Why didn’t England colonize in the 1500’s?
- Religious conflict – King Henry VII, 1530s, split with catholic church
- Spain was an ally until midway through 1500s.
-- Elizabeth becomes queen 1558, Protestantism secured, growing conflict with Spain (Catholic nation)
- Ireland Conflict (Irish Catholics uprisings)
Francis Drake – pirate ("sea dog") signifies British attempt to compete with Spain for gold and power. Elizabeth backed him in secret, making lots of money from pirating for investors.

Sir Humphry Gilbert – lost life at sea in 1598, signifies beginning of British efforts to colonize as he was headed for New World.

Both NOT oldest sons… what does this signify?
Sir Walter Raleigh, 1585
Roanoke Island, North Carolina
Colony disappeared

English embarrassed… determined…
Phillip II, prepared his Spanish Armada, “Invincible Armada” to crush Protestantism in 1588. English dominated and won with superior ships and the “Protestant Wind”.

Marked the beginning of the end for Spain (although took a while for them to lose colonies to independence/war).

Very important turning point for England… and the development of America.

1604 Treaty of Peace between England and Spain.
Reasons England Jumped into Colonization, 1600’s

Enclosure → Primogeniture → Overcrowding → Unemployed → Beggars

Keep in mind:
By 1607, the New World had already been transformed by the immense Spanish and Portuguese colonization and the influx of European crops and livestock (ecological revolution)

North America largely unexplored
Spanish – Sante Fe 1610
French – Quebec 1608
English – Virginia 1607
JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA 1607
The Charter of the Virginia Company

Funded by Joint Stock Company, forerunner of corporation

The Virginia Company of London w/ Charter from King James I

Promise of gold encouraged investors along with finding northern passage to Asia

CHARTER VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT
Guaranteed Englishmen rights
3 ships arrive at Chesapeake and are attacked by Indians

(mouth of Chesapeake)

Travel up James River, found site, easy to defend, but mosquito infested

100 men, no women

40 die on the voyage
Jamestown Chapel, 1611

Jamestown Church built in 1611
Those who will not work, will not eat!

Smith became leader in 1608, whipped those lazy aristocrats into shape… although they still struggled (eating dogs, cats, mice, corpses, (one man ate his wife and was executed)

Returned to England 1609 after being injured

There was no talk... but dig gold, wash gold, refine gold, load gold...
Powhatan dominated a few dozen small tribes in the James River area when the English arrived.

Powhatan probably saw the English as allies in his struggles to control other Indian tribes in the region.

Powhatan staged a mock execution of John Smith to display his power.

Pocahontas became intermediary.
1606-1607 → 40 people died on the voyage to the New World.

1609 → another ship from England lost its leaders and supplies in a shipwreck off Bermuda.

Settlers died by the dozens!

“Gentlemen” colonists would not work themselves.

Settlers wasted time looking for gold instead of hunting or farming.

1607: 104 colonists

By spring, 1608: 38 survived

1609: 300 more immigrants

By spring, 1610: **60 survived**

1610 – 1624: 10,000 immigrants

1624 population: 1,200

Adult life expectancy: 40 years

Death of children before age 5: 80%
Ordered escaping settlers back to Jamestown 1610 and imposed military style leadership

Aggressive against Indians; Irish tactics against the savages

Relations between Indians & settlers grew worse.

General mistrust because of different cultures & languages.

English raided Indian food supplies during the starving times.

1610-1614 → First Anglo-Powhatan War

De La Warr had orders to make war on the Indians.

Raided villages, burned houses, took supplies, burned cornfields.

1614 peace sealed by the marriage of Pocahontas to Englishman John Rolfe.
What finally made the colony prosperous??

1618 — Virginia produces 20,000 pounds of tobacco.
1622 — Despite losing nearly one-third of its colonists in an Indian attack, 60,000 pounds
1627 — 500,000 pounds
1629 — 1,500,000 pounds

Tobacco’s effect on Virginia’s economy:

- Vital role in putting VA on a firm economic footing.
- Ruinous to soil when continuously planted.
- Chained VA’s economy to a single crop.
- Tobacco promoted the use of the plantation system.
- Need for cheap, abundant labor.
1622-1644 → periodic attacks between Indians and settlers. Powhatan Uprising killing 347 [including John Rolfe]. Virginia Co. called for a “perpetual war” against the Native Americans.

Raidส reduced native population and drove them further westward.

1644-1646 → Second Anglo-Powhatan War, Indians defeated again.

Peace Treaty of 1646

Removed the Powhatans from their original land.

Formally separated Indian and English settlement areas.
Tobacco created need for labor: indentured servants

Each Virginian got 50 acres for each person whose passage they paid.

Indenture Contract:

5-7 years.

Promised “freedom dues” (land)

Forbidden to marry.

1610-1614: only 1 in 10 outlived their indentured contracts!

increased the division between the wealthy land-owners and the working poor.

Extended only to males.

Indentured servants were granted land inland, which was near the natives. This migration produced conflict between the natives and the indentured servants.

Later, Bacon's Rebellion was sparked by tensions between the natives, settlers, and indentured servants.
The House of Burgesses established in 1619 & began to assume the role of the House of Commons in England

   Control over finances, militia, etc., led by planters (men)

By the end of the 1600s, was able to initiate legislation.

First Africans arrived in Jamestown in 1619.

   Their status was not clear → perhaps slaves, perhaps indentured servants.

   Slavery not that important until the end of the 1600s.

   Slavery transformed from economic to economic and racial institution.

   Early 1600s → differences between slave and servant were unclear.

By the mid-1680s, black slaves outnumbered white indentured servants.
James I grew hostile to Virginia

He hated tobacco.

He distrusted the House of Burgesses which he called a seminary of sedition.

1624 → he revoked the charter of the bankrupt VA Company.

Thus, VA became a royal colony, under the king’s direct control!