

Jamestown, VA settlement Secondary Source Readings
Morgan v. Kupperman

Answer the following in complete sentences and provide specific details/evidence from the readings.

Morgan, “Jamestown Fiasco” (1975) questions

1. Why was the Jamestown colony doomed to fail in the first year? What evidence does Morgan use to make this argument?
2. According to Morgan, why did the colony fail in the succeeding two years after 1607, and what did the colonists do that worsened the problem? What evidence does Morgan use?
3. Why were there punishments for leaving Jamestown, trading with outsiders, or living with Native Americans?
4. What were the “starving times”? Could the English colonists have survived the winter of 1609 without resorting to the extreme measures they did?
5. What finally was done that made Jamestown profitable/successful?
6. What is Morgan’s main thesis/argument? Was it effective, credible or persuasive? Why or why not?

Kupperman, “The Jamestown Project” (2007) questions

1. According to Kupperman, why do Americans prefer “to think of Plymouth colony in New England as our true foundation”?
2. What is Kupperman’s main thesis/argument?
3. What evidence does Kupperman use that agrees with Morgan? Provide at least 2 examples.
4. What evidence does Kupperman use that disagrees with Morgan? Provide at least 2 examples.
5. Which historian—Kupperman or Morgan--made the most effective, credible, or persuasive argument based on the evidence you read?
6. What lessons can we learn from the Jamestown settlement? In what ways does the story still matter today?