

## Sample: Age of Revolution I (1600-1800)

Unlike other curricula which depend on certain books, *TruthQuest History* commentary brings depth to any reading. Our topic-specific booklists simply show the rich possibilities! Relax; choose from whatever is available. (\*Starred books were in-print at the time of this writing.)

### 5É Jamestown Colony

Many of you are already familiar with the earlier Roanoke Island disaster—Walter Raleigh’s attempt to establish an English colony in America. In spite of its tragic and mysterious demise, there were still Englishmen who wanted to find riches and claim land in the New World. In fact, in 1607, another English outpost was founded by some gentlemen-adventurers known as the London Company. You’ve certainly heard of this outpost: Jamestown, Virginia! You are probably even more familiar with its famous residents: Captain John Smith and Pocahontas. You may even have guessed the colony was named after King James, while Virginia was named for the previous monarch, unmarried Queen Elizabeth. What you may not remember, though, is that Jamestown was the very first English colony to survive! It teetered on the brink of disaster for a very long time, however!

Yes, all was not well in Jamestown. Why? Good question! Think about the *Big 2 Beliefs* we saw in England’s leadership. The very namesake of the colony, King James himself, was saying he could be ‘necessarily despotic’ as leader of the English people, and the Anglican church endorsed this idea. James did not seek to serve people through his leadership (a biblical concept), but instead felt he was to be served! The plan of the London Company followed suit. How did it turn out?

*The settlers were treated as if they were servants of the company living under martial law. They had no private property in land or crops, were given no opportunity to provide for themselves, and received provisions from a common storehouse. The laws were harsh, and the settlers had no way to alter them.*

*The idea with which the colony was started was that everything produced belonged to the company. As compensation for this, the company was supposed to provide for the settlers....*

*An observer on the scene in 1614 said that “When our people were fed out of the common store and labored jointly in the manuring of ground and planting corn,... the most honest of them..., would not take so much faithful and true pains in a week as...he will do in a day” on his own crop. A modern historian has summed up the situation this way: “This plan did not yield good results...[for] settlers ‘loafed on the job,’ since they got a living, irrespective of their personal efforts. They could receive little, if any, benefit from the colony’s surplus; hence a surplus was not produced.”*

*Until individuals could manage their own affairs they could neither provide well for themselves or others.<sup>28</sup>*

---

<sup>28</sup> Carson 1:67. Am I the only who is reminded of communism?

Remember, history is not first about what people do, it's about what they believe to be true. So while you're learning about Jamestown, try to dig deep! What motivated the London Company? What motivated the Jamestown settlers? While you've not yet studied the later Pilgrim colony, you probably already know that they did come for religious purposes: to build a biblical community as they deemed fit.<sup>29</sup> You probably know, too, that as a persecuted group, the Separatist-Pilgrims had formed a strong bond which would sustain and motivate them in the New World. Using that knowledge to give you a sense of comparison, you will probably note that the Jamestown settlers, as a whole group, were less religiously-driven, though they did set up Anglican services and had at least one chaplain who was, from what I hear, extremely zealous. It is fair to say, though, that the Jamestown goals were motivated more by economics, and this affected the colony. Ironically, the Jamestown gentlemen were not at first much interested in working, planting, or building.<sup>30</sup> Hmm.

Do keep in mind that many significant things came out of Jamestown! I'll let Carson cite them:

*Virginia (the colony and later state...) was the leader in many respects throughout the colonial period and in the early years of the Republic. The first permanent settlement was made in Virginia, the first major staple crop for trade grown there, the first legislative assembly held there, and the first Crown colony established there, the model for colonial governments placed in operation there, and it eventually became the most populous colony. In the founding of the United States, Virginians played a leading role: a Virginian wrote the Declaration of Independence, was commander of the Continental Army, was most often called 'the father of the Constitution,' was first President of the United States, and four of the first five Presidents were Virginians.<sup>31</sup>*

That's no small achievement! Especially important to us right now is a phrase buried deep in the middle of the above passage: "the first legislative assembly held there." Yes! In 1619, due in part to the great difficulties the London Company had in communicating with and exercising control over the colony over such a vast distance, the planters were allowed to select representatives, known as burgesses. Thus, the Virginians had more say in their own government than their English relatives had back home, and the colony became healthier! An important precedent was being set: a colony was making "its own laws for

***ThinkWrite 1:  
"Jamestown Woes"***

Why did the Jamestown colony struggle for so long? Did the London Company seek to build on the wisdom of biblical principles for servant-leadership, family provision, and private ownership of property? How did the Company defend its plan to own the produce of the workers and then 'provide for' the workers? Why was there such a dreary outcome? It seems that too many modern governments have forgotten this lesson of history and now hold the same view! What does the Bible have to say on these crucial matters?

