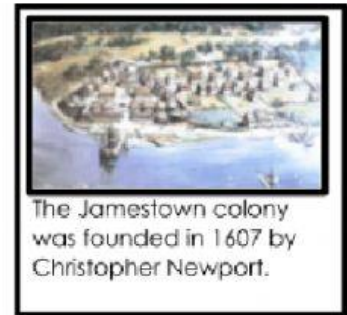


# Nonfiction Review Graded Assignment

**Directions:** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

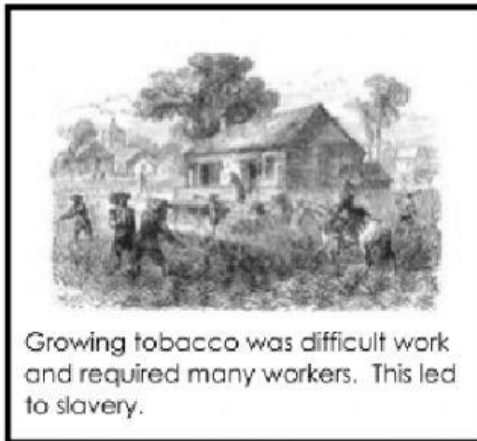
## Life in a Virginia Colony

1 In 1607 the first English colony was founded in Jamestown. By the time of the Revolutionary War, the colony in Virginia was the largest of the thirteen colonies. About 500,000 people lived there. What was it like to live in the Virginia colony hundreds of years ago? Life in Virginia today is similar and different to life in the Virginia colony.



### Agriculture

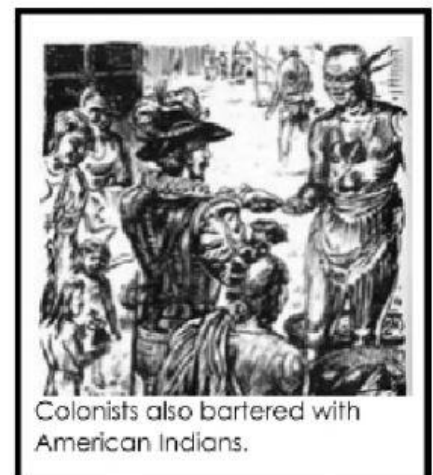
2 Farming takes place in Virginia today. Today, farmers raise many crops including tobacco, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, wheat, and barley. During the time of the Virginia colony, farming or agriculture was very important to the survival of the colonists. Crops were grown not only to feed the population but sold as **cash crops**



to sell and make money. Tobacco was the most profitable crop grown in the Virginia colony. Tobacco was grown in Virginia and sold in England as a cash crop. However, growing and harvesting tobacco was hard labor. In order to successfully **cultivate** or grow tobacco, Virginia needed a good source of cheap labor. African men, women, and children were brought to the Virginia colony and enslaved to work on the tobacco plantations. The Virginia colony became dependent on slave labor for a very long time.

### Money in Colonial Virginia

3 When people work in Virginia today, most go to a bank to deposit or cash their paychecks. We then use our money to pay for the goods and services we need. There were no banks during colonial times, though, and people did not receive paychecks as we do today. So what happened during colonial times? Since few people had money or coins to use to buy goods and services, **barter** was used instead of money. Bartering is another way to say people traded or exchanged goods and services without using money. Colonists also used tobacco as a form of money. A tobacco farmer could



use his tobacco to pay for goods and services he needed. Like modern times, colonists could buy goods and services using credit. Colonists would buy a good or service using credit and pay for it when their crops were harvested and sold.

### **Everyday Life**



Houses in the Virginia colonies were usually made of wood or stone.

4 Think of what your everyday life is like today. Where do you live? How do you get food? Where do your clothes come from? Everyday life in colonial times was probably a bit different than your life today. The colonists depended on the human, natural, and capital resources around them for what they needed. Food choices were limited to what they could find locally. What the people ate depended on what crops were grown or livestock was raised around them. Most colonial families lived in one-room houses with dirt floors, although some were able to afford larger houses.

Women and girls made clothes for their family using cotton that was grown nearby, wool from local sheep, or leather from the hides of animals. Most Virginian colonists made their living off the land as farmers.

5 How was life different for slaves? Most enslaved African Americans worked in fields to grow and harvest tobacco or other crops. They also raised livestock such as cattle or sheep. A slave had no rights and could not own land. There were some free African Americans. They could own their own businesses and property but were denied most of the rights given to the white colonists.

### **Today in Virginia**

6 While life in the Virginia colony was different than our lives today, we can still see evidence of how the beliefs, customs, and architecture of the Europeans, Africans, and American Indians affected the culture in Virginia. We can see influences of the European settlers in the building of houses, barns, and churches throughout Virginia. Today we enjoy music, art, and stories, all influenced from African slaves in the colonies. Art as well as farming techniques can be found in Virginia today that are based on traditions of the American Indians living during colonial times. Our lives in Virginia today were shaped by those living hundreds of years ago in the Virginia colony.



1. Which would be the best new heading for paragraph 2?

- A. Growing a Cash Crop
- B. Growing Peanuts Today
- C. The Dangers of Tobacco
- D. Spending Money in Virginia

2. The author most likely included paragraph 3 to –

- A. explain what crops were grown during colonial times
- B. to share information about how slaves were used to grow tobacco
- C. to compare homes today to homes long ago
- D. to tell ways colonists were able to pay for goods and services

3. Complete these notes about the article.

Tobacco in the Virginia Colony
• tobacco was the most profitable
• tobacco sold as a cash crop
• _____
• colony dependent on slave labor

- |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| • tobacco was the most profitable |
| • tobacco sold as a cash crop     |
| • _____                           |
| • colony dependent on slave labor |

- A. cotton and soybeans were grown
- B. most people had small farms
- C. tobacco was sold to England for money
- D. tobacco was easy to harvest

4. Select the two words from paragraph 3 that help you to understand the meaning of **barter**.

Since few people had money or coins to use to buy goods and services, <b>barter</b> was used instead of money. Bartering is another way to say people traded or exchanged goods and services without using money.
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5. According to the article, why did people barter in the Virginia colony?

- A. Only a few colonists grew tobacco.
- B. Banks controlled everyone's money.
- C. Few people had money to buy goods and services.
- D. All goods and services were free in the 1600's.

6. Based on the article, select each sentence that is correct.

Jamestown was the best place to live in the Virginia colony.

Most people bartered to get the things they needed.

Living in the Virginia colony was much different than our lives today.

Many different cultures and customs were present in the Virginia colony and shaped Virginia today.

Farmers relied on slave labor to make money growing tobacco.

7. The author most likely wrote this article to –

- A. explain how difficult life was in the Virginia colony
- B. tell why people moved to the Virginia colony
- C. compare how life was different in the Virginia colony compared to today
- D. share information about the different groups of people living in the Virginia colony

8. Which two notes do not belong?

**Money in the Virginia Colony**

- tobacco was used as money
- money was stored in banks
- colonists bartered for goods and services
- most people in Virginia paid for things with coins
- colonists could buy things they needed using credit

9. In which word does **-ist** mean the same as it does in **colonist**?

- A. wrist
- B. checklist
- C. enlist
- D. artist

10. Which question is answered in the section titled, "Everyday Life"?

- A. Where did the colonists shop for clothing?
- B. How did most people in the Virginia colony make a living?
- C. How did American Indians influence the culture in Virginia today?
- D. What did the people of the Virginia colony use to purchase food?