



Teacher's Guide

Jamestown & Yorktown **Drive Thru History/American History**

Grade Levels:

7-12

Subject Areas:

United States History

Synopsis:

In Jamestown, Virginia, Dave recalls the hardships encountered by English settlers who established the colony in 1607. He reviews the biography of Pocahontas and credits the Powhatan Indians with saving the colony from certain disaster. A tour of Colonial Williamsburg allows Dave to explore life as lived in Colonial Times. Standing near canon emplacements at Yorktown, Dave recalls details of the British surrender and Thomas Nelson's role in the Battle of Yorktown.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain where and why English settlers founded Jamestown
- Describe conditions in Jamestown in the first few years of the settlement
- Explain why the Jamestown settlement survived against all odds
- Describe the characteristics of Colonial architecture
- Explain why the Revolutionary Army was victorious at the Battle of Yorktown

Vocabulary:

palisades, brackish water, eulogy, General Cornwallis, General Washington, Battle of Yorktown, Colonial Williamsburg, Colonial Jamestown

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why is Jamestown such an important location in American History?

What other nearby towns date back to the earliest days of American settlement in the New World?

What is so unique about present-day Williamsburg?

Would you like to visit Williamsburg? What buildings in particular would you like to visit? What makes Williamsburg such a charming city to visit?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why was Jamestown established on a swampy peninsula and not on the mainland?

What role did Pocahontas play in the survival of Jamestown and its inhabitants?

What famous quotation was part of Henry Nelson's eulogy? Why was Henry Nelson so well respected? What role did he play in the Battle of Yorktown?

Further Activities:

Further investigate conditions in Jamestown in the first few years of English settlement there.

Find a map of early Jamestown. Use this as a basis for a written description of the colony.

Further investigate the history and culture of the Powhatan Indians.

Further investigate the armaments used at the Battle of Yorktown.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

George Washington

Washington at Valley Forge

Sacagawea series

Colonial Life series