

PART ONE: Founding the New Nation, c. 33,000 B.C.–A.D. 1783

DBQ 1

The Transformation of Colonial Virginia, 1606–1700

Directions: In this DBQ, you must compose an essay that uses both your interpretation of Documents A–E and your own outside knowledge of the period mentioned in this question.

Under the governance of a London-based corporation, hundreds of settlers flocked to the Virginia colony in 1606 in search of wealth and treasure. They encountered untold hardships. Over the next century these colonists and those that followed transformed Virginia into one of England's most important North American colonies. Examine the challenges the Virginians faced and the ways in which their efforts changed the colony socially and economically over the century.

Use these documents and your knowledge of the period from 1606–1700 to compose your answer.

Document A

Source: George Percy, *A Discourse on the Plantation of Virginia*, c. 1612.

Our men were destroyed with cruel diseases as swellings, burning fevers, and by wars, and some departed suddenly, but for the most part they died of mere famine. There were never Englishmen left in a foreign country in such misery as we were in this new discovered Virginia.

Document B

Source: Early tobacco advertisement



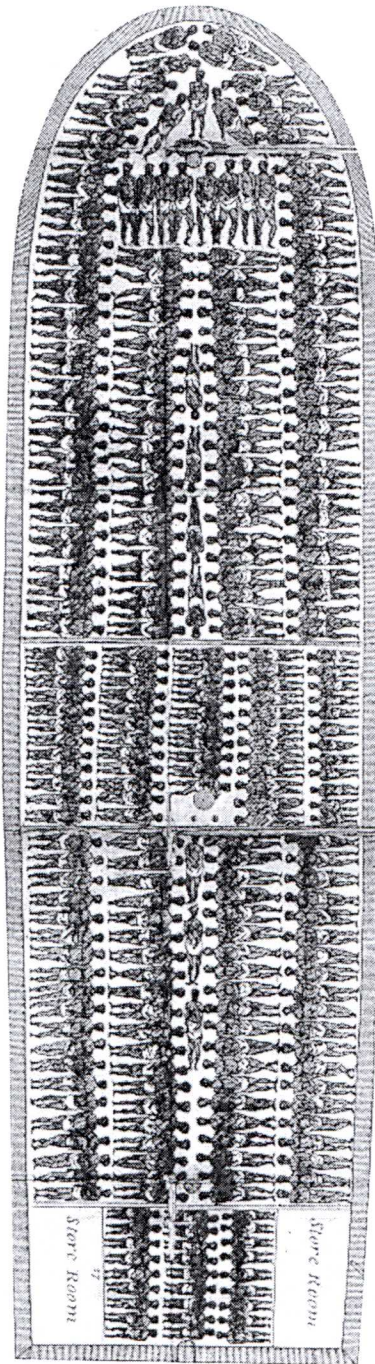
Document C

Source: Father Andrew White, blank contract for indentured servant, 1635.

This indenture made the _____ day of _____ in the _____ yeere of our Sovereigne Lord King Charles, &c. betweene _____ of the one party, and _____ on the other party, Witnesseth, that the said _____ doth hereby covenant promise, and grant, to and with the said _____ his Executors and Assignes, to serve him from the day of the date hereof, until his first and next arrivall . . . and after for and during the tearme of _____ yeeres, in such service and employment, as he the said _____ or his assignes shall there imploy him, according to the custome of the Countrey in the like kind. In consideration whereof, the said _____ doth promise and grant, to and with the said _____ to pay for his passing, and to find him with Meat, Drinke, Apparell and Lodging, with other necessaries during the said terme; and at the end of the said terme, to give him one whole yeeres provision of Corne, and fifty acres of Land, according to the order of the country.

Document D

Middle passage ship, date unknown.

**Document E**

Source: Report of Governor William Berkeley of Virginia to the Crown, 1671.

Question: What number of planters, servants, and slaves; and how many parishes are there in your plantation?

Answer: We suppose, and I am very sure we do not much miscount, that there is in Virginia above forty thousand persons, men, women, and children, and of which there are two thousand black slaves, six thousand Christian servants [indentured] for a short time. The rest are born in the country or have come in to settle and seat, in bettering their condition in a growing country.

Question: What number of English, Scots, or Irish have for these seven years last past come yearly to plant and inhabit within your government; as also what blacks or slaves have been brought in within the said time?

Answer: Yearly, we suppose there comes in, of servants, about fifteen hundred, of which most are English, few Scotch, and fewer Irish, and not above two or three ships of Negroes in seven years.