

National Women's History Museum Women of Jamestown Handout

After reading through *Building the New World: the Women of Jamestown Settlement*, write a dialogue between a modern-day woman—she can be someone you know or a completely fictional character—and a woman who lived in Jamestown at the beginning of the 17th century. The goal of this exercise is to try to imagine what life would have been like for a woman in early Virginia and how different it is today. With this in mind, there are certain questions that your 17th century Jamestown resident needs to answer such as:

- Where was she originally from? How did she get there and why did she come to the New World?
- What does she do?
- What is a typical day like?
- Is she married? If so, what were the circumstances of the marriage? If not, why?
- Does she have children? If so, how many?
- Is she glad that she came? Or would she prefer to go back to Britain?

You may wish to introduce your 17th-century woman to the 21st-century world. What kind of observations would the time-traveler make about her new surroundings? What might she like and dislike about modern times?