Say Thanks to the Authors
Click http://www.ck12.org/saythanks
(No sign in required)
8.2 Trace and explain the founding of Jamestown, including: Virginia Company, James River, John Smith, Pocahontas, Powhatan, John Rolfe, “starving time”, tobacco, Bacon’s Rebellion, indentured servants and slaves, arrival of women, House of Burgesses.

***EXTENDED RESPONSE LESSON

For an idea of the location of the first colony and the rest of the 13 Original Colonies, spend some time testing your skill on the location of the colonies!

http://www.purposegames.com/game/d4c1306c

Jamestown with Mrs. Thornton

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDN0p86_qJA
The James River, Virginia

Read about the history of the Virginia Company and watch the video from the following link.
Jamestown the First Permanent Colony by Mr. Zoller
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqFMkCkaArM

( Pictured Above: Jamestown, Virginia, was the site of the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. The settlers chose a location close to the water, hoping to establish a thriving community.)

Introductory video "Jamestown"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZZbWQqyeAQ
Singing History - Virginia https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVQziL3qsBU#t=44
The first joint-stock company to launch a lasting venture to the New World was the VIRGINIA COMPANY OF LONDON. The investors had one goal in mind: gold. They hoped to repeat the success of Spaniards who found gold in South America.

In 1607, 144 English men and boys established the JAMESTOWN colony, named after King James I. The colony was settled about 40 miles up the James River to protect the colony from enemy Spanish ships. The colonists were told that if they did not generate any wealth, financial support for their efforts would end. Many of the men spent their days vainly searching for gold.
As a consequence, the colonists spent little time farming. Food supplies dwindled. Malaria and the harsh winter besieged the colonists, as well. After the first year, only 38 of the original 144 had survived.

Read, watch and learn from www.history.com! http://www.history.com/topics/jamestown

Explore the interactive activity from Historic Jamestown.

http://www.historicjamestowne.org/learn/interactive_exercises.php

...and from the Jamestown Online Adventures

http://www.historyglobe.com/jamestown/

http://www.historyglobe.com/jamestown/popupwindow.html

First Virginia Charter
“James, by the grace of God [King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith], etc.

"Whereas our loving and welldisposed subjects ... and divers others of our loving subjects, have been humble sutors unto us that wee woulde vouchsafe unto them our licence to make habitacion, plantacion and to deduce a colonie of sondrie of our people into that parte of America commonly called Virginia, and other parts and territories in America either appartaining unto us or which are not nowe actualie possessed by anie Christian prince or people, scituate, lying and being all along the sea coastes between fower and thirtie degrees of northerly latitude from the equinoctiall line and five and fortie degrees of the same latitude and in the maine lande betweene the same fower and thirtie and five and fourtie degrees, and the ilandes thereunto adjacente or within one hundred miles of the coaste thereof;

And to that ende, and for themore speedy accomplisshemente of theire saide intended plantacion and habitacion there, are desirous to devide themselves into two severall colonies and companies, the one consisting of certaine Knightes, gentlemen, marchanntes and other adventurers of our cittie of London, and elsewhere, which are and from time to time shalbe joined unto them which doe desire to begin theire plantacions and habitacions in some fitt and conveniente place between fower and thirtie and one and fortie degrees of the said latitude all alongest the coaste of Virginia and coastes of America aforesaid and the other consisting of sondrie Knightes, gentlemen, merchanntes, and other adventurers of our citties of Bristoll and Exeter, and of our towne of Plymouthe, and of other places which doe joine themselves unto that colonie which doe desire to beginn theire plantacions and habitacions in some fitt and convenient place betweene eighte and thirtie degrees and five and fortie degrees of the saide latitude all alongst the saide coaste of Virginia and America as that coaste lieth;

