Attracting Settlers of Virginia Primary Source

*Standards: 4.14, 8.1, 8.2,*

**NOVA BRITANNIA**

*Offering Most Excellent fruites by Planting in Virginia.*

*Exciting all such as be well affected to further the fame.*

*[Note: In 1609 the Virginia Company published a pamphlet to attract people to invest*

*money in the new colony. The pamphlet told of a land of riches; a land that would make money for people who bought stock in the Virginia Company. It also encouraged adventurers to travel to Virginia where they would find wealth.]*

The country is large and great. As yet there is no exact discovery of all the land that is within the country. . . . The air and climate are most agreeable and healthy. The people who live here are uncivilized. They live in groups like herds of deer in a forest. . . . They are usually very loving and gentle people. They are helpful to us and show great kindness. This land provides for everything we need to live. It has a great deal of fish, unlimited deer and wild rabbits and many fruits and edible roots.

There are valleys and plains with pure water springs; there are hills and mountains where there is certain to be hidden treasure that has never before been found. The land is full of minerals, plenty of woods; the soil is so rich that vines with fruit grow naturally on trees and shrubs. The land is also rich with many important materials. It has great supplies of resin, turpentine, pitch, and tar that are profitable. The valuable roots of sassafras trees are used to cure illness. There are mulberry trees with silkworms and many animal skins, rich furs, and plenty of fish. The land has many sweet woods and forests of timber for shipbuilding. There are also plants that produce very expensive dyes. Just think of it. If this land that is not cultivated is so rich, what may we expect when our people skilled at farming cultivate this rich land? It will provide wealth for us beyond belief.

Questions

1. How does the Virginia Company try to get people to invest in the new colony?

2. What goods from the colony could be sold in England for great profits?

3. What can settlers expect to find in the colony of Virginia?

4. What dangers will they face in Virginia from the Indians who live there?

5. How difficult will it be to make a living?