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U.S. History

Essay on John Smith

In 1607 John Smith arrived at a struggling Jamestown. Jamestown was a sad place. Six of the one hundred and five people died in a month because there was not enough food for them to live. I believe that if John Smith, an ex-military man, had not been in the Jamestown Colony the Jamestown Colony would have failed. Had that happened, the British parliament might have discontinued the colony.

The leaders of Jamestown were weak before John Smith arrived. The leaders before John Smith were rich people who did not know how to live without servants. Colonists were starving. The people at Jamestown refused to work so John Smith took control.

His bold leadership, military experience, and determination brought some discipline to the colonists. Smith declared, "He that will not work shall not eat," and forced the colonists to plant crops, repair the fort, develop products like pitch and soap ash for export.

John Smith built relationships with the local tribes like the Powhatans. To build a trust with the Powhatans, John Smith was willing to participate in a ritual that could have killed him. By doing this he built trust and the Powatans helped the colonists.

The early colonists did not trust John Smith but they still worked with him. John Smith was the only one who saw what was needed and led the early colonists so they were able to survive. Therefore, if it hadn't been for Smith the colony might easily have failed and history would have been a completely different story.