Wee, greatly commending and graciously accepting of theire desires to the furtherance of soe noble a worke which may, by the providence of Almightye God, hereafter tende to the glorie of His Divine Majestie in propagating of Christian religion to suche people as yet live in darkenesse and miserable ignorance of the true knoweledge and worshippe of God and may in tyme bring the infidels and salvages living in those parts to humane civilitie and to a setled and quiet govermente, doe by theise our lettres patents graciously accepte of and agree to theire humble and well intended desires;"  April 10, 1606

"Work or Starve"
Jamestown and the Founding of English America


The colony may well have perished had it not been for the leadership of JOHN SMITH. He imposed strict discipline on the colonists. "Work or starve" was his motto, and each colonist was required to spend four hours per day farming. "The twenty of April. Being at work, in hewing down Trees, and setting Corn, an alarum caused us with all speed to take our arms, each expecting a new assault of the Savages: but understanding it a Boat under sail, our doubts were presently satisfied with the happy sight of Master Nelson, his many perils of extreme storms and tempests, his ship well as his company could testify, his care in sparing our provision was well: but the providence thereof, as also of our stones, Hatchets and other tools (only ours excepted) which of all the rest was most necessary: which might inforce us to thinke either a seditious traitor to our action, or a most unconscionable deceiver of our treasures.”

— John Smith, "A True Relation of Occurrences and Accidents in Virginia" (1608)

( Pictured Above: An early advocate of tough love, John Smith is remembered for his strict leadership and for saving the settlement from starvation.)

Read the account of the life of John Smith from www.bio.com

http://www.biography.com/people/john-smith-9486928#awesm=--oHdvLUCkuCTy76

An accidental gunpowder burn forced Smith to return to England in 1609. After his departure, the colony endured even more hardships. A new boatload of colonists and supplies sank off the coast of Bermuda on its way to help the hungry settlement. The winter of 1609–10, known as the "STARVING TIME," may have been the worst of all. The relations between the colonists and Native Americans were worsening and they even refused to supply the colonists with food.

Disease and hunger ravaged Jamestown. Two desperate colonists were tied to posts and left to starve as punishment for raiding the colonies’ stores. One colonist even took to cannibalism, eating his own wife. The fate of the venture was precarious. Yet still more colonists arrived, and their numbers included women.

Watch the teaching video of do the assignment that goes with it.

Jamestown Colony
The Growth of the Tobacco Trade

(Pictured Above: Among 18th-century Europeans, tobacco smoking indicated a high social class. In this 1793 etching by James Gillray, wealthy men are seen indulging in tobacco at what was known as a "smoking club.")

Virginia’s economic future did not lie with gold. There was too little gold to be found there. Looking for new ways to make its investments pay dividends, the Virginia Company of London began encouraging multiple ventures by 1618.

Jamestown settlers experimented with GLASSBLOWING, VINEYARD cultivation, and even silkworm farming. Despite efforts to diversify Virginia’s economy, by the end of the 1620s only one Virginia crop was drawing a fair market price in England: tobacco.

Drinking Smoke

TOBACCO was introduced to Europe by the Spanish, who had learned to smoke it from Native Americans. Despite some early criticism of "drinking smoke," tobacco became popular among the middle classes in England. Much of the tobacco smoked in England was grown in the WEST INDIES.
“There is an herb called uppowoc, which sows itself. In the West Indies it has several names, according to the different places where it grows and is used, but the Spaniards generally call it tobacco. Its leaves are dried, made into powder, and then smoked by being sucked through clay pipes into the stomach and head. The fumes purge superfluous phlegm and gross humors from the body by opening all the pores and passages. Thus its use not only preserves the body, but if there are any obstructions it breaks them up. By this means the natives keep in excellent health, without many of the grievous diseases which often afflict us in England.”

– Thomas Hariot, A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia (1588)

“Smoking is a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.”

– James I of England, A Counterblaste to Tobacco (1604)

(Pictured Below: Known among his peers as "an ardent smoker," John Rolfe introduced the tobacco plant to the Virginia colony. This plant became the cornerstone of the Virginia economy.)