---

<sup>29</sup> Carson 1:64.

<sup>30</sup> R.J. Unstead, *Story of Britain* (Camden: NJ: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1970) 211.

<sup>31</sup> Carson 1:64-65.

governing within the colony.”<sup>32</sup> Once colonists had this great freedom, they would not want to turn back! This was an early factor in the juggernaut that was to come! (Do *ThinkWrite 1* as you study this topic.)

## 5aÉ General overview

- \**Light and the Glory for Children*, by Peter Marshall & David Manuel, Ch. 4 Gr. 1-5  
This chapter focuses on the spiritual issues of Jamestown.
- \**Story of the World: Vol. 3*, by Susan Wise Bauer, Ch. 3a Gr. 3-6
- \**Story of the Thirteen Colonies*, by H.A. Guerber, Ch. XXIII-XXVI Gr. 3-7
- \**This Country of Ours*, by H.E. Marshall, Ch. 13-18 Gr. 3-8
- \**Sweet Land of Liberty*, by Charles Coffin Gr. 5-12  
Read the sections on Jamestown which you omitted earlier from Ch. III, V, and VI.  
The hardcover version of this book is called *\*Old Times in the Colonies*.
- \**Light and the Glory*, by Peter Marshall & David Manuel, Ch. 4 Gr. 6-12  
This chapter focuses on the spiritual issues of Jamestown.
- \**Basic History of the United States: Volume I*, by Clarence Carson, Ch. 4a Gr. 9-12  
-----
- \**Jamestown: New World Adventure*, by James Knight (Adv. in Col. Am.) Gr. 1-3
- \**The Thirteen Colonies*, by Dennis Fradin (New True Book) Gr. 1-3  
This will contain some information on Jamestown; it is one of the general overview books on colonial history we’ll be citing throughout this guide. You may prefer one of the specific books on Jamestown.
- The Story of Jamestown*, by Marilyn Prolman (Cornerstones) Gr. 1-5
- \**What if You’d Been at Jamestown?* by Ellen Keller Gr. 1-5  
I’ve not seen this, but believe it is for early elementary students.
- \**Colony of Virginia*, by Brooke Coleman (Library of the Thirteen...) Gr. 2-4  
This covers Virginia’s entire colonial history, so you might prefer one of the many books on Jamestown alone. Or, you can read just the early section now, and finish the rest later.
- America Builds Homes: The Story of the First Colonies*, by Alice Dalglish, Part 1 Gr. 2-5  
This is a lovely, older book.

---

<sup>32</sup> Carson 1:68.

- \**James Tonne: Struggle for Survival*, by Marcia Sewall Gr. 2-5  
This is a colorful new book.
- \**Settlers on a Strange Shore*, by Edith McCall, pp. 61-99 (Frontiers of America) Gr. 2-5  
This exciting older series has just come back into print!
- \**Virginia Colony*, by Tamara Britton (Colonies) Gr. 2-5  
This covers Virginia's entire colonial history, so you might prefer one of the many books on Jamestown alone. Or, you can read just the early section now, and finish the rest later.
- \**Birthdays of Freedom, Vol. 2*, by Genevieve Foster, pp. 46-47 Gr. 2-6
- Jamestown: The Beginning*, by Elizabeth Campbell Gr. 2-7
- When Jamestown was a Colonial Capital*, by Mary Andrews (How They Lived) Gr. 2-7
- First Book of the Early Settlers*, by Louise Dickinson Rich (First Book) Gr. 3-6  
This will contain some information on Jamestown; it is one of the general overview books on colonial history we'll be citing throughout this guide. You may prefer one of the specific books on Jamestown.
- \**Jamestown Colony*, by Brendan January (We the People) Gr. 3-6
- \**Virginia*, by Sandra Pobst (Life in the Thirteen Colonies) Gr. 3-7
- \**Virginia Colony*, by Dennis Fradin (Thirteen Colonies) Gr. 3-7  
This covers Virginia's entire colonial history, so you might prefer one of the many books on Jamestown alone. Or, you can read just the early section now, and finish the rest later.
- \**Jamestown Colony*, by Gail Sakurai (Cornerstones II) Gr. 3-8
- Pocahontas and Captain John Smith*, by Marie Lawson (Landmark) Gr. 3-8
- Story of the Thirteen Colonies*, by Clifford Alderman, Ch. 1 (Landmark) Gr. 3-8  
This will contain some information on Jamestown; it is one of the general overview books on colonial history we'll be citing throughout this guide. You may prefer one of the specific books on Jamestown.
- Indians Wars and Warriors—East*, by Paul Wellman, Ch. 2 (North Star) Gr. 3-10  
This relates the later conflict between the colony and Opechancanough.
- \**Jamestown Colony*, by Gayle Worland (Let Freedom Ring) Gr. 4-8
- Powhatan and Captain Smith*, by Olga Hall-Quest Gr. 4-8

