

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

Colonists Come to America

After Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, many people wanted to come live in the new land. Many Europeans left their countries and settled along the Atlantic Coast of North America between Florida and Canada. Some people came to make a better life for themselves. Other people, especially the Pilgrims, Puritans and Quakers, came to gain religious freedom.

The London Company, a group of men who sought out gold and other types of riches, came to America in hopes of finding wealth in the new land. This group of men asked the king of England for land in America. They also asked for permission to establish a colony. Upon arrival in America, the London Company founded Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America. It was founded in 1607. This group eventually purchased ships and supplies and began relocating people who wanted to move to and settle in America.

A voyage to America took about eight weeks and was dangerous. Fierce winds would often blow the ships off course. Many ships would end up shipwrecked. The ships were also often crowded and dirty. Many passengers on these voyages became ill and some even died. Upon arrival in America, life did not become any easier. There were many hardships to face because much of the land was covered with dense forests.

1. About how long did it take colonists to travel to America?

2. Name three groups of people who came to America in search of religious freedom.

3. Why was the London Company originally formed?

4. Why was a voyage to America dangerous?

5. Why do you think it would be difficult to arrive in a new country with most of the land covered with dense forests?
