**Excerpt from John Smith, *A Description of New England*, 1616**

*Standards:8.4*

“My purpose in writing this is not to persuade children to leave their parents; men to leave their wives; or, servants to leave their masters. People should be willing to come to this land. Each parish church or village, in the city or countryside, should send thirteen or fourteen year old orphan children and young married people to New England. Here they can work and make out very well provided that there are leaders to govern them. There should also be houses for them and means to defend them. They should be assigned to work as servants for carpenters, brick masons, fishermen, and other skilled men so that they will learn a trade. These skilled masters can each take ten, twelve, or twenty young people to work for them and in this way they will quickly grow rich. The workers will also learn a trade and will, in time, also grow rich. This will help the King, England, the masters, and also the servants.

Everyone will benefit.”

Questions

1. Why would John Smith want “fatherless children” and young married couples to settle in America?

2. How would they be helping King and country by leaving England for America?

3. What can people expect when they come to America?

4. Do you think that John Smith was exaggerating the benefits or was he being truthful? How do you know?