

Colonizing America

In the early 1600's England wanted to start an English **colony**, a settlement ruled by a distant country, in America. England saw colonizing America as a way to increase its wealth and power. They wanted to get the **raw materials**, any resource that can be used to make products that could not be obtained in England and open new markets for trade, making money from them. They were also hoping to find **silver** and **gold**.

Colony - a settlement ruled by a distant country
raw materials - any resource that can be used to make products

In order for the English to colonize America, they needed to receive permission. King James I gave the **Virginia Company of London**, a group of English gentlemen that wanted to colonize America, permission to start a colony in the form of a charter. A **charter** is written permission or authority to do something. This charter gave the Virginia Company of London permission to: 1) establish a settlement in North America and 2) extend English rights to settlers.

Virginia Company of London - A group of English gentlemen that wanted to colonize America.

The Virginia Company found 104 men to start their colony, and near the end of 1606 they set sail for America.