

You Are There – Choose Your Spot!

The Age of Exploration has begun and your king is anxious to begin a colony in the New World. You have been given a charter, supplies, some money and three ships. Before you begin, you have to choose where the colony is to be established. You have been given a recent survey of the area where you are to travel to. The survey lists seven possibilities.

You are to carefully read the description of each area and come to a conclusion of the best place to build.

Good Luck!

Survey Results

Site	Description
A	Island – The waters around the island are deep enough for cargo ships to dock. There are many different types of trees on the island, but very few are suitable for construction work.
B	Rocky Outlook – This location provides an excellent view of the surrounding area and waters. The rough terrain will make it impossible to grow food. However, there is one promising shoreline that would be ideal for a dock.
C	River Location – Located on a fresh-water river, this location provides a decent supply of fish and other wildlife. The terrain is somewhat rough and may provide a challenge to construction and planting. No excursion was done to check the river for signs of precious metals.
D	Forest – The forest provides ideal wood for construction. The local wildlife could provide a source of food and furs. In order for farming to occur, great tracts of forest would have to be cleared first.
E	Swamp – The terrain at this location is covered by swamp. The mosquitoes are sometimes overwhelming. The surrounding soil is excellent for planting and there are two places where a dock can be built.
F	Shallow End – The water in this area is not deep enough to build a dock. The soil is fertile and prime for cultivation. The nearby natives use this area for fishing.
G	Village – The terrain is ideal for planting and cultivating food. There is a nearby forest for building materials. The major drawback is the native village located near this site. They may have to be moved by force in order to use this location.

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Top 3 Choices

#	Reasons
1	
2	
3	

Bottom 3 Choices

#	Reasons
1	
2	
3	

Directions for Teachers

This lesson plan is designed to help students understand some of the decisions that were required from those who settled America. They can work in small groups or by themselves.

Introduction:

1. Break students into collaborative groups of 2-4
2. Using the webbing diagram “A Successful Colony has...,” students are to fill in the blank boxes of what they feel a successful colony needs.
3. After the students have completed the diagram, they should discuss their responses and record them on the board. Some possible responses may include
 - a. Access to ships (Docks)
 - b. Fresh water
 - c. Good farmland
 - d. Trees for building material and fire
 - e. Protection from invasion/weather
 - f. Food source

Lesson:

1. Have students work collaboratively to decide the top three sites that they would like to start a colony. They must justify their reasons for settling in each area.
2. Have students give reasons why the other three sites were not suitable for settlement.
3. Have each group report out their top three sites to the class.

Follow-Up

1. Discuss with the students that site “E” was where Jamestown was established.
2. Have students discuss why the Swampy area was chosen by the Virginia Company.

Extensions

1. Have students read excerpts for the diary of John Smith to find out what he thought of the site for Jamestown.
2. Have students create a news report on the establishment of Jamestown using facts found from John Smith’s diary.