

Jamestown Settlement Family Gallery Guide



Welcome to Jamestown Settlement! As you explore our galleries and outdoor areas, use this guide to learn more about the exhibits, then share what you learn with your whole family! Start in our special exhibition located on the second level of the rotunda. It's all about Werowocomoco, the Powhatan Indian community where Pocahontas lived as a child!

WEROWOCOMOCO: SEAT OF POWER

Watch the video at the entrance to the exhibit. Wahunsenacawh, known to the English as Powhatan, was the powerful leader of more than 30 Powhatan Indian tribes. When the English arrived in 1607, Powhatan and his daughter Pocahontas lived much of the time at Werowocomoco. John Smith visited Werowocomoco several times, and wrote about how Powhatan lived. Look at this picture (right) of Powhatan in his house at Werowocomoco, from John Smith's map, made in 1612. **Can you tell which person is Powhatan? Find three clues the artist included to tell us he was the most important person in the picture.**



FUN FACT: Several common English words have their origin as Powhatan words. These include moccasin, hickory, raccoon, opossum and persimmon!



Members of the Powhatan Indian tribes of Virginia worked with the archaeologists at Werowocomoco.

What are the benefits when archaeologists partner with the Indian community?

Find John Smith's 1612 Map of Virginia. The picture above is a cartouche (*pronounced car-toosh*) from the map. Map cartouches are drawings that helped people imagine faraway people and places, before travel brochures and the Internet! This cartouche was drawn by an artist in England, based on John Smith's writings. **Tonight, draw your own cartouche to tell others what they will see at Jamestown Settlement!**

WEROWOCOMOCO: SEAT OF POWER



A Palmer projectile point, Early Archaic.
Courtesy of Robert F. and C. Lynn Ripley.

Archaeologists found clues that Virginia Indians visited the site of Werowocomoco to **fish, hunt and gather** as early as 10,000 years ago! Later Werowocomoco became a more settled community, and by A.D. 1200 the people there **grew corn** and other crops. **Look at the artifacts in the first two cases and find evidence of these activities.** For evidence of fishing, look closely at some of the Mockley pottery. When you know how they decorated the pots, you'll know one way they fished!

When you visit the Powhatan Indian Village outside, ask to see how the Powhatan Indians made rope and nets from tree-bark and grasses that grow in Eastern Virginia.

Soon after A.D. 1250 people living in Werowocomoco built ditches and a wall to enclose part of the community. This enclosed area was a special place, perhaps ceremonial, and was maintained for hundreds of years. When the English visited Werowocomoco 1607-1609, Powhatan had a large house in the enclosed area. **What does that tell you about Powhatan's power as leader of the Powhatan chiefdom?**



The English and the Powhatan Indians traded and exchanged gifts. **Find a case with copper and beads.** Powhatan controlled much of the copper received through gifts and trade. **At Werowocomoco, where do you think archaeologists found most of the copper?** Outdoors in James Fort, find out what the English wanted most from the Powhatan Indians.

English rolled copper bead 17th c., Courtesy of Robert F and C. Lynn Ripley.



English Trade Beads,
Jamestown-Yorktown
Foundation collection.

FUN FACT: John Smith was taken to Werowocomoco as a prisoner in 1607. It was there that he met Pocahontas, a little girl of about 10 or 11. Years later he claimed that Pocahontas had saved him from death at the hands of Powhatan at Werowocomoco.

Look at the photo (right) of Purtan Bay where Werowocomoco was located. **What natural resources made this a good place to live?** In 1609 Powhatan left Werowocomoco and moved further inland, away from the English. Though the Powhatan people no longer lived there, Werowocomoco has remained an important place to the Virginia Indians.



Aerial photo of the Werowocomoco site, located in present-day Gloucester County, Virginia, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection.

Jamestown Settlement Gallery

Four hundred years ago three groups of people, the Powhatan Indians, the English colonists and the west central Africans, came together at Jamestown and changed history forever. Learn more about each of these groups as you explore the Jamestown Settlement galleries and try out some of the hands-on interactive exhibits there!