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JOHN ROLFE thought that Virginia might be an outstanding site for tobacco growth. Early attempts to sell Virginian tobacco had fallen short of expectations. Smokers felt that the tobacco of the Caribbean was much less harsh than Virginian tobacco.

Rolfe reacted to consumer demand by importing seed from the West Indies and cultivating the plant in the Jamestown colony. Those tobacco seeds became the seeds of a huge economic empire.

By 1630, over a million and a half pounds of tobacco were being exported from Jamestown every year.

The tobacco economy rapidly began to shape the society and development of the colony. Growing tobacco takes its toil on the soil. Because tobacco drained the soil of its nutrients, only about three successful growing seasons could occur on a plot of land. Then the land had to lie fallow for three years before the soil could be used again. This created a huge drive for new farmland.

(Pictured Above: Tobacco cultivation was demanding work. Signs such as this one were posted in England to round up more workers (indentured servants).)

Settlers grew tobacco in the streets of Jamestown. The yellow-leafed crop even covered cemeteries. Because tobacco cultivation is labor intensive, more settlers were needed.
Bacon’s Rebellion

From the US National Park Service website, read about Bacon’s Rebellion

http://www.nps.gov/jame/historyculture/bacons-rebellion.htm

Indentured Servants

Watch Mr. Zoller’s Podcast about the history of Indentured Servants Jamestown and Virginia and then in the colonies.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lI7_0dPzGiE
Indentured Servants

Industry and Idleness, border="0" height="191" width="250">William Hogarth, 1747

This picture, *Industry and Idleness*, shows 2 apprentices starting in identical circumstances, one is the industrious Francis Goodchild and the other is the unsuccessful Thomas Idlefrom.

The growth of tobacco, rice, and indigo and the plantation economy created a tremendous need for labor in Southern English America. Without the aid of modern machinery, human sweat and blood was necessary for the planting, cultivation, and harvesting of these cash crops. While slaves existed in the English colonies throughout the 1600s, indentured servitude was the method of choice employed by many planters before the 1680s. This system provided incentives for both the master and servant to increase the working population of the Chesapeake colonies.

Virginia and Maryland operated under what was known as the "headright system." The leaders of each colony knew that labor was essential for economic survival, so they provided incentives for planters to import workers. For each laborer brought across the Atlantic, the master was rewarded with 50 acres of land. This system was used by wealthy plantation aristocrats to increase their land holdings dramatically. In addition, of course, they received the services of the workers for the duration of the indenture.

This system seemed to benefit the servant as well. Each indentured servant would have their fare across the Atlantic paid in full by their master. A contract was written that stipulated the length of service — typically five years. The
A servant would be supplied room and board while working in the master’s fields. Upon completion of the contract, the servant would receive "freedom dues," a pre-arranged termination bonus. This might include land, money, a gun, clothes or food. On the surface it seemed like a terrific way for the luckless English poor to make their way to prosperity in a new land. Beneath the surface, this was not often the case.

Only about 40 percent of indentured servants lived to complete the terms of their contracts. Female servants were often the subject of harassment from their masters. A woman who became pregnant while a servant often had years tacked on to the end of her service time. Early in the century, some servants were able to gain their own land as free men. But by 1660, much of the best land was claimed by the large land owners. The former servants were pushed westward, where the mountainous land was less arable and the threat from Indians constant. A class of angry, impoverished pioneer farmers began to emerge as the 1600s grew old. After Bacon’s Rebellion in 1676, planters began to prefer permanent African slavery to the headright system that had previously enabled them to prosper.

