

## Jamestown Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Ms. Kathleen Riley \* Glen Forest ES \* Faurfax County, VA

1	Okay everyone! Where do we live?	All	Exactly! A charter is a written list of what people are allowed to do, their rights!
All	The state of Virginia! One of the fifty states in the United States of America! [sound effect]	15	So what did the charter from King James say, anyway?
2	But how did the United States become a country?	16	It gave the Virginia Company permission to start a colony in the Chesapeake Bay area.
3	Well, before there were states, there were colonies.	17	And told them that they would still be treated as Englishmen.
4	And before there were colonies, there were settlements.	18	Did it say anything else?
5	Like to settle an argument?	19	As a matter of fact, it also outlined a government for the colonists?
All	No! [sound effect] A settlement is a place where a group of people settle, or stay.	20	Colonist?
5	Oh.	All	You know, colonists, the people who formed the colony!
6	Long ago, people from countries in Europe came to North America and formed settlements.	20	Oh.
7	As a matter of fact, the first permanent English settlement in the New World was formed in what is now our state, Virginia.	1	I still don't get it. Why did the English want to go to North America, anyway? I mean, why couldn't they just stay in England?
8	Really?	2	They must have heard about all of the fun things to do here in Virginia, like go to King's Dominion...
7	Yup!	3	Yeah! And explore all of the cool cities, like Richmond and Alexandria!
All	Wow! [gesture]	1-10	Fun, fun, fun! Let's have some fun! [gesture]
9	Well, what was the settlement called?	11	Come on people. Do you really think that everything is about fun?
7	It was called Jamestown, named after King James the First.	1-10	Yup! [gesture] [sound effect]
All	[sound effect]	12	Well, the Jamestown colony wasn't all about fun.
10	So King James the First sailed over to the New World all by himself?	13	In fact, all of that stuff wasn't even around yet.
11	Nope! King James granted a charter to the Virginia Company, giving it permission to start a new colony.	1-10	Oh. [sound effect]
12	A charter? What's a charter?	14	The American Indians were living on the land that is now Virginia.
13	A charter is a written list of rights.		
14	Like what people are allowed to do?		

*From the web site of Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn, Educational Drama Specialist*

[www.rosalindflynn.com](http://www.rosalindflynn.com)

1-10	Right. [gesture]	12	And we know that the people who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from England were called colonists.
15	And Jamestown was founded as an economic venture.	All	Colonists! People from England who settled in Jamestown!
4	A what?	13	Don't forget about the reasons the English settled in Jamestown! They were looking for gold, silver, and other raw materials to trade.
11-20	An economic venture! It's a way people try to make money.	14	They also wanted to be sure that they got to the New World before other countries in Europe.
5	Money? Now you're talkin'.	All	Wealth and power.
All	[sound effect]	1	It seems to me that our state, Virginia, was a pretty important place, even before it was a state.
6	But how did the colonists plan to make money?	All	That's for sure! Jamestown! The first permanent English settlement in the New World. [sound effect]
16	Well, they hoped to find silver and gold in the New World.		
17	And they also thought they could find raw materials that they didn't have in England.		
7	Raw? Like a raw egg? Uncooked?		
All	[sound effect] [gesture]		
18	No, silly. Raw materials are products of a certain area.		
19	Like farm products.		
20	Or natural resources.		
11	They thought they could trade these raw materials.		
7	Oh.		
10	England also wanted to expand its power overseas in the New World, so that other countries in Europe didn't beat them to it.		
11	So it pretty much all comes down to wealth and power?		
10	Yup!		
All	Wealth and power! Wealth and power! The reasons for Jamestown were wealth and power! [gestures]		
8	So let's review what we know so far.		
9	Well, we know that the king of England granted a charter to the Virginia Company to establish a settlement in the New World.		
All	King James granted a charter to the Virginia Company.		