

Why did so many
colonists die by
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Imagine sitting there and watching your friends die one by one. So many of the colonists died because first of all the colonists weren't prepared for the conditions and the environment. Second the Englishmen didn't calculate well enough to support all the colonists. Everyone in Jamestown didn't know what they would face. The harsh environment of Jamestown began to show its effects throughout the settlement.

The secondary source, document E "Chronology of English Mortality" shows that a lot of colonists died from sickness, such as malaria. Also Document A says the water was really brackish meaning the water was salty and could cause nausea. Additionally the waste products in the water were not being flushed away with the tides. Document B states that when the colonists arrived in Jamestown was already in a drought. Due to this reason the lack of rainfall made it nearly impossible to grow crops. The environment wouldn't have been so aggravating if the settlers had been prepared.

Being an uneducated "gentlemen" made Jamestown suffer. Document C shows multiple pieces of evidence supporting the fact that the settlers were unskilled. First of all Document C shows that almost half of the men were "gentlemen" and didn't have a job. Also in document C most of the settlers held occupations that were unnecessary for a new colony. For example wig makers and tailors were recruited instead of important positions such as surgeons, farmers, and blacksmiths.