

Maine's First Ship
How do You Build a Colony?

Unit Summary: In this unit, designed for the 5-8 grade classroom, students will explore the roles of the colonizers of Fort St. George in 1607. The activities has been designed to allow students to incorporate the use of primary sources, hands-on learning, and various learning styles as they solve the problems faced by the men of the arriving at the mouth of the Kennebec River with George Popham.

Goals: Students will demonstrate their achievement of specific performance indicators of the standards of the Maine Learning Results. This unit integrates performance indicators from four content areas, including social studies, math, science and English language arts.

Objectives: Students will develop maps, charts, written work, and models.

Correlation with Maine Learning Results:

Social Studies Civics and Government A 1
History A 1, B 2, C1
Geography A 1
Economics A 1

Math Geometry E 4
Patterns, Relations, Functions G 1

Science Inquiry and Problem-Solving J 1
Communication L 4, 5, 6

English Process of Reading A 7, 11
Language Arts Standard English Conventions F, 1
Research-Related Writing and Speaking F 1, H 6 - 9

Materials:

Lesson 1 - Primary sources

- a. The Genesis of the United States, 1605-1616, by Alexander Brown, pp. 79-85.
- b. Journal entry, by John Davis, the master of the Mary and John

Secondary sources (available on the website)

- a. Setting the Scene: A Brief Historical Overview
- b. The Popham Colony

Glossary (available on the website)

Various American History and/or Maine History textbooks

Websites

- a. <http://www.mainesfirstship.org/>
- b. <http://www.apva.org/history/>
- c. <http://www.plimoth.org/index.html>
- d. <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/gyx/climate.shtml>

Lesson 2 - Primary source

The Genesis of the United States, 1605-1616, by Alexander Brown, p. 82

Excel (or other spreadsheet program)

or

Rulers, compass, protractor for those without computer access

Lesson 3 - Coast of Maine map

Lesson 4 - Scale map of Fort St. George (included)

Rulers

Calculators

Tape

Small twigs (no more than ¼" dia.)

Dried grass (longer is better)

Scissors

Poster board or oaktag

Daub recipe (available in the FOOD unit resources)

Lesson 1

Comparing and Contrasting 2 Colonies

Directions: After reading various primary sources and gathering information from secondary sources, prepare a Venn diagram of the Popham and Jamestown colonies. Some areas you might want to analyze are: food, climate, shelter, relations with the native population, the colonists' skills and abilities, leadership, etc. Use the information you present to answer the questions below.

Lesson 1

Comparing and Contrasting 2 Colonies

1. In your opinion, what are the three leading indicators for a successful colony? ('Successful' is defined by the colonists' willingness to remain in North America.)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 2. If you were financing an expedition to found a colony in North America, what three characteristics would you look for in the people you were sending?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 3. What do you think was the biggest factor in the success of Jamestown and the failure of Popham?
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Lesson 2

The Roles of the Popham Colonists

Directions: Use the information from *The Genesis of the United States, 1605-1616*, by Alexander Brown, p. 82. Prepare an Excel spreadsheet using the information found about the jobs the colonists were to accomplish. Use this data to prepare a pie graph. Be sure to title and label your graph!

Alternate directions for those without computer access: Use the information from *The Genesis of the United States, 1605-1616*, by Alexander Brown, p. 82. Find out how many colonists were to accomplish the various duties. Translate this data into percentages and prepare a pie graph, using a calculator, compass, and ruler.

Traditional Worksheet

Lesson 3

Ahoy, Mates!

Directions: During August 6-29, 1607, the Popham colonists set out to explore the coastline. The written directions are below. Record their route by using a Maine Atlas by DeLorme, for example.

Popham Colony -Explorer's Route

* How many *nautical* miles did they sail? _____
(1 nautical mile = 6080 feet)

Lesson 4

The Ship's Log

A ship's log was a record of the ship's voyage. These records survive today and much of our historical knowledge of sea travel and explorations is based on what was written 200, 300, or even 400 years ago. Even today, US Navy ships keep logs. The information in them is very valuable.

