captured and taken before **Powhatan**, chief of 34 Indian tribes. Powhatan's daughter, **Pocahontas**, said to have saved Smith from death

► **Jan 1608:** Smith released. First re-supply mission arrives to find only 38 settlers surviving

► **Sep-Oct 1608:** Smith elected president of **Virginia Council** – instigates “no work, no food” policy. First women settlers arrive

► **Oct 1609:** Smith returns to England due to serious gunpowder injury

► **Winter 1609-10:** Over 80 percent of colonists die during “starving time”

► **May 1610:** New settlers and supplies arrive from London as remaining 60 survivors about to abandon Jamestown

► **1611:** New settlement established at **Henricus**, beginning expansion away from Jamestown

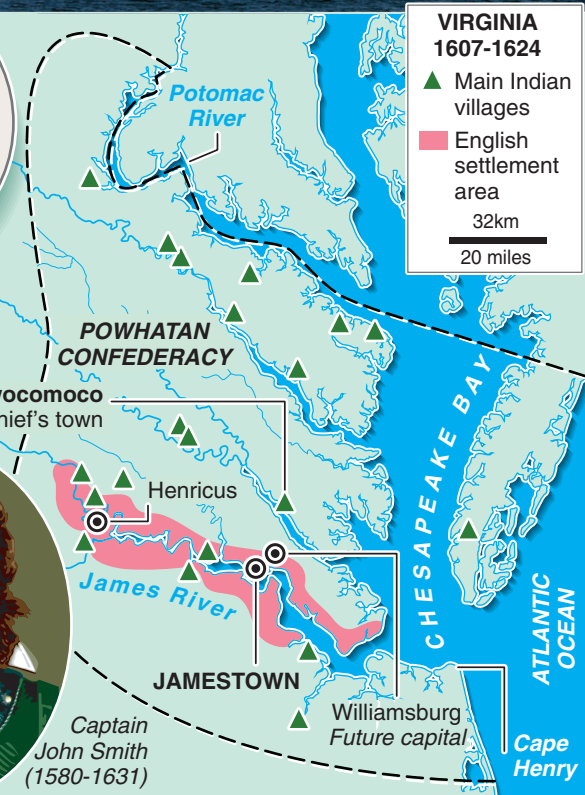
► **1612:** Colonist **John Rolfe** introduces and successfully exports strain of tobacco. “Golden weed” will ensure colony's economic survival



1607 drawing of Jamestown Fort



Captain John Smith (1580-1631)



► **1614:** Rolfe marries Pocahontas, bringing several years of peace

► **1617:** At end of public relations trip to England, Pocahontas becomes ill and dies

► **1618:** Powhatan dies – half-brother **Opechancanough** becomes chief

► **Jul 1619:** First representative legislative assembly in New World convenes “to establish one equal and uniform government over all Virginia”

► **Aug 1619:** First recorded Africans arrive in Virginia

► **1622:** Opechancanough leads Indian uprising, killing around 350 settlers – about one third of colonist population

► **1624:** Virginia becomes royal colony

► **1644:** Indians pushed to marginal areas as settlements spread. Opechancanough leads another uprising, killing 500 colonists

► **1646:** **Powhatan Confederacy** decimated after Opechancanough captured and killed

► **1698:** Statehouse at Jamestown destroyed by fire

► **1699:** Capital moved to higher ground at Williamsburg

