

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

John Smith and Pocahontas

Read the Colonial Leaders biographies of John Smith and Pocahontas.
Complete the following, answer all questions in complete sentences.

1) What did John Smith say to the gentleman from his colony?

2) Create a bulleted list of John Smith's life:

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

- (1607)

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

3) How did Pocahontas save John Smith's life?

4) Who did Pocahontas marry?

5) How and where did Pocahontas die?



Colonial Leaders

John Smith

John Smith was a true adventurer. He ran away to sea as a boy, fought against the Turks, became a Hungarian hero for his bravery against the Turks, and was captured and enslaved. He killed his master and escaped to wander through Russia, Poland, and Germany and then ended up fighting pirates in North Africa.

In 1607 Captain Smith sailed to Virginia and established Jamestown, the first permanent English colony in North America. Only 28 years old, he was responsible for saving the settlement from destruction and failure. His motto as leader was simple: "If you don't work, you don't eat." He forced the gentlemen who had come to Jamestown looking for gold and easy riches to work if they wanted to survive. Smith was also able to maintain an uneasy peace with the Indians under the powerful leader Powhatan.

While exploring the Chesapeake area, he was stung by a deadly stingray and was expected to die. His grave was even dug. He survived this and many other dangers, including being injured in a gunpowder explosion and then nearly drowning. In 1609 he returned to England. Before Smith left, the colony had provisions and seemed on the road to success. Years later, John Smith returned to America and mapped the New England coast.

Pocahontas

Pocahontas was the favorite daughter of Powhatan, the powerful leader of the Indian tribes in the coastal areas from the Chesapeake Bay through eastern Virginia to the North Carolina border. Pocahontas was fascinated by John Smith and twice saved his life. In one instance, she laid her head across his chest to protect him.

After being kidnapped by the settlers, Pocahontas fell in love with and married John Rolfe, a plantation owner. Although her father did not attend the wedding, the marriage did help to cement a peace between the settlers and Powhatan Indians. After she had a baby, Rolfe decided to take his family to England where Pocahontas became known as Lady Rebecca and was treated like a princess. As they prepared to return to Virginia, Pocahontas contracted smallpox and died at the age of 22.

