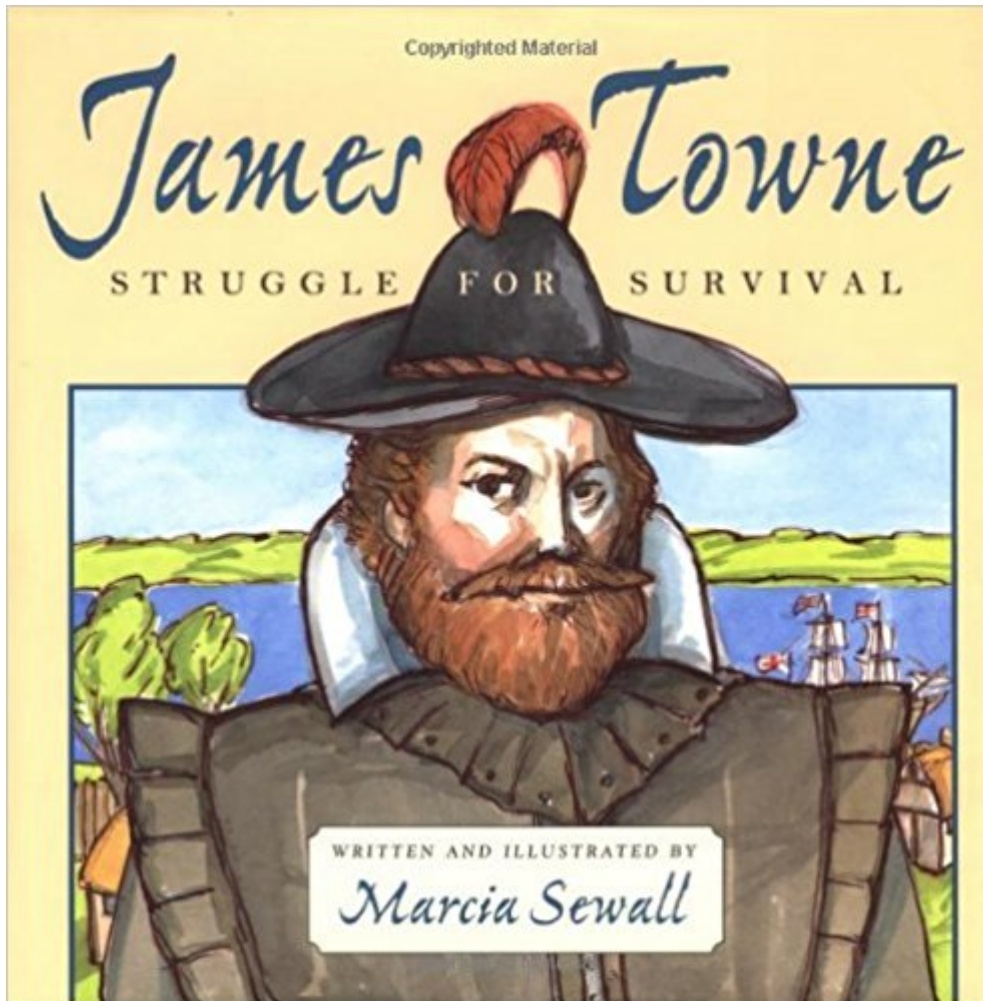




The book was found

James Towne: Struggle For Survival



Synopsis

This moving account of James Towne's difficult early years is told from the viewpoint of one of its settlers and enhanced by original quotations. During the first summer of 1607, half the James Towne colony died; food was scarce, and the settlers battled oppressive heat and sickness. Over the next few years, supply ships from England became the colony's lifeline, as they brought much-needed stores of food and carried back offerings from the new land, as well as the settlers' homesick letters. Conditions began to improve when Captain John Smith was elected president of the colony, and James Towne soon doubled in size. While some of the settlers had been reluctant to work, Smith required participation from all, and the colonists began to take pride in improving their conditions. Furthermore, by learning the native language and befriending a Native American girl named Pocahontas, Smith was able to establish, temporarily, an uneasy peace between the settlers and the natives whose land they had taken. As new settlers began to arrive from England though, the resources of the budding colony were strained, and in the autumn of 1609 the colony suffered a Starving Time. Deciding to abandon James Towne at last, the colonists headed back toward England, only to have their journey intercepted by a messenger, who informed the settlers that new leaders sent by the King were due to arrive in the flailing colony any day, and urged them to return. Not for long after their arrival, the discouraged James Towne colonists were met by a new governor and a ship full of healthy passengers with enough supplies and hope to work together to ensure James Towne's survival.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

Marcia Sewall's *James Towne: Struggle for Survival*, told from the point of view of a settler, tracks the early days of Jamestown, Va. An economical text and Sewall's dramatic watercolor-and-ink illustrations chronicle the 1606 voyage from England, Captain John Smith's election as president of the colony and Pocahontas's famous intervention on Smith's behalf. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr 3-5-Using the same format as in the *People of the Breaking Day* (Atheneum, 1990), Sewall offers a glimpse into life in the Jamestown Colony. Told through the voice of an 18-year-old carpenter, the narrative opens with a description of the departure of three ships from England on December 20, 1606. Readers follow the voyagers as they sail across the Atlantic, find landfall, establish a settlement, and meet with the native people. The clear narration retains the tone of 17th-century English. Short paragraphs, often defined by dates, tell of the difficult early years of the settlement. Quotes from diaries and letters (though not always identified as such) with authors and dates are often found at the bottom of the pages. Unfortunately, the narrative is somewhat dry and readers may not get a real sense of what it was like to be one of the first inhabitants of the settlement. Large, fluid watercolor-and-sepia-ink paintings illustrate the book. A few are unclear; the painting depicting Captain Smith's encounter with the Great Powhatan and Pocahontas would be difficult to decipher without the accompanying text. Helpful end material includes a map, glossary, list of characters, and information regarding the three ships. While Sewall's book offers a different angle than "The Thirteen Colonies" series (Children's) and is more attractive than the "Library of the 13 Colonies and the Lost Colony" series (Rosen), these titles offer a more comprehensive treatment of the subject. Supplemental for curriculum units. Susan Lissim, Dwight School, New York City Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

The layout of this book was bad enough to make us abandon not only the book, but the unit study we were using it for. My daughter couldn't even read it on her Kindle Paperwhite.....we wasted time and money on both the e-book and the unit study, none of which can be recouped. If you want to read this book, order it well enough in advance to get a paper copy.....trying to read it on an e-reader will frustrate you beyond words.

I LOVE the book, but I am disappointed that this book is not compatible with the Kindle PC app. I wanted to project it onto the SmartBoard so that I could read aloud to my class during our Jamestown Unit. Instead I had to read it to them from my iPad. Super annoying. Other than that it is a great book to use if you teach VA Studies during your Jamestown Unit.

This is the book for your younger children, or for your entire family, to get a better appreciation for the Jamestown Colony. We may plan a visit to the Jamestown site next summer, and this book gives us one more reason. I'm a mom raising a family of boys, and I look for books that capture the interest of a wide spread of ages. This book is good for ages "6 to dead," as my kids say. The high-quality illustrations really get the job done. They convey information and mood that round out the story and elaborate on the troubles, without being TOO scary. Pictured are an Indian attack on the settlers in 1607, a nighttime burial, Pocahontas interrupting the execution of Captain Smith, the starving people in tatters. The book gives voice to the different perspectives at the colony. It's a good teaching tool. Very well done.

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