

Highlights of a Colonial Town: Williamsburg

Name _____

Williamsburg was first settled in 1632. It was originally called Middle Plantation. In 1693, the College of William and Mary, named after the King and Queen of England, was established in Middle Plantation. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington were among those who attended the college.

In 1699, a year after the statehouse burned for a second time in Jamestown, the capital of the Virginia colony was moved to Middle Plantation. Middle Plantation was built on higher ground than Jamestown, had an adequate supply of fresh water, was not infested with mosquitoes, and featured the facilities of the new college. Later that year, the town was renamed Williamsburg after the King.

In 1705, America's first state capitol building was built on Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg. Williamsburg would soon become the social, political, and economic center of Virginia. It was the site of America's first theater and Virginia's first successful newspaper, The Virginia Gazette. In 1722, it was granted a royal charter as a city.

Williamsburg remained capital of Virginia until 1779. During the Revolutionary War, Governor Thomas Jefferson permanently moved the capital to Richmond because he thought Williamsburg was vulnerable to a British attack.

1. What happened first?

- A. America's first theater was built in Williamsburg.
- B. Middle Plantation was named capital of Virginia.
- C. Middle Plantation was renamed Williamsburg.
- D. The College of William and Mary was established.

2. In what paragraph can I find information on why the capital was moved to Williamsburg?

- A. Introductory
- B. First Body
- C. Second Body
- D. Concluding

3. What happened in 1779?

- A. Williamsburg was named capital of Virginia.
- B. The capital was moved from Williamsburg.
- C. The Revolutionary War started.
- D. Williamsburg was granted a royal charter as a city.

4. Which WAS NOT an advantage that Middle Plantation had over Jamestown regarding the location of Virginia's capital?

- A. It had less mosquitoes.
- B. It had more fresh water.
- C. It was closer to Europe.
- D. It was on higher ground.

5. "Richmond" could be the answer to which question?

- A. What was the first capital of Virginia?
- B. What was the final capital of Virginia?
- C. What was the second capital of Virginia?
- D. Where was Duke of Gloucester Street?