

Hi, I'm
Harriet.



TALKING HISTORY


with

Harriet & Roxanne™

**Jamestown: Virginia's First
Settlement**

And I'm
Roxanne.
Join us for...





Roxanne, today we are going to learn about Virginia's first settlement of Jamestown.



England sent colonists, indentured servants, convicts, children, and eventually slaves to meet the labor shortages in Jamestown.



Harriet, who are these people?



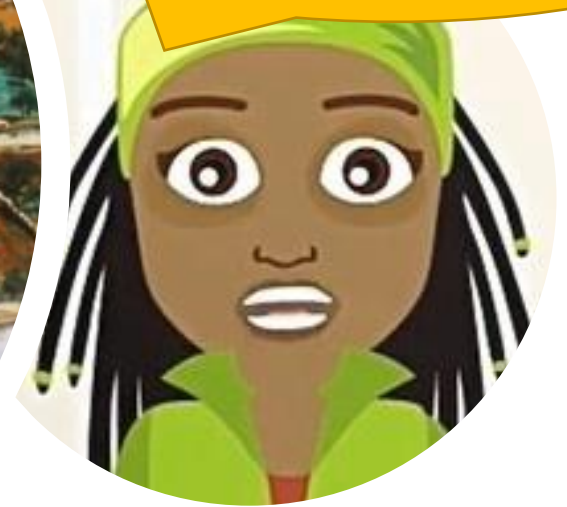
This is the first group of 104 settlers, all men, arriving at Jamestown in 1607.



Is this Jamestown? It looks like a beautiful place to live.



Oh, Roxanne, settlers died of disease, starvation, harsh working conditions, and Indian raids which made it hard to attract new settlers from England. It was a very difficult place to live.





First, settlers came to Jamestown to find gold, but found no gold. They needed a cash crop to send back to England.

John Rolfe arrived in Jamestown in 1610 with tobacco seeds. He started experimenting with the seeds and produced the first commercial tobacco crop in 1613. He found the marshy soil to be perfect for growing the labor-intensive tobacco crop.



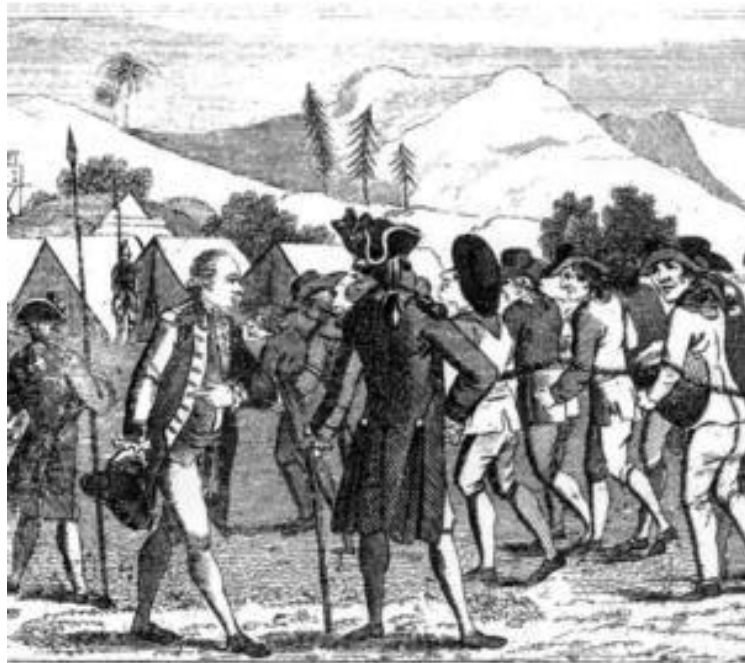


So, how did they get more people to come to Jamestown?

Indentured servitude was the first system that England used. From 1618-1775, between 200,000 to 300,000 indentured servants were sent to the colonies.

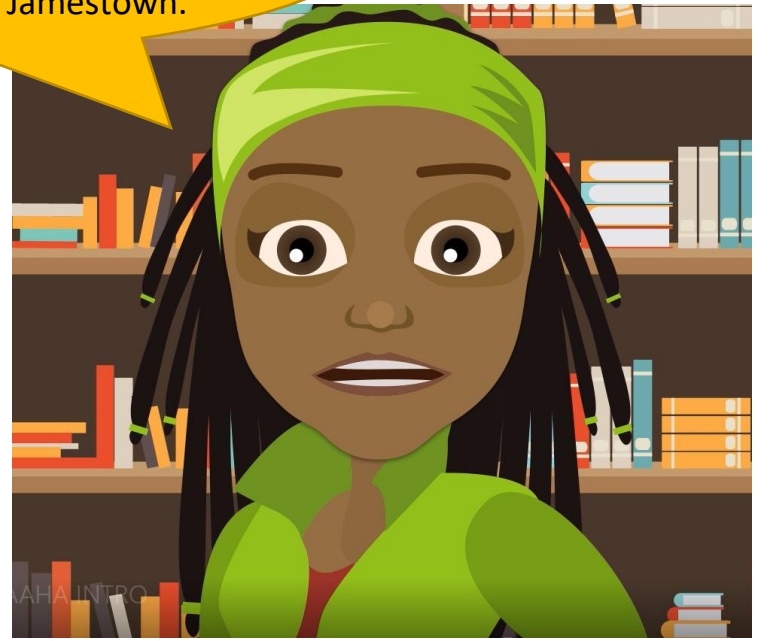
Indentured servants were promised freedom, citizenship, and a land grant of 50 acres for 4 to 7 years of servitude. Some indentured servants worked for more than 15 years without becoming landowners. Only 40% completed their contracts.





