

**PART ONE: Founding the New Nation, c. 33,000 B.C.E.–1783 C.E.**

**DBQ 1**

**The Transformation of Colonial Virginia, 1606–1700**

**Directions:** In this DBQ, you must compose an essay that uses both your interpretation of Documents A–H and your own outside knowledge of the period mentioned in this question.

Over the course of the seventeenth century, the settlers in England’s Virginia colony faced a number of hardships. Examine the challenges the Virginians faced and the ways in which their efforts changed the colony socially and economically over the century.

Use these documents and your knowledge of the period from 1606 to 1700 to compose your answer.

**Document A: Michael Drayton,  
“Ode to the Virginian Voyage,” 1606**

You brave heroic minds,  
Worthy your country’s name,  
That honour still pursue,  
Go and subdue!  
Whilst loit’ring hinds  
Lurk here at home with shame.

Britons, you stay too long;  
Quickly aboard bestow you,  
.....

And cheerfully at sea  
Success you still entice  
To get the pearl and gold,  
And ours to hold  
Virginia,  
Earth’s only paradise!

Where nature hath in store  
Fowl, venison, and fish,  
And the fruitful’st soil,  
Without your toil,  
Three harvests more,  
All greater than your wish.

And the ambitious vine  
Crowns with his purple mass,  
The cedar reaching high  
To kiss the sky,  
The cypress, pine,  
And useful sassafras;

To whose the golden age  
Still nature’s laws doth give;  
No other cares that tend  
But them to defend  
From winter’s age,  
That long there doth not live.

.....  
In kenning [appearance] of the shore,  
Thanks to God first given,  
O you, the happiest men,  
Be frolic then!  
Let cannons roar  
Frighting the wide heaven.

And in regions far  
Such heroes bring ye forth,  
As those from whom we came;  
And plant our name  
Under that star  
Not known unto our north.

**Document B**  
Source: George Percy, *A Discourse on the Plantation of Virginia*, c. 1612.

Our men were destroyed with cruel diseases as swellings, burning fevers, and by wars, and some departed suddenly, but for the most part they died of mere famine. There were never Englishmen left in a foreign country in such misery as we were in this new discovered Virginia.

**Document C**

Source: Early tobacco advertisement.

**Document D: Richard Frethorne, letter to his father and mother, 20 March and 2 & 3 April 1623**Source: Susan Kingsbury, ed., *The Records of the Virginia Company of London* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935), 4: 58–62.**LOVING AND KIND FATHER AND MOTHER:**

This is to let you understand that [this] country . . . causeth much sickness, [including] the scurvy and [dysentery] and diverse other diseases, which maketh the body very poor and weak. And when we are sick there is nothing to comfort us[.] As for deer or venison I never saw any since I came into this land. There is indeed some fowl, but we are not allowed to go and get it, but must work hard both early and late for a mess of water gruel and a mouthful of bread and beef. A mouthful of bread . . . must serve for four men which is most pitiful. . . . [P]eople cry out day and night—Oh! That they were in England[;] to be in England again. . . . [W]e live in fear of the enemy every hour, yet we have had a combat with them . . . and we took two alive and made slaves of them. . . . [W]e are in great danger; for our plantation [Martin's Hundred] is very weak by reason of the death and sickness of our company [of men], and yet we are but 32 to fight against 3000 if they should come. And the [nearest] help that we have is ten mile of us, and when the rogues overcame this place [earlier] they slew 80 persons. . . .

**Document E**

Source: Father Andrew White, blank contract for indentured servant, 1635.

This indenture made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ yeere of our Sovereaign Lord King Charles, &c. betweene \_\_\_\_\_ of the one party, and \_\_\_\_\_ on the other party, Witnesseth, that the said \_\_\_\_\_ doth hereby covenant promise, and grant, to and with the said \_\_\_\_\_ his Executors and Assignes, to serve him from the day of the date hereof, until his first and next arrivall . . . and after for and during the tearme of yeeres, \_\_\_\_\_ in such service and employment, as he the said \_\_\_\_\_ or his assignes shall there imploy him, according to the custome of the Country in the like kind. In consideration whereof, the said \_\_\_\_\_ doth promise and grant, to and with the said \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for his passing, and to find him with Meat, Drinke, Apparell and Lodging, with other necessaries during the said terme; and at the end of the said terme, to give him one whole yeeres provision of Corne, and fifty acres of Land, according to the order of the country.

**Document F: Earthenware vessels made at Jamestown between 1625 and 1640**Source: John Cotter and J. Paul Hudson, *New Discoveries at Jamestown*, National Park Service, 1957.

Project Gutenberg eBook of New Discoveries at Jamestown

**Document G**

Source: Report of Governor William Berkeley of Virginia to the Crown, 1671.

**Question:** What number of planters, servants, and slaves; and how many parishes are there in your plantation?

**Answer:** We suppose, and I am very sure we do not much miscount, that there is in Virginia above forty thousand persons, men, women, and children, and of which there are two thousand black slaves, six thousand Christian servants [indentured] for a short time. The rest are born in the country or have come in to settle and seat, in bettering their condition in a growing country.

**Question:** What number of English, Scots, or Irish have for these seven years last past come yearly to plant and inhabit within your government; as also what blacks or slaves have been brought in within the said time?

**Answer:** Yearly, we suppose there comes in, of servants, about fifteen hundred, of which most are English, few Scotch, and fewer Irish, and not above two or three ships of Negroes in seven years.

**Document H: Virginia statutes pertaining to slavery passed by the Virginia Assembly, 1639–1691**

January 1639/40 - ALL persons except negroes to be provided with arms and ammunition . . . at pleasure of the Governor and Council.

December 1662 - Be it therefore enacted . . . , that all children borne in this country shalbe held bond or free only according to the condition of the mother. . . .

September 1667 - It is enacted . . . that the conferring of baptisme doth not alter the condition of the person as to his bondage or freedom. . . .

April 1691 - WHEREAS many times negroes, mulattoes, and other slaves unlawfully absent themselves from their masters and mistresses service, and lie hid and lurk in obscure places killing hoggs and committing other injuries to the inhabitants of this dominion, . . . Be it enacted . . . , that the sherrife [shall] apprehend such negroes, mulattoes, and other slaves, . . . and in case any negroes, mulattoes or other slaves or slaves . . . shall resist, runaway, or refuse to deliver and surrender him or themselves to any person or persons. . . , it shall . . . be lawfull for such person and persons to kill and distroy such negroes, mulattoes, and other slave or slaves. . . .

Provided that where any negroe or mulattoe slave or slaves shall be killed in pursuance of this act, the owner or owners of such negro or mulatto slave shall be paid for such negro or mulatto slave four thousand pounds of tobacco by the publique. . . .

Be it enacted . . . , whatsoever English or other white man or woman being free shall intermarry with a negroe, mulatto, or Indian man or woman bond or free shall within three months after such marriage be banished and removed from this dominion forever. . . .