Imagine you are Raleigh Gilbert, commanding the voyage. Based on your knowledge of the exploratory trip the colonists took August 6-29, 1607, the places they visited, information from textbooks or on-line, write a ship's log for the trip.

Your log must include entries for at least 10 days (although to be truly authentic, you should include an entry for each day of the journey). It should include most of these topics each day:

1. Date
2. Latitude
3. Weather -Weather records for 1607 are difficult to find!
You can use <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/gyx/climate.shtml> for recent weather trends.
4. Condition of the vessel (sails, lines)
5. Plant and animal life observed, either in the water or on land
6. Evidence of other exciting or interesting items

Lesson 5

Roll Up Those Shirtsleeves!

The colonists began building Fort St. George shortly after their arrival in August 1607. The storehouse was the first building constructed. The map shows its placement and, interestingly, its 3-dimensional design. You will build a scale model of the storehouse, using the dimensions from John Hunt's map (available below).

According to the map, the storehouse was to be 76' long and 19' wide. Excavations at the site have determined the storehouse to be only 70' long. Apparently the builders changed the plans somewhat. We will use the map as our design model. Therefore, the scale for your model will be ¼":1'.

Directions: 1. Figure your dimensions:

Map measurement Scale measurement

Length 76 feet

Width 19 feet

Height 9 feet

2. Cut your poster board. (Patterns may be provided - they are included.)

You may cut a door in one end. (The storehouse did have windows. Do not cut them out - the walls of the model need strength!) Tape walls of the

construction together. Do not construct the roof yet!

3. Prepare daub:

4. Place 2 twigs upright at each corner. Use daub to stick them. Then evenly place six upright twigs along each side wall. Again, stick them there with daub.

5. Now, place very skinny twigs lengthwise along the walls. You will need to cover the wall with twigs (wattle) and daub. No poster board should show!

6. Tape triangular roof ends in place. Fill with wattle and daub.

7. Fold the roof piece in half lengthwise. Place over the storehouse and tape to hold in place.

8. Cut pieces of straw (dried grass) into 2" lengths. Use daub again and 'glue' the straw to the roof. Let it overlap. It should cover the roof completely.

You have completed your 1607 Fort St. George storehouse!

Resources

Hunt's Map of Fort St. George

Pattern for Storehouse

Note: Roof piece should be cut to measure 19" X 6.75". It will be folded in half.
Cut 2 building sides, 2 building ends, 2 roof ends.

Primary Sources

1. Journal entry, John Davis, master of the Mary and John, 1607

"This night folloying about mydnyght Capt. Gilbert caused his ships bott to be manned and took to himselfe 13 other my Selffe geinge on (e), being 14 persons in all, and tooke the Indian Skidwarres wth us the weather beinge fairr and the wynd Calme we rowed to the Weste in amongst many gallant Illands and found the ryver of pemaquid to be but 4 Leags weste from the Illand we call St. Georges whear our ships remained at Anckor. hear we landed in a Lyttell Cove by skyd warres Direction and marched over a necke of the Land near three mills. [bold added] so the Indian skidwarres brought us to the Salvages housses whear they did inhabitt although much against his will for that he told us that they wear all removed and gon from the place they wear wont to inhabitt. but we answered hem again that we wold nott retorn backe untill shutch time as we had spoken with Som of them. At Length he brought us whear they did inhabytt whear we found near a hundredth of them men wemen and Children. (Excerpted from Relation of a Voyage to Sagadahoc by J. Davis reprinted in Proper, Monhegan the Cradle of New England, pg. 100).

2. The Genesis of the United States, 1605-1616, Alexander Brown, 1890, pp.79-85

3. American History textbooks, Maine State Textbooks

4. Map of the Maine coastline

Assessments

(adapted from Prentice Hall World Explorer)

Rubric for Assessing a Graphic Organizer

Rubric for Assessing a Map

Rubric for Assessing a Model

Rubric for Assessing a Circle Graph

Rubric for Assessing a Journal

