

Next Week:
Mark Twain
turns 190

The First Settlers



image courtesy Office of Coast Survey, NOAA

When we think about Thanksgiving, we usually think of the Pilgrims who arrived at Plymouth in 1620. But earlier explorers also arrived on American shores. After several months on a small ship, many passengers probably fell to their knees and gave thanks for their safe arrival.



This painting by Sidney King shows the English arriving at Jamestown Island, Virginia.

Jamestown, Virginia

After a voyage of almost four months, three ships anchored at Jamestown Island on May 14, 1607. A total of 104 men and boys came ashore. This was 13 years before the Pilgrims landed in New England.

While the Pilgrims were seeking the right to worship as they wished, the Virginia settlers might have called their voyage a “business trip.”

They had been sent from England by the Virginia Company of London. The company planned to make money for its investors by

sending back gold and silver. The settlers didn’t find either. But they did send back iron, wood and wood products such as tar.

The settlers named the river and landing site after King James I of England. Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in the Americas.

Powhatan Indians

The area around Jamestown was inhabited by Powhatan tribes, and the settlers quickly built a fort to defend themselves. They harvested wood for **clapboard** (KLAB-erd) (flat pieces of wood used as siding for houses) and made glass objects to be taken back to England and sold.



An interpreter at Historic Jamestowne places glass in a kiln.

In 1609, the settlers began to die of sickness caused by the local drinking water, starvation and violent conflicts with Native Americans. Chief Powhatan sent food to help the English, but by 1610, most of the original settlers had died.

More ships brought food, women and children from England to Jamestown, as well as livestock such as cattle and pigs.

The settlers who had survived the worst of the time in Jamestown began planting crops, sometimes on Powhatan lands. Tobacco became a big moneymaking crop.

Pocahontas

A popular story tells that Chief Powhatan’s daughter, Pocahontas, saved John Smith from being killed by the chief. However, historians aren’t sure if this story is true.



A statue of Pocahontas at Historic Jamestowne.

Pocahontas would have been about 11 years old when the settlers arrived in 1607. She brought them food and sometimes played with the English children.

During the wars between the Powhatan and the

settlers, Pocahontas was captured and held for ransom. While living with the English, she changed her name to Rebecca, and in 1614 she declared she’d rather stay with the English.

That year, she married John Rolfe, a settler and tobacco grower who had lost his wife and child. For several years after the marriage, the settlers and the Native Americans got along well.

The Rolfes went to England to promote the new colony, but Pocahontas fell ill while they were there, and she died in 1617 in Gravesend, England.

Resources



On the Web:

- nps.gov/jame/index.htm
- bit.ly/MPJamestowne

At the library:

- “Pocahontas: A Life in Two Worlds” by Victoria Garrett Jones

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of historic Jamestown are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

CLAPBOARD, COLONY, CROPS, ENGLAND, FORT, GLASS, IRON, ISLAND, JAMESTOWN, POCAHONTAS, POWHATAN, ROLFE, SETTLERS, SHIPS, SICKNESS, VIRGINIA, VOYAGE, WOOD.

E F G L A S S N O R I W O O D
A D G C E N G L A N D T H Z N
Q N R O L F E P O W H A T A N
G A A W V I R G I N I A F B S
P L A U S R E L T T E S O F P
S S S E N K C I S L C R S O
K I G M C O L O N Y O U T B R
S R C L A P B O A R D T R N C
S P I H S A T N O H A C O P H
J A M E S T O W N V O Y A G E



Cook’s Corner

Sweet Potato Pie

You’ll need:

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups cooked sweet potatoes, mashed
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten

- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- pinch of salt
- 1 unbaked deep-dish pie shell

What to do:

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine the sugar and butter until creamy.
2. Add the mashed sweet potatoes and eggs. Stir until smooth.
3. In another bowl, combine the milk, corn syrup, vanilla and salt.
4. Add milk mixture to mashed potato mixture. Pour into the pie shell.
5. Bake in a preheated 425-degree oven for 10 minutes. Lower the heat to 325 degrees and continue baking for another 40 minutes. Serves 8.



* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

1. Mental strength, ability and effort to get things done; a job (4-letter noun)

□ □ □ □

2. Usually a large orange fruit that grows on a vine (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. The gathering, collecting or assembling of crops in a season (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Feeling or showing thanks (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. The holiday was special because of the _____ everyone did.
2. A big _____ rested right in the center of the long table.
3. In the fall, men, women and children will _____ food.
4. People were _____ for the large meal they were eating.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Work, Pumpkin, Harvest, Grateful.

Mini Jokes



James: What did the shark say when it bumped into the whale?
Rebecca: “I didn’t do it on porpoise!”

Eco Note



A new study confirms that a bright orange nurse shark hooked by fishermen in Costa Rica last year represents the first of its kind. Researchers say the shark’s striking pigmentation likely stems from both albinism and xanthism, two rare genetic conditions that stripped some pigment while amplifying yellow tones. Such anomalies are rarely seen in the wild, where bright colors usually make animals easy prey. But the murky coastal waters off Costa Rica may have helped conceal the animal.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about people moving to new lands.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



KidSpot™

By Dan Thompson

11-15

It’s fall, y’all!
All of the answers are words that rhyme with ‘fall.’



1. A corridor _____
2. Large in height _____
3. To pull something heavy _____
4. How babies move around _____
5. Little in size _____
6. A sudden, brief snowstorm _____

ANS: 1. HALL, 2. TALL, 3. HAUL, 4. CRAWL, 5. SMALL, 6. SQUALL