**Observations on the slaves and the indentured servants, enlisted in the army, and in the navy of the United States** A reprint of an article which appeared in Philadelphia in 1777. The author cannot understand why two groups of people who were enslaved by Americans — indentured servants and slaves — would enlist to serve in the American army and navy. **Apprentices of Indentures; Delaware County, New York** It’s hard to believe, but the practice of indentured servitude in America did not end in the United States until the early 1900s. This site lists the contract terms between Masters and Servants in one New York County. **Differential Tolerances and Accepted Punishments for Indentured Servants** A page as serious as its title. Written by a student at Lafayette College, the site explores what happened when crimes were committed by either owners of servants or the servants themselves. For you AP types that come here, you’ll get some real insight into the lives of indentured servants, and more particularly the "different punishments of servants and their masters in colonial courts by examining various court cases from 18th-century Pennsylvania and Maryland courts." No pictures but plenty of statistical data. This is what awaits any of you folks thinking of majoring in history. **Gottlieb Mittelberger: On the Misfortune of Indentured Servants (1754)** Life was dreadful for Indentured Servants even before they started working. Gottlieb Mittelberger of the Netherlands describes the situation of indentured servants coming from his country, the Netherlands, to America. A sickening slice of what you’ll find: "But during the voyage there is on board these ships terrible misery, stench, fumes, horror, vomiting, many kinds of sea-sickness, fever, dysentery, headache, heat, constipation, boils, scurvy, cancer, mouth-rot, and the like, all of which come from old and sharply salted food and meat, also from very bad and foul water, so that many die miserably." Next time you’re tempted to say your folks treat you like a slave, think of this page. **Indentured Servants and Transported Convicts** A page which briefly explores the lives of indentured servants at Stratford Hall, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee. Some interesting factoids to be found here. **Virtual Jamestown: Indentured Servants** Links to 17th-century legal documents which address such topics as "First recorded case of master-servant dispute" and "Laws clearly defining the differences between servant and slave." Primary source documents can’t be beat.

**The Growth of Slavery**

*Read about the growth of slavery in the English New World.*

Africans were the immigrants to the British New World that had no choice in their destinations or destinies. The first African Americans that arrived in Jamestown in 1619 on a Dutch trading ship were not slaves, nor were they free. They served time as indentured servants until their obligations were complete. Although these lucky individuals lived out the remainder of their lives as free men, the passing decades would make this a rarity. Despite the complete lack of a slave tradition in mother England, slavery gradually replaced indentured servitude as the chief means for plantation labor in the Old South.

Virginia would become the first British colony to legally establish slavery in 1661. Maryland and the Carolinas were soon to follow. The only Southern colony to resist the onset of slavery was Georgia, created as an Enlightened experiment. Seventeen years after its formation, Georgia too succumbed to the pressures of its own citizens and repealed the ban on African slavery. Laws soon passed in these areas that condemned all children of African slaves to lifetimes in chains.

No northern or middle colony was without its slaves. From Puritan Massachusetts to Quaker Pennsylvania, Africans lived in BONDAGE. Economics and geography did not promote the need for slave importation like the plantation South. Consequently, the slave population remained small compared to their southern neighbors. While laws throughout the region recognized the existence of slavery, it was far less systematized. Slaves were more frequently granted their freedom, and opposition to the institution was more common, especially in Pennsylvania.

As British colonists became convinced that Africans best served their demand for labor, importation increased. By the turn of the eighteenth century AFRICAN SLAVES numbered in the tens of thousands in the British colonies. Before the first shots are fired at Lexington and Concord, they totaled in the hundreds of thousands. The cries for liberty by the colonial leaders that were to follow turned out to be merely white cries.
Virginia Statute for Runaway Slaves

"Whereas there are divers loytering runaways in the collony who very often absent themselves from their masters service, And sometimes in two or three monthes cannot be found, whereby their said masters are at great charge in finding them, And many time s even to the loss of their year’s labour before they be had, Be it therefore enacted and confirmed that all runaways that shall absent themselves from their said masters service shall be lyable to make satisfaction by service at the end of their tymes by indenture double the tyme of service soe neglected, And in some cases more if the comissioners for the place appointed shall find it requisite and convenient. And if such runaways shall be found to transgresse the second time or oftener (if it shall be duely proved against them) that then they shall be branded in the cheek with the letter R. and passe vnder the statute of incorrigible rogues."