- \**Growing Up in a New World*, by Brandon Miller Gr. 4-9  
I think this includes information on Jamestown life.
- This Dear-Bought Land*, by Jean Lee Latham Gr. 4-9
- \**Virginia*, by Craig & Katherine Doherty (Thirteen Colonies) Gr. 4-9  
This covers Virginia's entire colonial history, so you might prefer one of the many books on Jamestown alone. Or, you can read just the early section now, and finish the rest later.
- Jamestown Adventure*, by Olga Hall-Quest Gr. 5-10
- Life in Colonial America*, by Elizabeth George Speare (Landmark Giant) Gr. 6-12  
This will contain some information on Jamestown; it is one of the general overview books on colonial history we'll be citing throughout this guide. You may prefer one of the specific books on Jamestown.
- \**Paradox of Jamestown*, by Christopher & James Collier Gr. 7-12  
I have not read this book, but see that it looks deeply at the nature and significance of the Virginia settlement, and traces the introduction and impact of slavery. The tone of these authors in other books has concerned me, but this volume may be fine.
- \**Virginia*, by Roberta Wiener (13 Colonies) Middle students  
This covers Virginia's entire colonial history, so you might prefer one of the many books on Jamestown alone. Or, you can read just the early section now, and finish the rest later. I've not seen this series, but it appears to be for middle students.

### **Fiction/Historical Fiction**

- \**A Lion to Guard Us*, by Clyde Robert Bulla Gr. 1-6  
Adventurous story of children who try to reach Jamestown themselves! This book is greatly enjoyed.
- \**Lucky Sovereign*, by Stewart Lees Gr. 3-5  
I've not seen this book about a father and son's difficulties when heading for Jamestown.
- \**Our Strange New World: Elizabeth's Diary*, by Patricia Hermes (My America) Gr. 3-8  
Some families enjoy this series; others do not. This is the first in a series about Lizzie.
- \**Personal Correspondence of Elizabeth Walton and Abigail Matthews* (Liberty Letters) Gr. 3-8  
by Nancy LeSourd  
Fictional letters show budding Christian walk of girl in Jamestown. This is a Christian alternative to the *Dear America* and *My America* series.
- The Serpent Never Sleeps*, by Scott O'Dell Gr. 5-12  
Unknown content.

\*1609: *Winter of the Dead*, by Elizabeth Massie Gr. 6-12  
I have not even seen this; unknown content.

*The Topaz Seal*, by Edith Heal Gr. 6-12  
This is too rare to be sought; read it only if you have easy access to it.

## 5bÉ Activities

\**Pocahontas Coloring Book* (Dover) Various

\**Pocahontas: True Story of an American Hero and Her Christian Faith* Unknown  
by Andy Holmes  
I've not seen this item, but it apparently includes a rubber stamp.

