

## Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

**Grade Level:** High School (11-12)

**Standard(s) or Objectives:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.3: Evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.5: Analyze in detail how a complex primary source is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole.

### Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



John Smith, "Virginia, Discovered and Described by Captayn John Smith," 1624.

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm148.html>

### Topic Background:

During Captain John Smith's three years in Virginia he traveled thousands of miles, exploring areas previously unknown to Europeans. His two remarkable voyages of the Chesapeake in 1608 revealed the rich natural wonders of the region as well as the complex social world of the Chesapeake area Indians. His map, journals, and claim that "Heaven and Earth never agreed better to frame a place for Man's habitation" lured many English colonists to America and marked the start of a lasting English presence on the continent.

Excerpted from: <http://smithtrail.net/captain-john-smith/the-voyages/>

### Source(s) Used:

Based on a three-month exploratory survey by boat in the summer of 1608 under the direction of Captain John Smith, this map is the earliest published of the entire Chesapeake region. It not only shows the location of Jamestown, the first English settlement in the region, but also the location of Indian villages along the bay and its numerous tributaries. The map is oriented with west at the top, drawing attention to the approaching ships from England at the bottom of the sheet.

Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm148.html>

### Answer Key:

Question 1: A

Question 2: B

**John Smith, "Virginia, Discovered and Discribed by Captayn John Smith," 1624.**



**Questions:**

- 1) Which of the following statements best explains why Captain John Smith included a picture of the Powhatan and made their name the largest of the Native American names on his map? (CCSS-RH11-12.3)
  - a. The Powhatan were a large and powerful tribe in Virginia when John Smith drew his map.
  - b. John Smith and the Virginians were at war with the Powhatan.
  - c. The Powhatan were at war with all of the other tribes on the map.
  - d. John Smith was the leader of the Powhatan.
  
- 2) Which of the following might explain why John Smith drew this map with West at the top? (CCSS-RH11-12.5)
  - a. Mapmaking was new and Smith did not have a clear idea of the direction he faced.
  - b. Smith was traveling from the East, towards the West; therefore West was in front of him.
  - c. Smith made his map according to Native American cardinal directions.
  - d. Smith made his map according to the flow of rivers into the Chesapeake Bay.