

## **Sample Jamestown Paragraph: Conflict was not inevitable**

Poor conditions in England motivated people to settle in Virginia but those people could have had a peaceful existence with the Powhatan. England was in bad shape in the 1600's because it was overpopulated and very poor. There were some wealthy people but they owned most of the land and most people were landless and poor. Many beggars lived in the streets of the cities and the life of the average English person was pretty miserable. All of these factors motivated many English people to seek a better life in the New World and many came to settle in Jamestown which was England's first permanent colony in America. Even though Virginia was already owned and populated by the Powhatan tribe, the two groups of people could have found a way to get along. It was in the interest of both groups to get along since both groups gained from cooperation. Virginia was not as crowded as England so there was room for the English to settle down. The English easily could have negotiated with the Powhatan to be allies and to trade with each other to ensure a peaceful future. The Powhatan had his goals which were to stay in power and have powerful allies and cooperating with the English was the best way to do it. The two groups fought because they planned poorly but conflict was not inevitable simply because England was a poor place.