

Chapter 4 Section 2

How did Jamestown and Plymouth succeed?

A. JAMESTOWN 1607

- Named for King James I
- Founded by the London Company (which later became the Virginia Company)
- Population – approximately 100 males
- Main religious groups – Anglicans & other Protestants.
- Problems faced – poor location for farming, the fear of hostile Native Americans, about 30% of the settlers felt that they were too good to work with their hands, low supply of food and water

How did they overcome these problems?

- The leadership of Captain John Smith – he organized the building of the forts for defense, he negotiated trade agreements with the local Native Americans for food, and he made a rule, “no work, no food.”
- The London Company succeeded mainly because of the development of tobacco as a cash crop by John Rolfe
- The creation of the House of Burgesses in 1619, the first example of representative government in the colonies

B. PLYMOUTH BAY 1620

- Founded by the London Company and the Pilgrims
- Population – a mixture of about 100 men, women and children
- Named after the place in England where the settlers had set sail from (they sailed from Plymouth, England)
- Religion will be a combination of Protestant and Pilgrim
- They sailed on a ship called the Mayflower
- Before arriving the settlers signed the Mayflower Compact 1620 – which was an agreement for the settlers to obey the rules in the new settlement. First example of self-government in the colonies.
- Because of a storm, the Pilgrims landed in a place north of Virginia called Cape Cod. Since they had missed the planting season, they were low on supplies for the winter. They were given much help from the local Native Americans to survive their first winter.
- This led to the First Thanksgiving celebration at harvest time in 1621