– Statute passed by the Virginia House of Burgesses, from William Waller Hening’s The Statutes at Large, Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature (March, 1642)

( Pictured Above: The three ships that brought the original settlers to Jamestown in 1607: the Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery.)

Despite the introduction of tobacco cultivation, the colony was a failure as a financial venture. The king declared the Virginia Company bankrupt in 1624.

About 200,000 pounds were lost among the investors. The charter was thereby revoked, and Virginia became a royal colony, the first in America to be ruled by the Crown.

Investments in permanent settlements were risky indeed. The merchants and gentry paid with their pocketbooks. Many colonists paid with their lives. For every six colonists who ventured across the Atlantic, only one survived.
Despite his suspicions, Chief Powhatan helped the British settlers through their first winters. But the good relations did not last, and Powhatan was forced to fight.

Fortunately for the English settlers, Powhatan had a plan. He regarded the English settlers suspiciously, as he had previously regarded Spanish settlers. But the English had guns and powder. These items might just give him the advantage he needed to defeat surrounding tribes.

And the English seemed so harmless at first. If it were not for the good nature of Powhatan’s people, the English settlers never would have survived their first few seasons in the New World. Good relations with these new inhabitants might help forge a powerful alliance.

The Powhatans

The POWHATAN CONFEDERACY comprised 30 tribes living along Virginia’s coastal plain. CHIEF WAHUN-SONACOCK, called Powhatan by Captain John Smith, united the tribes to form the Powhatan Confederacy. At the time of Smith’s appearance in Virginia, the Powhatans numbered about 12,000 people.

Tribes of the Powhatan Confederacy are called Algonquian because their languages were based on a large Native American language group called Algonquin.

Plundering, Peace, and Pocahontas

Watch and learn from BrainPop - Pocahontas! BrainPop is provided by Tullahoma City Schools for Tullahoma City Schools’ students.

https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/famoushistoricalfigures/pocahontas/

Before long, Powhatan’s hopes were dashed. During the "starving time," colonists took to raiding Native American food supplies. In retaliation, Powhatan ordered an attack.
War raged on and off for the next few years with unspeakable brutality committed by both sides. Unsuspecting colonists were riddled with arrows. Children of defeated tribes were drowned in the James River.

Finally, in 1614, Powhatan accepted peace with the English. His daughter Pocahontas, after being kidnapped and ransomed, was married to John Rolfe and taken to England. Unfortunately, she died of disease only three years later. Powhatan died in despair in 1618.

“So it is, that some ten years ago being in Virginia, and taken prisoner by the power of Powhatan their chief King, I received from this great Salvage exceeding great courtesy, especially from his son Nantaquaus, the most manliest, comeliest, boldest spirit, I ever saw in a Salvage, and his sister Pocahontas, the Kings most dear and well-beloved daughter, being but a child of twelve or thirteen years of age, whose compassionate pitiful heart, of my desperate estate, gave me much cause to respect her…”

– John Smith, "Letter to Queen Anne regarding Pocahontas" (1616)

Read about Pocahontas from www.bio.com A short mini-biography is included.

http://www.biography.com/people/pocahontas-9443116#awesm=~oHdw1ZN6cpqut7

Powhatan’s brother, Opechancanough, was determined to continue the fight. On Good Friday in 1622, he led an attack that nearly finished the Jamestown colony. Three hundred forty-seven settlers were killed before the situation stabilized.

Fighting continued between the Algonquian peoples and the English until 1645. Opechancanough was captured and executed. The English forced the tribes of the warring confederacy to cede land and recognize English authority.

No-Man’s-Land

Many cultural differences separated the Native Americans and the colonists. The most important contrast was each side’s differing view of land ownership. According to Powhatan’s people, land was owned by no one; rather, it was collectively used by the tribe. Because land could not be owned, it could not be sold or yielded in treaty. Selling land was the equivalent of selling air.

The English view of individual land ownership was completely foreign to the Powhatans, who could not understand being pushed off tribal lands so it could be sold to individuals. To the Powhatans, the loss of their land was a matter worth fighting for.

