

Primary Source Documents

When our people were fed out of the common store and labored jointly together, glad was he who could slip away from his labour, or slumber over his taske, now for themselves they will doe in a day [what before they] would hardly take so much true paines in a weeke.

-- A Jamestown Settler

Only 60 settlers out of five hundred have survived the winter and they were so Leane that they looked Lyke Anatomies Cryeing outt we are starved. We are starved.

*-- Deputy Governor Thomas Gates
Upon arriving in Jamestown, May 1610*

Wee found the Colony (God be thanked) in good estate, however in buildings, fortifications, and of boats, much ruined and greate want.

-- John Rolfe

[There are] but five or six houses standing, the Church downe, the Palizado's [stockade fence] broken, the bridge in pieces, the Well of fresh water spoiled; the Storehouse they used for the Church; the marketplace and streets, and all other spare places planted with Tobacco.

-- Governor Samuel Argall, 1617

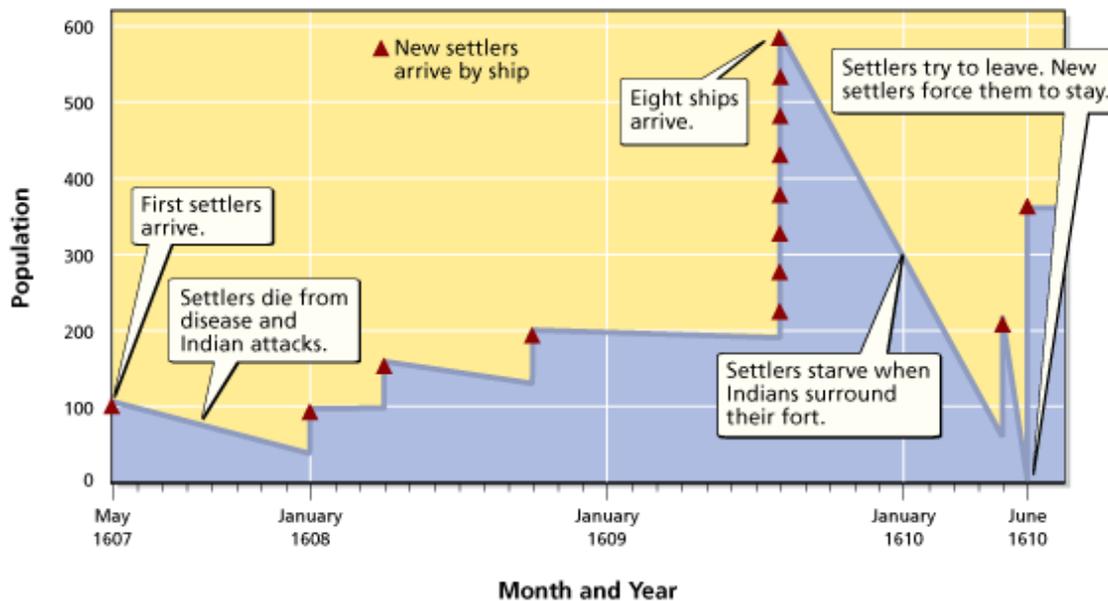
We will and require you, Mr. Abraham Persey, Cape Marchant, from this daye forwarde to take notice, that...you are bounde to accepte of the Tobacco of the Colony, either for commodities or upon bills, at three shillings the beste and the second sort at 18d [pence] the pound.

Every man to sett two acres corn, penalty forfeiture of corn & Tobacco & be a slave a year to the Colony. No man to take hay to sweat Tobacco because it robs the poor beasts of their fodder and sweating tobacco does it little good as found by Experience.

-- Laws of the Virginia Assembly & Proclamation of the Governor, 1610

Population of Jamestown

Date	Population	Reason for Change
May 1607	105	First arrivals
October 1608	200	New arrivals
Summer 1609	131	Death from disease
August 1609	381	New Arrivals
October 1609	280	Indian attacks
May 1610	90	"Starving time"
June 1610	375	New arrivals
December 1610	250	Disease; Indian attacks
Late March 1611	152	Departures; Indian attacks
Late May 1611	482	New arrivals
August 1611	752	New arrivals
December 1611	600	Indian attacks
1615	400	
1622	1,240	
1625	1,300	
1629	2,600	
1632	3,200	
1634	5,200	
1644	8,000	



Average agricultural wage in England, 1619 - £3 per year

Average incomes of Jamestown Tobacco workers, 1619

John Rolfe £37.5

William Capps £75

Plantation using 3 boys as indentured servants £75

Plantation using 4 men as indentured servants £139.5