

## Lesson Plan One Jamestown

### **Stage One: Review and Link (10 minutes)**

*Begin with CSI...*

- Who knows the show CSI...what is it?

*Connect to HSI*

- We are doing a project called HSI...Historical Scene Investigation....what do you think we will do?

*Connect to Jamestown*

- Our investigation is going to focus on Jamestown.
- I understand that you have been studying Jamestown....tell me what we know already?
- Was Jamestown a success or failure?
- What if I told you that Jamestown was actually a failure....In 1610, after only 3 years the settlers actually abandoned the colony and set sail for England. They hit the Chesapeake Bay and they were met with a supply ship that “encouraged” them to turn around. Eventually, they planted tobacco and were able to overcome some of the hardships.....BUT in the beginning....Jamestown was a failure.
  - They never found any gold and many literally starved to death. They began with 108 and in 1608 only 38 were still alive.
  - During those three years, many died because of famine....so much so that there are some accounts that say that people actually ate corpses and one guy even ate his wife!
  - Do you know why?

*Connect to Historical Question*

- Our investigation is going to place us smack dab in the middle of Jamestown. Our job is going to be investigating the why's of Jamestown. Why was Jamestown a failure and who or what caused it? The other question we are going to ask is how do historians know?

*Connect to Textbook*

- We are going to begin with the textbook.

### **Stage Two: Beginning with the textbook (15 minutes)**

To begin our investigation, we are going to take a look at the most recent account, the History Alive Text which I was told you read yesterday. Your mission is to reread this account and look for clues as to why Jamestown was a failure by 1610.

Students quickly re-read the handout. Ask students to highlight or circle the reasons why Jamestown was a failure.

Reasons given by the text:

- Built on a marsh—disease, land not good for farming

- Too many gentlemen, not enough laborers, reliance on Native Americans
- Lack of leadership
- Alright....we have got some reasons...Do they sound reasonable?
- Let me ask....Who wrote this account? Where would I find out? Is it trustworthy/reliable? Why should I trust it?
- How do the writers know what they know? (Connect to using Primary Sources)

**Stage Three: Where do historians get their info? (15 minutes)**

**Work through two docs with students (Doc B and C).**

Our next stage of our investigation is to investigate the textbook. Are they telling the truth? Have the writers included everything? How can we make sure?

I am going to give you a series of documents written by the actual settlers, John Smith, George Percy, etc.

Let's begin with John Smith.

**Questions to begin:**

- Who was John Smith?
- What was his role in the colony?
- Why is it important to listen to him?

**Document B:** *Reprinted from Travels and Works of Captain John Smith, President of Virginia, and Admiral of New England, 1610*

**[Original version]** What by their crueltie, our Governours indiscretion, and the losse of our ships, of five hundred within six moneths after Captain Smiths departure (October 1609-March 1610), there remained not past sixtie, men, women and children.

This was the time, which still to this day (1624) we call this the starving time; if it were too vile to say, and scarce to be believed, what we endured; but the occasion our owne, for want of providence industrie and government, and not the barrenesse and defect of the Countrie, as is generously supposed;”

**[Modern Version]** Six months after Captain Smith left, the cruelty of the [Powhatans], the stupidity of our leaders, and the loss of our ships [when they sailed away] caused 440 of the 500 people in Jamestown to die...

We still call this time the "Starving Time." What we suffered was too terrible to talk about and too hard to believe. But the fault was our own. We starved

because we did not plan well, work hard, or have good government. Our problems were not because the land was bad, as most people believe.

Wait a second....wait a second. According to John Smith, what caused the failure of Jamestown?

- Cruelty of the Powahatan
- The stupidity of our leaders
- Loss of ships
- Settlers did not work hard

Question: How does this differ from History Alive?

(Cruelty of Powahatan, loss of ships) Why did the authors leave this out? The text says, "Pocahanatas...brought food to the settlers....the Powahatans brought taught the settlers to hunt, plant and fish".....why did they say that? Smith says the Natives were cruel....This doesn't sound cruel.

What about the loss of ships? Why did they leave this out?

Look at Document C: List of settlers. Fill out Detective's Log.

**Stage Four: Working in groups**

Break into Pairs and have students work through docs D and E.

**Stage five: Set up homework**

## Lesson Plan Day 2 of Jamestown

**(5 minutes) Review and Link:** What did we do yesterday...what are doing today

**(10 minutes) Go over Detectives Log from last night....**

- How did History Alive Authors get their information?
- Why does John Smith address himself as “John Smith”?
- What about the role of Native Americans....did they help or not help?

**(5 minutes) Work through document C....census**

- Too many Gentleman

**(15 minutes) Documents F and G**

Split the class into two, half the class read Document F and the other Document G—Fill out detectives log

**Finish Detectives Log**

Why didn't History Alive include this info?

- Written after the textbook was written
- Are they believable?

**(5 minutes) Homework:**

Class A) Using the documents that we have read in class, come up with an explanation of what caused the failure of the Jamestown colony in 1610?

Class B) Your job is to imagine yourself as one of the fleeing settlers who have packed up and are leaving Jamestown in 1610 to renew a life in England. You have read a number of documents (A- a series of documents that provide insight into your last couple of years in Jamestown. After reading the multiple accounts from your fellow settlers, you will be asked to come up with a full explanation of why you decided to leave Jamestown?

Class C) Using the documents that we have read in class, come up with an explanation of what caused the failure of the Jamestown colony in 1610?

We will collect these on Monday. Also, we will be doing interviews!

## Lesson Plan 3 Jamestown

### Today's schedule

8:40-9:25 Class A (Kathy, Kelly, Linda, Penny and Sonja)

9:25-10:10 Class B (Kathy, Kelly, Linda, Penny and Sonja)

Break

1-1:45 Class C (Just Kathy)

### *Begin class with a review of Thursday and Friday (5-8 minutes)*

- What have we learned about Jamestown?
- What have we been learning about doing history?

### *Interviews (20-25 minutes)*

- A call for Back-up (Intro Linda, Penny and Sonja)
- Explain permission forms and interviews today
- Break into groups of 4-5 and begin interviews
- Interview Questions:
  1. What is history?
  2. Why do people study history?
  3. Over the last few days, you have become “detectives” studying Jamestown? You began by talking about criminal investigations and discussing what happens when a crime is committed. How is a criminal investigation like a historical investigation?
  4. What kind of “evidence” does a historian use?
  5. How do historians determine how things happened in the past?
  6. What do you think of the Jamestown investigation? What did you learn over the last couple days?

### *Assignment for tonight (5 minutes)*

- Open up your Agenda books.
- Your last assignment is to take what we have been learning the last few days (and what we have talked about today) and answer the following question in your detective's log:  
**How do historians know what happened in Jamestown?**
- Please write a paragraph using your best social studies writing.