

Jamestown vs. Plymouth

A Tale of Two Settlements

Objective/Essay Question

- “Although New England and the Chesapeake region were both settled largely by people of English origin, by 1700 the regions had evolved into two distinct societies. Why did this difference in development occur?”

Motivation/Reasons for Colonization

- *London Company sought profit through exportation of goods
- *People sought employment – high population in Europe
- *Poor landless people seek opportunity
- *Prevent Spanish from expanding – nationalism
- *Religious freedom for Church of England
- *Set godly example for other colonies
- *Permanent settlement with close-knit families/community
- *Separatists not satisfied with Holland – too loose and tolerant
- *Some economic opportunity

Initial Difficulties/Setbacks

- *No women!
- *Lack of skilled labor
- *Poor location
- *Growing secondary to exports
- *Malaria outbreak - dysentery
- *Indian attacks - Powhattan
- *Class structure problems
- *Personal vs. Common goals
- *Laziness
- *Not used to manual labor
- *Starving Time
- *Came during a severe drought
- *1st winter killed ½ of pop.
- *Unable to grow food
- *Poor
- *High disease & death rate

Factors for Success

- *Tobacco – Colony Built on Smoke – John Rolfe
- *John Smith's "No work/No eat" policy
- *Granting of private land ownership
- *Imported labor – slaves
- *Headright System
- *Learned to farm corn from Wampanoags – Samoset & Squanto
- *Managed farming through hard work and discipline – Puritan Work Ethic
- *Traded with Natives for furs
- *Governed themselves – Mayflower Compact

Location

- *Along James River
- *60 Miles from Mouth of Chesapeake
- *Swampy lowland
- *Defendable position
- *Cape Cod
- *Outside of Charter for London Company
- *Sandy, marshy – not ideal for farming

Religious Differences

- *Church of England
- *Not overly religious – more economic
- *Some missionaries
- *Separatists
- *Deeply religious
- *35 Saints, 67 strangers
- *Freedom vs. toleration

Government & Politics

- *John Smith – raid Indians & steal food and kidnap
- *Lord De La Warr – 1st Gov.
- *Indentured Servitude
- *Headright System
- *House of Burgesses
- *Sealed box determined assignments
- *Harsh penalties/Strict laws
- *William Bradford – 1st Gov.
- *Mayflower Compact
- *Harsh Discipline code called “Great Fundamentals”
- *Miles Standish – good leader

Dealing with the Natives

- *Poor leadership resulted in frequent Indian attacks
- *Encroached on Indian territory with towncenter and expanding tobacco farms
- *Disease killed many Indians
- *Copied farming methods – maize
- *Created alliances with Indians
- *Indians helped settlers cultivate land
- *Small fur trade
- *Taught settlers to fish

A Colonial Settlement



Puritan Families going to Church