In the first gallery, learn how all three cultures lived BEFORE Jamestown!



Find the Powhatan seasonal cycle exhibit. **In which season did the Powhatan Indians have the most food?**

The least food? *Hint: Step back - the exhibit also is a bar graph!*

Listen to the language phones for each culture. **What was a problem the three groups had when they came together at Jamestown? How did they communicate?**

Look at the touchable tools for each culture. **From what materials did each group make tools?** *Hint: Also look for the Comparative Technologies video in the next gallery.*



In the second gallery, learn what happened when the three cultures INTERACTED in Virginia.

Go inside the *Susan Constant* and try out the astrolabe. Find the North Star. **What weather conditions would prevent the English from measuring their latitude with the astrolabe, as they traveled to Virginia?**



Find the crop that changed life in Virginia for all three cultures. **What is it? How did this crop and the need for land and labor to grow**

it, change the lives of the Powhatans, Africans, and English? *Hint: Watch the film "From Africa to Virginia" and visit the large lighted map near the statue of Opechancanough.*

In the third gallery, learn about the NEW VIRGINIA that resulted from the interactions of the three groups.



Find a shark's tooth in one of the re-created houses of the late 1600s. **Who lived in this house? Why do you think they kept some of their own belongings in a pit in the floor?**

The children of English settlers in Virginia worked hard to help raise crops, and had little time for play. Find a case with toys in it. Toys were usually made at home from available materials. **How do we know what children played with?** *Hint: Look for the painted tiles in some of the cases!* **How are children's games today the same or different as the games children played in 1600s Virginia?**

Living History Areas

Visit the re-created Powhatan Indian village, ships, riverfront discovery area, and James Fort to discover the people of 17th century Virginia and how they lived. Use this guide as a starting point, then ask questions, explore houses, and gently handle reproduction artifacts to find out even more! Outdoors, you can also take photographs!



In the **Powhatan village**, enter a Powhatan home, or *yehakin*. Sit down on the hide-covered benches and linger a moment. The Powhatan Indians kept the fire in the center of the home burning almost all the time. **What purpose did the fire serve in winter? Why would it still be needed in the summer?** *Hint: One reason has to do with a very common insect in Virginia that doesn't like smoke!*

At the **riverfront discovery area** learn how rivers were important to all who lived in Virginia in the early 1600s. Canoes were used for travel, trade and fishing. The west central Africans made and used canoes in Africa. The English traded for Powhatan canoes. **Why would canoes work better than larger English boats in Virginia's creeks and rivers?**



Soon after the English arrived in 1607 they built three public buildings: a church, storehouse and court of guard for weapons and soldiers. Find these buildings in **James Fort** and talk to interpreters to find out why each was important.

Sailing **ships** sailed 24 hours a day on long voyages in the 1600s, just as they do today. The crew was split into two



groups that took turns working four hours and resting four hours. **What are some jobs on the ship everyone would need to know how to do?**

FUN FACT: Powhatan canoes were made in sizes big enough to hold ten to forty warriors, according to John Smith!

Jamestown Settlement, a museum of the 17th century, evokes the world of America's first permanent English settlement, through documentary film, indoor gallery exhibits and outdoor living history. A dramatic documentary film, *1607: A Nation Takes Root*, and comprehensive gallery exhibits trace Jamestown's beginnings in England and the first century of the Virginia colony, while Jamestown served as its capital, and provides insight into the cultures of the Powhatans, Europeans and Africans who converged in 1600s Virginia. Outdoors, costumed historical interpreters describe and demonstrate daily life in the early 17th century. Visitors can board a replica of the ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607, explore life-size re-creations of the colonists' fort and a Powhatan village, and tour a riverfront discovery area, open seasonally, to learn about the important role of waterways in 17th century travel and commerce. To contact us, please call toll free **888-593-4682**.



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