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# PEOPLE TO KNOW

## BIOGRAPHIES FOR CHAPTER TWO

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As you read, consider three things:

1. *Who were these people: lawyers, adventurers, generals, priests, monarchs, business people, etc.*
2. *Why are these people important?*
3. *How did they affect others?*

### John Smith

John Smith (1580-1631) was born in England. His desire for adventure took him to sea, often working as a mercenary.

The Virginia Company sent Smith to Jamestown in 1608. He found half of the original settlers dead from starvation and disease. Smith took charge and put the settlement to work based on a policy of "he who works not, eats not." His discipline saved the colony.

While mapping the Chesapeake area, the powerful Powhatan Indians captured Smith and wanted to kill him. The chief's daughter, Pocahontas, saved his life. Smith returned to England after an injury but in 1614 sailed again to America to explore. He named the north coast "New England" and wrote several books that attracted settlers to Jamestown.

### John Rolfe

John Rolfe (1585-1622) was born in Norfolk, England. He was a farmer and businessman. He arrived in Jamestown in 1610, after losing his wife and child on the voyage.

Rolfe arrived during the "starving time." Only 60 of the 500 Jamestown settlers remained alive after the winter—most had died from disease and starvation. Rolfe went to work and planted tobacco seeds he got

from an unknown source. The tobacco grew and multiplied making Jamestown profitable. In 1614, Rolfe married a captured Native American woman named Pocahontas. This brought an eight year peace between the Jamestown settlers and the Natives. As a result, the Jamestown population grew quickly.

### Samuel Adams

Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Adams worked and failed at various jobs but he excelled as a political leader.

When Britain began taxing the colonies, Adams helped create the Sons of Liberty, a political action group that used threats and violence to oppose British policies in America. In his "Massachusetts Circular Letter," Adams urged all the colonies to oppose British taxes.

Adams used the Boston Massacre to create anti-British feelings and formed the Boston Committee of Correspondence that kept watch on British activities and reported them to the local population and other colonies.