**Children for the Colony of Jamestown**

*Standards: 4.14, 8.2,*

*[Note: In 1619 the Virginia Company arranged for 100 children aged 12 and older to be sent to Virginia to work as indentured servants. Indentured servants had their passage paid to North America in return for working for a period of time, usually about five to seven years. The following year officers of the company wanted another 100 children to be sent to Jamestown. This time children were not willing to be sent to America and protested. Sir Edwin Sandys, who had taken over control of the Virginia Company, wrote for permission to send the children against their will. The children were sent to Jamestown.]*

Your Honor:

Since I am unable to speak to the House of Lords [upper branch of the English Parliament] in person, I have presumed to address my case in these few lines to your Honor. The City of London has by act of their Common Council, appointed one hundred children of the great number of hopeless children in this city to be sent to Virginia. In Virginia they will be taught a useful trade for a certain number of years. This will be very helpful for the children. Now it seems that a number of these children are not willing to go. The City of London does not wish to be burdened with these idle children. In Virginia they will work for strict masters who will teach them to be good citizens. Since this City does not have the right to send unwilling children to America, it is left up to me to get higher authority to send them. May it please your Honor to give the Company here in London, and to the colony of Virginia, this just and honorable favor. This will help both the City and our Company out of this difficulty.

Questions

1. Why would the city of London want to send the children to America?

2. Why do you think the children were unwilling to go? What evidence can you find that would explain their unwillingness to go to Jamestown?

3. What arguments does Lord Sandys use to get permission to send the children to Jamestown?

4. According to Lord Sandys, will the children benefit from being sent to work in America as indentured servants?