

# Jamestown Settlement Artifact Odyssey

As you explore Jamestown Settlement's galleries and outdoor areas, discover how historians use nature, artifacts, images and words to learn more about the people and places of 17th century Virginia!



When you see this:



Search for these answers in "A New World: England's First View of America", a special exhibition from the British Museum.



Search for these answers in the Jamestown Settlement Gallery.

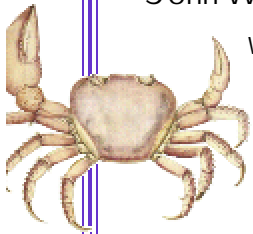


Search for these answers in the outdoor living-history areas.

# A New World: England's First View of America

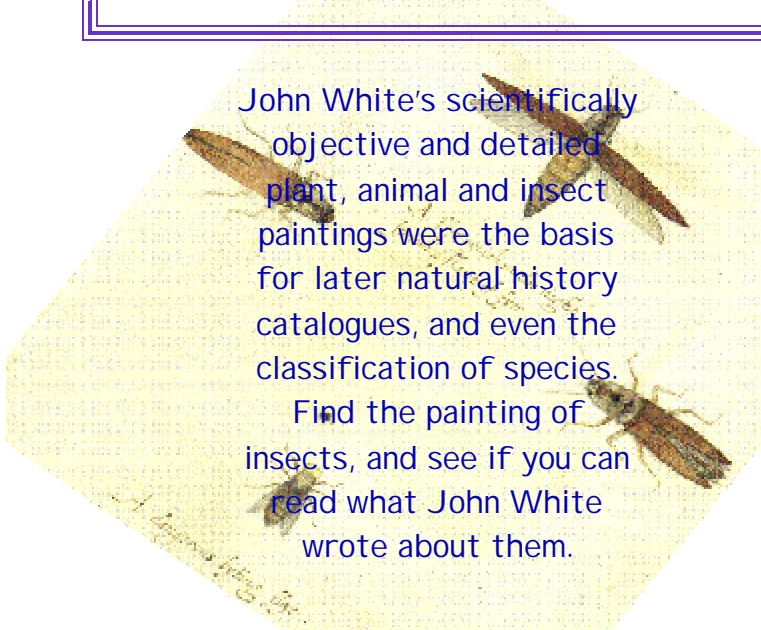
July 15–October 15, 2008

John White visited North Carolina in the 1580s as the artist for the Roanoke expedition. The watercolors he painted are considered among the best sources of information about the Algonquian Indians of North Carolina, and richly document the first dramatic contact between the English and Indian cultures. For the people of England, these images provided a first glimpse of the people and places of the "New World."



John White's scientifically objective and detailed plant, animal and insect paintings were the basis for later natural history catalogues, and even the classification of species.

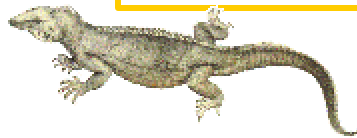
Find the painting of insects, and see if you can read what John White wrote about them.



John White's purpose in making images of the people, plants and animals of America was to encourage the English to support colonizing the New World. What are some things in White's paintings that make America look like a good place to live?



Being a gentleman, John White would not have been formally trained as an artist. Find the picture entitled "A wife of Wingina." Do you see anything unusual about the figure in this painting? Hint: Look at her feet!



Can you find the little girl in this silhouette in one of the paintings? She is holding the only clue from all of the paintings that shows any interaction between the English and the Indians. Can you tell what she is holding? How do you think she got it?



How many different

ways of catching fish do you see in the picture "Indians Fishing?"

Do you think the Indians would really be fishing in all of these different ways at the same time? What does this picture tell you about how the Indians lived and their environment? Can you name some of the animals you see in this painting?



# Jamestown Settlement Gallery

Four hundred years ago three groups of people, the Powhatan Indians, the English colonists and the west central Africans, came together at Jamestown and changed history forever. Learn more about each of these groups through the words they wrote, the images they made, and the artifacts they left behind.



Look at the artifacts at the front of the Powhatan exhibit. The Powhatan made almost everything they used from locally available natural resources. What resources were used to make the objects you see?



