

Resources Around the Chesapeake Bay in 1608

The first English visitors in the New World were not solely interested in colonizing America. Some came looking for riches that they could take back to England. For instance, some colonists sought gold and other precious minerals. Others sought lumber, furs, dried fish, and other commodities to sell in England.

Your commercial needs to include some of the items listed below as a way to advertise the New World to people back in England. This is not a complete list of everything in the region. For a more convincing commercial research some additional resources.

- Fish and Shellfish – An abundance of fish (including shad, perch, eel, sturgeon, flounder, and herring) and oysters could be found in the Bay and rivers.
- Forests – trees (including oak, pine, and chestnut) provided lumber for building forts, homes, fences, etc. Trees were also used as fuel sources, heating homes and providing fuel for cooking. Lumber was also taken back to England to be sold.
- Animals – the plentiful game in the area (including deer, beaver, turkey, otter, bear, fox, geese and duck) provided food for colonists as well as furs for resale in England. These items were often obtained from trade with local Indians.
- Precious Minerals – Colonists came seeking gold, silver and other precious minerals, but were unsuccessful in finding these resources.
- Rivers and Bay – In the 17th century, rivers served as the “highways” in the New World. The many rivers of the Chesapeake provided a means of exploring the region and transporting people and goods.