

SECTION  
**1**

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

European nations competed to explore the Americas, where they conquered native peoples and introduced slavery.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Of the three earliest English colonies in North America, only Jamestown managed to survive.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**Sir Walter Raleigh** (RAW•lee) founder of England's first American colony

**mercantilism** (MUR•kuhn•tee•LIHZ•uhm) economic system that European nations used to enrich their treasuries

**Jamestown** first permanent English settlement in North America

**John Smith** leader of the Jamestown colony

**headright** land grant given to one who could pay his or her way to the colonies

**indentured servant** one who worked for a set time without pay in exchange for a free passage to America

**House of Burgesses** the Virginia assembly, which was the first representative assembly in the American colonies

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**joint-stock company** company funded by a group of investors

**investor** person who puts money into a project to earn a profit

**charter** written contract giving the right to establish a colony

**royal colony** colony ruled by the king's appointed officials

## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the boxes to compare and contrast the benefits and risks of colonization.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R8.

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

**COLONIZATION**

Benefits	Risks
<i>wealth created for mother country</i>	

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