

Was Jamestown a fiasco essay



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JAMESTOWN WAS A FIASCO I feel with reading both sides of the argument I still have to agree with Morgan and saying that Jamestown was a true Lupe fiasco. The mistakes made by the early settlers at Jamestown, which threatened their survival. In fact the first day that the Europeans came over and the Indians of the Cape Henry region, when they found a party of twenty or thirty strangers walking around on their territory, drove them back to the ships they came on so there first in counter with the new world natives was not great.

Also they didn't harvest for themselves, but rely on Indians. During the winter of 1609-10, things could have been better, yet 500 settlers were starving from lack of harvesting. The result is that they showed one and only authentic examples of cannibalism witnessed in Virginia. Part of this reason being that of the 105 settlers who started the colony, 36 could be classified as gentlemen. In the first supply of the 120 additional settlers, 28 were gentlemen, and in the second 70 again 28 were gentlemen. These gentlemen as England had.

Gentle by definition, had no manual skill, nor could they be expected to work at ordinary labor. They were supposed to be useful for the force of knowledge". But to have 90 wise men offering advice while a few hundred did the work was inauspicious. By the spring, only sixty of them were left alive. Also, Indians gave them trouble time to time. What Captain Christopher Newport did as soon as he landed was building a fort and trying to make friends with Indians. Yet, when he came back, he found that two hundred of Powhatan's warriors had attacked the fort.

Even afterward, uneasiness with Indians continues throughout. Nonetheless, important thing to notice is that many mistakes of settlers are offspring of the poor organization and direction of the colony. The way leaders were picked didn't help the colony, not to mention that the council members spent most of their time bickering and intriguing against one another. Later, John Smith came to rescue by putting people to work, but that changed again when the Virginia Company came to take over. Smith's confidence in himself and his willingness to act while others talked overcame most of the handicaps imposed by the feeble frame of government. It was Smith who kept the colony going those years. But in doing so he dealt more decisively with the Indians than with his own quarreling countrymen, and he gave initial turn to the colony's Indian relations that was not quite what the company had intended. Smith, the son of a yeoman, kept the colony going and dealt with Indians. It is Smith who kept colony going by forcing people to work on harvesting until the Virginia Company came to take over the authority.

The colonists started to plant tobacco, and in 1617, ten years after the first landing in the Jamestown, they shipped their first cargo to England. The so-called Lawes Divine, Morall and Martiall, set the colonists to work with military discipline and no pretense of gentle government. There was an extraordinary number of gentlemen. Jamestown settlers were unable to feed themselves because they were unwilling to work for food. Reorganization of 1609 changed it.

It also did not even contemplate that the Indians would become a part of the English settlement. The troubles of Jamestown had been modified again and again until the discovery of tobacco, which is why it lasted without facing

extinction.. ” When Smith told them that it’s choice between working or starving, the death rate dropped dramatically on later winter. It had been known from the Roanoke experience, that the Indians grew and smoked tobacco; and tobacco grown in the Spanish West Indies was already being imported into England