Population Elimination

Warfare and disease eliminated about 90% percent of the Native American population in Virginia within the first 60 years of English settlement.
From the US National Park Website, read about the role of women in the English Colony of Jamestown.
http://www.nps.gov/jame/historyculture/the-indispensible-role-of-women-at-jamestown.htm

and....

Read the following information from the following link.
After his arrival in Jamestown in 1619, Governor George Yeardley immediately gave notice that the Virginia colony would establish a legislative assembly. This assembly, the House of Burgesses, first met on July 30, 1619.

Although many differences separated Spain and France from England, perhaps the factor that contributed most to distinct paths of colonization was the form of their government.

Spain and France had absolute monarchies, but Britain had a limited monarchy. In New France and New Spain, all authority flowed from the Crown to the settlers, with no input from below.

More Information ...

An absolute monarchy is a state in which the monarch has sovereign power and controls all aspects of government without being checked by any representative assemblies. A limited or constitutional monarchy is a state in which the power of the monarch is checked by other constitutionally sanctioned institutions, such as a representative assembly (e.g., the British Parliament).

The English kings who ruled the 13 original colonies reserved the right to decide the fate of their colonies as well, but not alone. The colonists drew upon their claims to traditional English rights and insisted on raising their own representative assemblies. Such was the case with the Virginia House of Burgesses, the first popularly elected legislature in the New World.

Table 1.1:
The Magna Carta

The House of Burgesses, the first legislative assembly in the American colonies, held its first meeting in the choir at Jamestown Church in the summer of 1619. Its first order of business: setting a minimum price for the sale of tobacco.

English landowners had insisted on meeting with their leaders for consultation in local matters ever since the Magna Carta was signed in 1215. Virginia settlers expected that same right.

Modeled after the English Parliament, the House of Burgesses was established in 1619. Members would meet at least once a year with their royal governor to decide local laws and determine local taxation.

House of Burgesses

In April, 1619, Governor George Yeardley arrived in Virginia from England and announced that the Virginia Company had voted to abolish martial law and create a legislative assembly. It became the House of Burgesses — the first legislative assembly in the American colonies. The first assembly met on July 30, 1619, in the church at Jamestown. Present were Governor Yeardley, Council, and 22 burgesses representing 11 plantations (or settlements) Burgesses were elected representatives. Only white men who owned a specific amount of property were eligible to vote for Burgesses.

King James I, a believer in the divine right of monarchs, attempted to dissolve the assembly, but the Virginians would have none of it. They continued to meet on a yearly basis to decide local matters.

Democracy in Practice

What is the importance of a small legislative body formed so long ago? The tradition established by the House of Burgesses was extremely important to colonial development. Each new English colony demanded its own legislature in turn.

Historians often ponder why the American Revolution was successful. The French, Russian, and Chinese Revolutions each ended with a rise to power of a leader more autocratic than the pre-revolutionary monarch.

Famous Burgesses

There have been hundreds of members of Virginia’s House of Burgesses. Among the most famous are: Peyton Randolph, William Byrd, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Pendleton, and Patrick Henry.

But starting with the Virginia House of Burgesses, Americans had 157 years to practice democracy. By the time of the Declaration of Independence, they were quite good at it.

One satire of English history declares, "James I slobbered at the mouth and had favourites; he was thus a bad king." James I James I ruled England from 1603 to 1625 and fiercely believed in the divine right of kings, which was rejected by both Parliament and the Virginia Company colonists who formed the House of Burgesses. This Britannia website provides a brief biography of James I. Magna Carta When Winston Churchill stated, "[H]ere is a law which is above the King," he was speaking of the Magna Carta. Colonists strongly believed that their rights and freedom as Englishmen lay in the Magna Carta. This website from the National Archives and Records administration offers a detailed history of this document as well as a link to a translation of the 1297 version. Colonial Taxes in Virginia One of the responsibilities of the House of Burgesses was to levy taxes. Taxes were also paid to the Crown and to church parishes. This page explains the different forms of colonial taxes, including county levies, parish levies, and port duties. The Colonial Virginia Register: The House of Burgesses The House of Burgesses met many, many times and as a result had many, many members. This page is simply a list (though it may be incomplete) of the members who served in the Virginia House of Burgesses.
any of your ancestors on the list?  