THE LANDING of the CONVICTS.

Around 1618, England also started sending convicts, and it is estimated that more than 50,000 convicts, vagabonds and children were sent to Jamestown.





This Indenture Made the *19* Day of *Aug* in
 Year of our LORD GOD One Thousand Seven Hundred *of Sixty*
 BETWEEN *Patrick Larkin Yeoman*
 of the one Party, and *Thomas Blood*

Wright of the other Party, WITNESSETH, That the said
Patrick Larkin (being ordered to be transported, pursuant
 to the Statute) doth hereby Covenant, Promise and Grant to and with the said
Thos. Blood his Executors, Administrators
 and Assigns, from the Day of the Date hereof until the first and next Arrival at
American and after, for and during the Term of
 of *Seven* Years, to serve in such Service and Employment as the said
Thos. Blood or his Assigns shall there employ *him* according to the Custom of that
 Country in the like kind. IN CONSIDERATION whereof the said
Thos. Blood doth hereby
 Covenant and Grant to and with the said *Patrick Larkin*
 to pay for *his* Passage, and to find
 and allow Meat, Drink, Apparel and Lodging, with other Necessaries during
 the said Term. And at the End of the said Term, to pay unto *him*
 the usual Allowance according to the Custom of the Country in the like kind.
 IN WITNESS whereof the Parties abovementioned to these INDENTURES
 have interchangeably set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above
 written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered, *Patrick Larkin*
 in the Presence of
J Taylor Lord Mayor of
 the City of Dublin

This is an indentured contract between servant Patrick Larkin and Master Thomas Blood. The contract is not favorable to Patrick.



Harriet, what is this?





The indentured servants had to worry about harsh working conditions with the labor-intensive tobacco crop and Indian raids when they were working in the fields.





One of the worst Indian raids happened on March 22, 1622, by the Powhatan Indians because the Indians thought their way of life was threatened by the indentured servants.



Roxanne, this is Anthony Johnson who arrived in Jamestown in 1619. He was treated as an indentured servant.



He became a landowner & was one of the first black slave owners.



What? A black man owned slaves in Jamestown? Tell me more.



Anthony Johnson arrived on the English ship, *White Lion*, in 1619. He became a successful headright settler and claimed 250 acres. Anthony prospered and bought more land, livestock, and owned slaves. One of his slaves, John Casor, sued Johnson to gain his freedom, but Johnson won the court case on March 8, 1655, to keep Casor as his slave. This case was the first legal sanction of slavery in the colonies.

The road to slavery was laid through indentured servitude, and by 1830, was replaced by black slaves.

Soon the advertisements in papers would change from arrivals of new indentured servants to finding runaway African slaves.



HANOVER TOWN, *May 12, 1774.*

JUST arrived in *York River*, the *Brilliant*, Captain *Miller*, from *London*, with a Cargo of choice healthy INDENTED SERVANTS, the Sale of which will begin at *Ricmond Town* on *Wednesday* the 25th of *May*, among whom are the following Tradesmen, *viz.* Blacksmiths, Brasiers, Edgetool Makers, Bricklayers and Plaisterers, Shoemakers, Stone Masons, Carpenters, Joiners and Cabinet Makers, Cloth Weavers, Stocking Weavers, Barbers and Peruke makers, Gardeners, Farmers, Labourers and Husbandmen, Book-keepers and Schoolmasters, Tailors, Silk Dyers, Bakers, Painters, Leather Dressers, Sawyers, Butchers, a Steward, Groom, Surgeon, &c. I will sell them very cheap, for ready Money, or Tobacco; and for those on Credit, Bond and Security will be required.

(1) THOMAS SMITH.



As demand for labor increased & indentured servant prices went up, indentured servants were replaced by African slaves.

By the middle of the eighteenth century, slavery formed the heart of the agricultural labor system.





I have a lot to learn about that subject.

Harriet, in the next lesson, we will learn about the history of slavery.

Oh, Harriet look!
Jamal is sharing
"Talking History with
Harriet & Roxanne"
with his son.

That is fantastic! We
invite everyone to join us
to learn more history.





Help us keep educating America about black history. To keep this information coming, consider supporting us by donating at

<https://www.yocumblackhistory.org/donate/>

