

# Landscape Visualization of the Voyages of John Smith and the Chesapeake of the Early 17<sup>th</sup> Century – Lesson Plans

## UNIT SUMMARY

This unit is designed to introduce students to the voyages of Captain John Smith on the Chesapeake Bay in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Through three lesson plans targeted towards fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) and seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) grade standards of learning in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland, students will actively engage in learning about the far-reaching impacts of Smith's voyage on the natural environment, Native Americans, European settlers and much more. Students will learn about cultural exchange, the natural landscape, indigenous peoples, and the connections/comparisons to the modern Chesapeake Bay.

This Unit is designed to be an active learning experience. The lessons follow a constructivist philosophy in which students gain insights by combining prior knowledge with new information. In order to be effective the lessons will tap into the students' existing motivations and interests. Accordingly, each lesson will begin with an assessment of what students already know in order to engage them and generate interest in new topics. Following the assessment, students will be introduced to the lesson with a story drawn from Smith's voyage. To allow students to investigate the three themes, each lesson plan will include activities that are familiar but exciting to students, that require creative and original thought, and that utilize a variety of skills and abilities. These activities may include, but are not limited to: games, creating and/or investigating objects, and designing mock commercials

## RESOURCES

- Captain John Smith's Voyage of Exploration - <http://johnsmith.psu.edu/>
- Captain John Smith 400 Hundred Project - [www.johnsmith400.org](http://www.johnsmith400.org)
- National Geographic's movie on John Smith's voyage - <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/chesapeake/voyage/>
- Adobe Digital Kids Club - <http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons/storyboards.html>
- Kids' Vid - <http://kidsvid.altec.org/>
- Maryland Office of Tourism - [www.mdifun.org](http://www.mdifun.org)
- Virginia Board of Tourism - [www.virginia.org](http://www.virginia.org)
- National Geographic, Chesapeake Then and Now - <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/chesapeake/>
- Rountree, Helen C. The Powhatan Indians of Virginia. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1989.
- Curtin, Philip D., Grace S. Brush and George W. Fisher, eds. Discovering the Chesapeake: The History of an Ecosystem. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Hoobler, Thomas and Dorothy Hoobler. Captain John Smith: Jamestown and the Birth of the American Dream. Indianapolis: Wiley, 2005.

- “Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, Statement of National Significance” by John S. Salmon, Project Historian.