

How have Jamestown and Werewocomoco changed from long ago to today?

This learning experience will support students with primary source analysis and accompanying tasks to answer the compelling question.

First Grade



This map is the 1606 map of Virginia as described by John Smith, showing the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River, other geographic features, and a vignette of the Native leader, Powhatan, in council. It was published in 1624. Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-116706 (b&w film copy neg.)
Repository: Library of Congress Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Task Overview:

During this learning experience, or series of learning experiences, students will explore how people lived in early Virginia by identifying and describing two important locations, Werowocomoco and Jamestown. Students will use John Smith's 1606 map and historical images to examine what life may have looked like at each site. Then, students will select a location on the map where they would have chosen to live, explain why they chose that location and create a model or drawing, showing what their community might have looked like in the past.

Targeted SOLs:

1.4 The student will apply history and social science skills to understand Virginia's history by

identifying and describing important events and locations throughout the early history of the Commonwealth including, but not limited to Werowocomoco and the first English colony in North America at Jamestown;

Unpacked Standards:

Students will know (facts)	Students will understand that... (concepts)	Students will be able to (Do) (skills)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Werowocomoco was the homeland of the Powhatan people.• Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in America.• Both sites are in Virginia and located near rivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People choose where to live based on their needs and surroundings.• Maps, pictures, and artifacts help us learn about how people lived long ago.• Important events in Virginia's history happened in specific locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify Werowocomoco and Jamestown on a map of Virginia• Describe what life may have looked like in each location.• Explain why people might have chosen to live in specific areas in early Virginia.• Use maps and images as evidence to support their ideas.

Instructor Directions:

This inquiry will take approximately 3-5 class sessions (20 min sessions).

Teachers will use John Smith's 1606 map, images of Werewocomoco, and images of Jamestown fort to help students visualize and analyze Virginia's early settlements.

Students will:

- Observe and discuss what they notice in each image or map
- Compare the two communities of Werowocomoco and Jamestown
- Choose a location on the map where they would have lived
- Create an authentic product, a map or model of their imagined community

Consider using this [slide deck](#) to support this learning experience.

Teacher Background:

Werowocomoco was a large Powhatan town on the York River, home of Chief Powhatan before Jamestown was settled. It was an important political and spiritual center for the Powhatan Confederacy.

Jamestown was founded in 1607 by English settlers. It became the first permanent English settlement and represents early colonial life.

Today, Werowocomoco is preserved by the National Park Service, and Jamestown is part of a living history museum and archaeological site.

Both sites reveal how geography influenced where people lived and how communities developed.

Part 1: Staging the Question (Activation/Hook)

How is this map from long ago different from maps we see today?

Teacher will:

- **Display [John Smith's 1606 Map of Virginia](#)**
- **Conduct a guided observation**
Teacher asks students:
 - What do you notice on this map
 - What shapes or symbols do you see?
 - Can you find rivers? Villages? Ships?
- **Label and point out Werowocomoco and Jamestown located on the map**
- **Display side-by-side historical images of Werowocomoco village (Powhatan people) and Jamestown Fort (English Settlers)**
- **Model how to compare and contrast both images using a T-chart:**
Teacher asks students:
 - What do you see in Werowocomoco?
 - What do you see in Jamestown?
- **Show modern photos of both sites today**
Teacher asks students:
 - What has changed in each of the sites?

→ What has stayed the same in the sites?

Students will:

- Collaborate with classmates to discuss and share map observations
- Sort laminated image cards into two categories (Werowocomoco and Jamestown)
- Label each of the categories “long ago” and “today”

Part 2: Exploration & Source Analysis

- **Whole Group**

- Examine John Smith’s Map of Virginia
- Discuss why each of the locations (Werowocomoco and Jamestown) may have been important to people long ago
 - Why would someone want to live near a river?
 - What might the land provide for people?
 - How might the river have been important for travel and trade for people in the past?

- **Small Group**

- Students will work in teams to complete the graphic organizer while examining images of Werowocomoco and Jamestown

- **Independent Practice**

- Students look back at the John Smith map and select a location where they would have lived.
 - Mark the location with a sticker or small flag
 - Write a response using a sentence stem that includes a word bank
 - I would live here because...
 - Draw or build what their community would have looked like

Part 3: Demonstration of Learning/ Assessment

Prompt:

You have learned about two important places in Virginia’s early history, Werowocomoco and Jamestown. Look at John Smith’s Map of Virginia and choose where you would have lived long ago. Why would you have chosen this place? What would your community have looked like?

Product options (student choice):

- **Visual:** Students draw or build a model of their community using paper, blocks, or craft materials

- **Written:** Students write or dictate a short statement describing their community.
- **Oral/Performance:** Students present their map and explain why they chose their location.

 ProductsPerformances.pdf [examples of additional student product choices]

Resources

Student Resources (linked)

Village of Secotan

de Bry, T. (1619). *Village of Secotan* [Engraving]. Library of Congress.

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b00423/>

John Smith 1607 Map of Virginia

Smith, J. (1612). *Map of Virginia* [Map]. Library of Congress.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/99446115/>

Jamestown

Jamestown (James Fort) [Photograph]. (n.d.). National Museum of the American Indian.

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/pamunkey/history/03-photo-james-fort/>

Native Fishing in Virginia

de Bry, T. (1590). *Their manner of fishing in Virginia* [Engraving]. Library of Congress.

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3g04805/>

Powhatan Settlement

Powhatan settlement at Werowocomoco [Photograph]. (n.d.). National Museum of the American Indian.

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/pamunkey/history/04-werowocomoco/>

Teacher Resources (linked)

[Slide Deck](#)

[Johns Smith Map](#)

Virginia Geographic Alliance

[Early Virginia Sort Image Cards](#)

Werowocomoco today

Werowocomoco today [Photograph]. (n.d.). National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/cajo/planyourvisit/werowocomoco.htm>

Jamestown Settlement

(Historic Jamestowne) *Werowocomoco* [Web page]. (n.d.). Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

<https://www.jyfmuseums.org/learn/research-and-collections/essays/werowocomoco>