

Your Colonial Dilemma - #1

Setting

Year – 1620

The kitchen of a farmhouse in England

Use background information from Chapter 6 in History Alive.

Role 1

You are James Braden, single, 25 years old. You are a healthy farmer who is struggling to feed your family from the crops you grow and animals you raise on the small family farm. You will never have much money if you stay in England. After a good year's harvest, you have just enough food to feed your family. You all wear old, patched clothing. In Jamestown, you will be given 50 acres to farm. Farmers there are making good money growing and selling tobacco.

Role 2

You are either William Braden, James Braden's little brother or Priscilla Braden, James Braden's little sister. You are 15 years old. You have heard stories of hundreds of people dying from malaria in Jamestown. Other colonists have been killed by the native people. You are scared. Sure you're hungry here in England and the work is hard, but there's usually enough food to eat and no one wants to kill you.

Role 3

You are the mother or father of James and Priscilla or William. Your health is failing. You want successful, happy lives for your children. You wonder if you will survive the trip to the New World. You own a small farm you could sell for the money needed for the family to make the trip.

Role #4

You are a neighbor who truly loves the Braden family. You want what is best for them. Help them make a good choice.

The entire group must agree.

Will you go to Jamestown? _____

If you decide to go, will you all go at once or will someone stay in England while others go to establish a home in Jamestown? If so, who will go and who will stay? _____

If you split up, how will the others survive for now? _____

How will you pay for your passage? _____

If you go, when will you go (time of year)? Why? Think of your crop harvest. Remember it takes from six to eight weeks for the voyage. _____

What will you take with you? (Remember, space is incredibly limited.)

What will you leave in England? _____