**The First Legislative Assembly at Jamestown**  
The settlers of Jamestown, Virginia, recognized the unique situation and opportunity that lay before them in the early years of the 17th century. In 1619, 22 burgesses and Governor George Yeardley took part in the first legislative assembly of the American colonies. Their creation of the House of Burgesses later inspired the American Revolution and the subsequent creation of the United States. This website from the Colonial National Historical Park presents the people involved and the laws passed during this momentous event.  

**Colonial History of Virginia: Formation of Government**  
Although Massachusetts and Pennsylvania often receive much of the credit for colonial and revolutionary politics and government, the United States owes a debt of gratitude to Virginia and the first legislative assembly, the House of Burgesses. This independent website examines the history of Virginia government and its role in American politics.  

**An Ordinance and Constitution of the General Assembly, 1621**  
Although the House of Burgesses first convened in 1619, the measures taken by the assembly were worthless until ratified by the Virginia Company, the stockholders of the colony. Virginia was granted a written constitution in 1621 that ratified the actions of the General Assembly (House of Burgesses). The constitution also included an important provision that prohibited the Virginia Company from passing any laws without the approval of the Assembly. The primary document "An Ordinance and Constitution of the Virginia Company in England, July 24, 1621" is presented at this Yale University website.  

**Burgesses of Prince William County**  
How were burgesses elected? Who constituted a citizen in colonial Virginia? This Prince William County website answers these questions and delves into the history of Virginia politics. Special attention is given to the Prince William representatives to the House of Burgesses.  

**John Pory, "A Reporte of the Manner of Proceeding in the General Assembly Convented at James City"**  
As Secretary of Governor George Yeardley’s Council of Estate, John Pory was responsible for recording the minutes of the first meeting of the House of Burgesses. His records, including the proceedings of the first Virginia Assembly in 1619, are part of the Library of Congress’s Thomas Jefferson Papers collection. This website provides many letters and documents from this era, including John Pory’s "A Reporte of the Manner of Proceeding in the General Assembly Convented at James City," which provides a unique perspective on this historical event.  

An absolute monarchy is a state in which the monarch has sovereign power and controls all aspects of government without being checked by any representative assemblies.  

A limited or constitutional monarchy is a state in which the power of the monarch is checked by other constitutionally sanctioned institutions, such as a REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY (e.g., the British Parliament). The English kings who ruled the 13 original colonies reserved the right to decide the fate of their colonies as well, but not alone. The colonists drew upon their claims to traditional English rights and insisted on raising their own representative assemblies. Such was the case with the VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES, the first popularly elected legislature in the New World.  

“But forasmuch as men’s affaires doe little prosper where God’s service is neglected, all the Burgesses tooke their places in the Quire till a prayer was said by Mr. Bucke, the Minister, that it would please God to guide and sanctifie all our proceedings to his own glory and the good of this Plantation ... The Speaker ... delivered in briefe to the whole assembly the occasions of their meeting. Which done he read unto them the commission for establishing the Counsell of Estate and the general Assembly, wherein their duties were described to the life ... And forasmuch as our intente is to establish one equall and uniforme kinde of government over all Virginia &c.”  

– John Pory, "A Reporte of the Manner of Proceeding in the General Assembly Convented at James City" (July 30, 1619)  

**House of Burgesses**  
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As a review over the history of Jamestown and the important relationships between various settlers and Native Americans, watch "The Natives and the English." - Crash Course by John Green

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTYOQ05oDOI

And another review —-The Virginia Colony

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgbdWnRaL4M