

Breaking it down:

Instructions to Jamestown's first settlers

You'll be reading the actual instructions from the London Company to the first 144 Jamestown settlers. As you read, use this guide to help break down the 400-year-old document.

Your instructions (to be completed **as you read**):

1. **Circle** or **underline** every word you don't know, right on the sheet.
 2. **Note** the most important point of each paragraph **with a star**.
 3. After reading each paragraph, try to visualize what's being said. What do you see in your mind? Does what you're reading remind you of anything? What's confusing to you? Can you predict what you'll read next?
 - a. **Circle** one of the prompts below
 - b. **Write** what you're thinking. Sentence fragments and notes are OK here, but be sure to organize your thoughts.
 4. **Summarize** the paragraph **with a sentence** of your own.
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Paragraph 1

I predict / visualize / am reminded of /
am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 4

I predict / visualize / am reminded of /
am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 2

I predict / visualize / am reminded of /
am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 5

I predict / visualize / am reminded of /
am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 3

I predict / visualize / am reminded of /
am confused by

This paragraph says...

Paragraph 6

I predict / visualize / am reminded of /
am confused by

This paragraph says...

Instructions from the London Company to Jamestown settlers

November, 1606

- Paragraph 1 As We Doubt not but you will have especial Care to Observe the Ordinances set Down by the Kings Majestie and Delivered unto you under the privy Seal So for your better Directions upon your first Landing we have thought Good to recommend unto your care these Instructions and articles following.
- Paragraph 2 When it Shall please God to Send you on the Coast of Virginia, you shall Do your best Endeavour to find out a Safe port in the Entrance of Some navigable River, making Choise of Such a one as runneth farthest into the Land, and if you happen to Discover Divers portable Rivers, and amongst them any one that hath two main branches, if the Difference be not Great, make Choise of that which bendeth most toward the Northwest for that way shall You soonest find the Other Sea[.]
- Paragraph 3 When you have made Choise of the river on which you mean to Settle, be not hasty in Landing your Victuals and munitions but first Let Captain Newport Discover how far that River may be found navigable that you make Election of the Strongest, most Fertile and wholesome place for if you make many Removes besides the Loss of time You Shall greatly Spoil your Victuals and Your cask[s] and with Great pain transport it in Small boats
- Paragraph 4 But if you choose your place so far up as A Bark of fifty tuns will fleet then you may Lay all Your provisions a Shore with Ease, and the better Receive the trade of all the Countries about you in the Land and Such A place you may perchance find a hundred miles from the Rivers mouth, and the further up the better for if you sit Down near the Entrance Except it be in Some Island that is Strong by nature An Enemy that may approach you on Even Ground, may Easily pull You Out and if he be Driven to Seek You a hundred miles within the Land in boats, you shall from both sides of your River where it is Narrowest
- Paragraph 5 So beat them with Your muskets as they shall never be Able to prevail Against You. And to the end That You be not Surprised as the French were in Florida by Melindus and the Spaniard in the same place by the French you shall Do Well to make this Double provision first Erect a Little Sconce at the Mouth of the River that may Lodge Some ten men With Whom you Shall Leave a Light boat that when any fleet shall be in Sight they may Come with Speed to Give You Warning.
- Paragraph 6 Secondly you must in no Case Suffer any of the natural people of the Country to inhabit between You and the Sea Coast for you Cannot Carry Your Selves so towards them but they will Grow Discontented with Your habitation and be ready to guide and assist any Nation that Shall Come to invade You and if You neglect this You neglect Your Safety.