

## Plymouth and Jamestown: A BRIEF introduction to colonies

### Jamestown

Jamestown was the first permanent colony founded in America. The colony of Jamestown was in the colony of Virginia. Many other attempts to create a colony had been made previously, but Jamestown was the first successful attempt by England. However, starting the colony proved troublesome. The Virginia land was swampy and not good for farming. The colony did poorly originally because of the poor farm land and the lack of knowledge of how to farm. Most died from starvation and disease within the first year. Most colonists were uninterested in staying long in Virginia. They came to America to get rich quick by finding gold. In order to survive, the colonists had to begin to rely on the natural resources of the land.

Soon, the colony began succeeding with the help of John Smith, the third governor, and his insistence on the importance of farming and safety. Despite their efforts, most of the original colonists died within the first five years. The colony did not truly begin succeeding until Poland and Germany brought over capabilities to produce goods the colonists desperately needed for survival.

### Plymouth

The colony of Plymouth was the first of the colonies considered as a New England colony. Pilgrims searching for freedom from the Church of England boarded the **Mayflower**, a ship, and landed in Massachusetts in 1620. They named the new colony "New Plimouth." Aboard the Mayflower, the Pilgrims signed the first governing document of the colony, the **Mayflower Compact**.

The Mayflower Compact stated the settlers would make fair laws and obey the laws created. The Compact gave people the right to govern themselves, and over half of the people had to agree with a law in order for it to take effect.

Once a location for a colony was decided, they were greeted from the local Native American tribe. These Native Americans taught the Pilgrims how to plant squash, corn, and pumpkin and use the natural resources of the land. The Pilgrims benefited greatly from the Native Americans and their colony became a farming, fishing, and fur trading community.

Before long, other English colonists began to settle in the area and take Native American land. Soon, wars broke out and a friendly relationship no longer existed.

Name:

Date:

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Use the information from the readings on Jamestown and Plymouth to best glue the statements in the appropriate column. The statements can describe Jamestown, Plymouth, or both.

Jamestown	Jamestown and Plymouth	Plymouth

People of this colony came for religious freedom.	Many of the original colonists died from disease and starvation.	This was one of the first original colonies established from England.	This colony was established in Massachusetts.
This colony did not intend to be a permanent colony.	These colonists relied on natural resources for survival.	These colonists became expert farmers and fishers.	This colony was one of the first to establish selfgovernment and majority rule.
This colony was established in Virginia.	This colony had a great relationship with the Native Americans.	These colonists had to change their goals in order to survive.	These colonists came over to the New World for a better life.