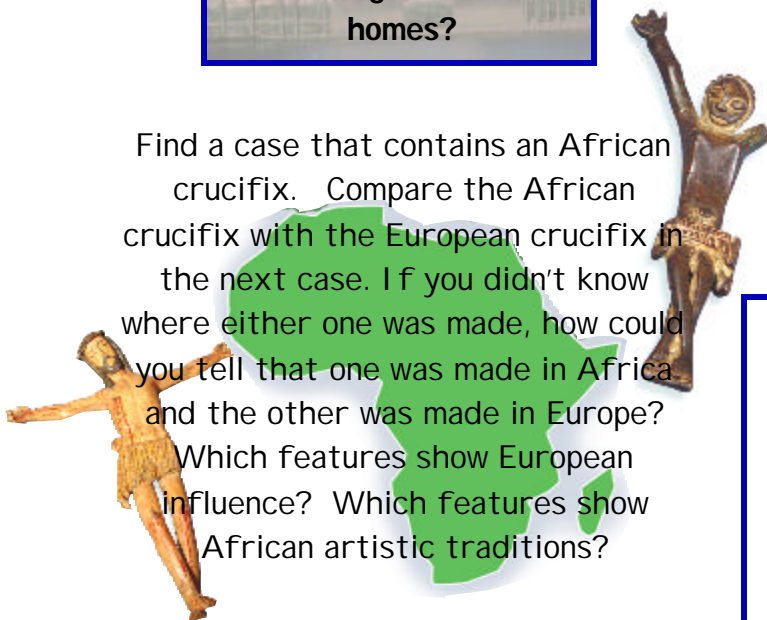
Scenes of the people of Angola were painted by a Portuguese monk named Cavazzi in the 1600s. In this image, based on Cavazzi's painting, what is the woman wearing? Can you find and touch a piece of this material? What is it made of? Compare this to the clothing worn by the Powhatan and the English.

Find an architectural drawing made over 400 years ago that shows an actual street in London in the 1600s. What can you tell about the lives of the people who lived on this street from looking at their homes?

Find the "Pocahontas in Two Worlds" exhibit. This exhibit reveals the different ways in which artists have depicted Pocahontas over the past 400 years. Which picture is closest to what she really looked like?



Find a case that contains an African crucifix. Compare the African crucifix with the European crucifix in the next case. If you didn't know where either one was made, how could you tell that one was made in Africa and the other was made in Europe? Which features show European influence? Which features show African artistic traditions?




Find an earth-colored case with drawers. In each drawer are food remains that have been found at archaeological sites in Virginia. Look in each drawer and see if you can tell what foods they were. Compare what the colonists ate 400 years ago to what we eat today.



# Outdoor Living - History Area

As you venture outdoors, visit the Powhatan Indian village, ships, riverfront discovery area, and James Fort to discover how words, images and artifacts have been used to re-create the daily lives of the Powhatan Indians, English colonists, and west central Africans who came together in Virginia.



Much of what we know about the Powhatan Indians comes from English writings and drawings and from archaeological evidence. Look for a circle of carved posts in the Powhatan village. John White painted a scene of Indians dancing around a circle like this, but very little was written about the ceremony. What kind of celebrations could this circle be used for?

The Powhatan Indians gathered clay from riverbeds to make pots for cooking. Find a clay pot in the Powhatan Indian village. Is this pot like cooking pots you use at home? Examine the homes, tools and clothing in the Powhatan village. Can you name the natural resources that were used to make them?



Historians used paintings of 17th century ships, court documents and underwater archaeology to build replicas of the three ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607. Explore the ships to uncover clues about the voyage. Where did the colonists live on board? Where did the ship's master, or captain, sleep? How did the colonists pass the time on the long voyage across the ocean?



Waterways were important to the Powhatan Indians and west central Africans. Both groups used canoes for travel, trade and fishing. Find the area where a canoe is being made. What kind of tools did the Powhatan use? Ask the costumed interpreter to show you the tools the Africans used to make their canoes.



In the 17th century, wells that dried up were used as trash pits! Find a well inside James Fort, and lift the lid to see what's inside. What do you think these items were used for when they were new? If an archaeologist looked at your trash 400 years from now, what could they learn about the way we live today?



Detail of the carved post from "A festive dance" and clay pot from "Cooking in an earthen pot," watercolors by John White, circa 1585. © The Trustees of the British Museum. All Rights Reserved.