Could you have survived?

Why are there so many Jamestown billboards, Ante?

Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in our country, is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year!

That's some costume party!!

In December 1606 the Virginia Company set sail for the new world. There were 108 English settlers on 3 ships full of needed supplies. King James had instructed these men to settle the land and locate gold.

King James I granted these men a charter and they made preparations to sail across the Atlantic Ocean. This group of Englishmen became known as the Virginia Company.

Are we there yet?
ARE WE THERE YET?

NOT YET SCORPY. IT TAKES QUITE SOME TIME TO SAIL ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

LAND HO!

WE HAVE BEEN SAILING ON THIS SHIP FOR MORE THAN 5 MONTHS, BUT WE’VE FINALLY ARRIVED!

IT’S MAY 14, 1607 AND THIS LAND WAS CLAIMED FOR ENGLAND AND NAMED JAMESTOWN ISLAND IN HONOR OF KING JAMES.

THE COLONISTS DECIDED THAT THIS WAS THE BEST LOCATION FOR THEIR SETTLEMENT BECAUSE THEY COULD SEE UP AND DOWN THIS LARGE RIVER. THE WATER NEXT TO THE LAND WAS ALSO DEEP ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE COLONISTS TO ANCHOR THEIR SHIPS CLOSE BY AND YET HAVE AN EASY AND FAST DEPARTURE IF THEY NEEDED.

SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLAN! LET’S GET THIS LAND SETTLED!
OH NO! LOOKS LIKE THE NATIVE AMERICANS ARE NOT HAPPY TO SEE THE SETTLERS.

SOME FELT THAT WAY. THE COLONISTS HAD ONLY BEEN ON SHORE FOR ABOUT 4 DAYS BEFORE A GROUP OF NATIVE AMERICANS ATTACKED. THESE NATIVE AMERICANS WERE PART OF THE POWHATAN TRIBE.

THE COLONISTS DECIDED THAT A FORT NEEDED TO BE BUILT FOR PROTECTION, SO THEY SET ABOUT CHOPPING DOWN TREES AND BUILDING A FORT.

IT CAN'T BE BUILT FAST ENOUGH FOR ME!

THE FORT WAS IN THE SHAPE OF A TRIANGLE AND SURROUNDED A STOREHOUSE, CHURCH, AND A NUMBER OF HOUSES MADE OF WOOD. LIFE IN JAMESTOWN WAS PROVING TO BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN THEY HAD THOUGHT.

LIFE SURE SEEMED EASIER BACK IN ENGLAND!
This is hard work!

You're right, Scroopy. Even simple things like drinking water proved to be difficult for the colonists.

After Jamestown was built, the colonists realized that the fort was built in a marsh and it lacked clean drinking water.

Uh oh! Maybe the water was too salty! Safe drinking water is needed for survival.

The colonists knew nothing about growing crops or hunting. They needed these skills in order to survive.

Things are not looking good!!

The colonists were not well-equipped for these kinds of hardships. Many of the colonists died from starvation and disease.

Sound like the end of Jamestown!!
THINGS ARE NOT LOOKING GOOD FOR THE COLONISTS!

IN 1608, JOHN SMITH BECAME LEADER OF JAMESTOWN. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, JAMESTOWN BEGAN TO GROW STRONGER.

CAPTAIN SMITH IMPOSED A FORCED WORK PROGRAM - IF YOU DID NOT WORK, YOU DID NOT EAT. EACH COLONIST HAD A JOB TO PERFORM.

CAPTAIN SMITH ALSO MADE EACH COLONIST RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN GARDEN.

SOUNDS FAIR TO ME.

IN JUNE OF 1610, 2 SUPPLY SHIPS FROM ENGLAND BROUGHT BADLY NEEDED SUPPLIES AND ADDITIONAL MEN TO HELP MAKE JAMESTOWN STRONGER.

MAYBE IT’S NOT THE END OF JAMESTOWN AFTER ALL.
Before John Smith returned to England, relations with the Powhatans improved significantly, largely because Pocahontas, daughter of the Powhatan Chief, believed they could all get along!

The Powhatans traded furs, food, and leather for pots, tools, and guns. This type of trade helped the settlers at Jamestown survive and flourish.

Thank goodness for the Powhatans!

Tobacco soon became the major cash crop for the colonies. The settlers grew tobacco so they could sell it to England and make money.

The Powhatans also taught the settlers how to grow crops such as corn and tobacco.

Finally, the settlers learn how to farm!

Sounds like the beginning of the American economy with profit motive at work!
Hey there's a church in Jamestown!

This is actually the 3rd church built at Jamestown and history will be made at this church.

Scorpy, do you remember how Jamestown was started as an investment by a group of Englishmen called the Virginia Company?

I remember!

Well the Virginia Company decided that a general assembly should meet "to establish one equal and uniform government over all Virginia" which would provide "just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people there inhabiting."

So on July 30, 1619 a representative assembly met in the Jamestown Church.

Wow, the first representative assembly of the new world! And to think that it all began right here in Virginia!
OH BOY! MORE SUPPLIES!! JAMESTOWN WILL GROW EVEN STRONGER!

IT'S THE FIRST GROUP OF AFRICANS ARRIVING IN 1619. THEY WERE INDENTURED SERVANTS THAT WOULD WORK IN THE TOBACCO FIELDS.

THIS SHIP IS BRINGING MORE THAN JUST SUPPLIES TO JAMESTOWN!

AS INDENTURED SERVANTS, THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO WORK FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME AND THEN THEY WOULD BE FREE TO START THEIR OWN FARM OR TRADE. A FEW YEARS LATER THIS CHANGED AND THEY BECAME SLAVES WITHOUT FREEDOM.

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THAT'S NOT FAIR!!! BUT THERE WAS NEVER ANYTHING FAIR ABOUT SLAVERY!

LOOK, ANOTHER SHIP HAS ARRIVED!

THE YEAR IS NOW 1620 AND 90 WOMEN ARE ARRIVING AT JAMESTOWN.

NOW SETTLERS CAN START FAMILIES WHICH WILL MAKE THE SETTLEMENT MORE PERMANENT!
In 1622, the Powhatans led a series of attacks on many of the English settlements along the James River that had grown outside of Jamestown. This attack caught most of the colonists by surprise and actually wiped out several small settlements outside of Jamestown.

The Powhatans continued to attack the colonists hoping to make them abandon the lands of Virginia and go back to England.

I guess the colonists were determined to stay at Jamestown!
Jamestown continued to struggle to exist and the King thought this was because the Virginia Company poorly managed the colony. By 1624, the King revoked the charter of the Virginia Company and Virginia became a Crown Colony that answered only to him.

So much for independence!

In spite of the King's influence, Jamestown continued to be plagued by problems with drinking water, dirty living conditions, and mosquitoes for many years.

In 1698, the Capitol building at Jamestown burned. This prompted the colonists to move inland to a place where living conditions were better, with good drinking water and fewer mosquitoes.

Moving Jamestown?

In 1699, the Capitol of the Virginia Colony was officially relocated and renamed in honor of King William III.

I knew this place looked familiar! The Capitol was moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg!!