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ERA 2: COLONIZATION AND SETTLEMENT (1585–1763)

THEMES: AMERICAN IDENTITY, POLITICS AND CITIZENSHIP

# Why Jamestown Matters and Jamestown Hangs in the Balance

## Guiding Questions

How were the elements of civic and political life in Jamestown embodied in the laws and beliefs of the United States?

How are these elements present in American political culture today?

## Focus Question Examples

Without Jamestown there wouldn't be a United States.



Re-creations of the three ships that first landed at Jamestown in 1607, *Discovery*, *Susan Constant* and *Godspeed*, can now be boarded by visitors to Jamestown Settlement.

## TEACHER-TO-TEACHER

Oftentimes, the importance of Jamestown is overlooked. Students are provided the opportunity to read and analyze the First Charter of Virginia and its influence in forming political principles that are eventually reflected in the formation of the new government under the Constitution of the United States. Then, turning their attention to the Laws Enacted by the First General Assembly of Virginia, students read about the manner in which the government regulated things such as personal property and behavior that began in the colonial era. The reading of Property by James Madison reinforces the need for the protection of property and can tie into a student analysis of how this political value transfer from the time of the Jamestown Colony to the early years of the new republic. Students can also be challenged to discuss the manner in which government seeks to regulate various elements of both civic and political life.

**Literature Connection:** *Jamestown, The Buried Truth* by William M. Kelso

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## Instructional Tasks

- Task 1:** Wrestle with an Argument: Close Reading of an Argumentative Text
- Task 2:** One Sentence Summaries
- Task 3:** Unpack the Points
- Task 7:** Close Reading: Focus Question
- Task 8:** Analyze and Compare Author Purpose
- Task 19:** Comparative Analysis
- Task 23:** Identifying Claim/Evidence
- Task 24:** QFT (Question Formulation Technique)
- Task 25:** Document Analysis/Sourcing