## 5cÉ Captain John Smith

\**Story of Liberty*, by Charles Coffin, Ch. XXIX (all but first 1-1/2 pages) Gr. 5-12  
-----

*John Smith*, by Charles Graves (Garrard World Explorer) Gr. 1-5

*John Smith*, by Thomas Barton (Childhood) Gr. 1-6

\**Captain John Smith*, by Trish Kline Gr. 2-4

*John Smith: Man of Adventure*, by Miriam Mason (Piper) Gr. 2-7

\**John Smith: English Explorer and Colonist*, by Tara Mello (Col. Leaders) Gr. 3-8

*John Smith of Virginia*, by Ronald Syme Gr. 3-9

*With Sword and Pen: The Adventures of Captain John Smith* (Al.'s Am. Heritage) Gr. 3-9  
by Bradford Smith

\**World of Captain John Smith*, by Genevieve Foster Gr. 4-9  
This book looks not only at the life of Smith, but also other key people and events of his day. Some folks enjoy these books a great deal; others feel they 'steal the thunder' of their later studies. It's your call!

\**John Smith*, by C.H. Forbes-Lindsay Gr. 7-12  
This older book is being brought back by the people who reprint the G.A. Henty books at Preston-Speed.

\**John Smith: Explorer and Colonial Leader*, by Hal Marcovitz (Explorers...) Unknown

\**Smith: John Smith and the Settlement of Jamestown*, by R. Doak (Exploring...) Unknown

## Fiction/Historical Fiction

*Michael and the Captain*, by Ruth Holberg Gr. 3-12  
Fictional boy meets Smith while he was fighting in Serbia before Jamestown.

### 5dÉ Pocahontas

*There are so many books about Pocahontas that I've listed only a few here.*

\**Pocahontas*, by Ingri & Edgar d'Aulaire Gr. K-3  
A special treat!

*Pocahontas*, by Patricia Martin (See and Read Biography) Gr. 1-3

*Pocahontas: Indian Princess*, by Katharine Wilkie (Garrard American Indian) Gr. 1-5

\**Pocahontas*, by Flora Warren Seymour (Childhood) Gr. 1-6  
This is the original 'Childhood' biography. The new version is by Leslie Gourse; I am not aware of what, if any, changes have been made.

\**Pocahontas and the Strangers*, by Clyde Robert Bulla Gr. 2-8

*The Story of Pocahontas*, by Shirley Graham (Signature) Gr. 3-8

\**Pocahontas: True Princess* **and** \**Two Mighty Rivers: Son of Pocahontas*, by M. Hanes Gr. 3-12  
Don't miss these two special books which include the Christian faith of Pocahontas and her son. So many children (and parents) have thoroughly enjoyed them!

\**Pocahontas*, by George Sullivan (In Their Own Words) Unknown

### 5eÉ Powhatan Indians

*We could study the Powhatan Indians now, but we haven't had a chance to discuss the complexities of Indian relations. Thus, we have included the Powhatan Indians in the upcoming section on Native Americans.*

### 5fÉ John Smith's page

*Captain John Smith's Page*, by Marion Nesbitt Gr. 4-9  
Find out about the real 10-year-old boy who was Smith's page!

\**Surviving Jamestown: The Adventures of Young Sam Collier*, by Gail Karwoski Gr. 5-7  
I've not read this new book.

## 5gÉ Slavery in Virginia

*Here we're just addressing the earliest onset of slavery in America. We'll touch the unfolding chapters of American slavery in upcoming guides!*

**Sadly, the first African slaves were brought to Virginia in 1619. The slave trade had been thriving for centuries, as the Muslim Berbers of North Africa, other African tribes, and Europeans worked together to seize slaves from the interior of Africa and sell them abroad. The Spanish used them quite quickly on their plantations in the New World, just as they had enslaved native peoples. The first shipload of African slaves came into English Virginia, though, in this fateful year. As you know, Virginia and the other soon-to-be-formed colonies in America would wrestle long and hard with this issue!**

\**Story of the World: Vol. 3*, by Susan Wise Bauer, Ch. 7a Gr. 3-6

-----

\**African-Americans in the Colonies*, by Jean Williams (We the People) Gr. 3-6

I've not seen this, so cannot say if it addresses early Virginian slavery.

*All Times, All People: World History of Slavery*, by Milton Meltzer Gr. 3-8

From the portions I've read, it seems this book covers the history of slavery in an even-handed way. You'll probably want to focus only on the pages related to our era here.

\**Bound for America*, by Jim Haskins (From African Beginnings) Gr. 3-10

The story of early American slavery.

*Settlers on the Eastern Shore*, by John Scott, Ch. 6 Gr. 7-12