



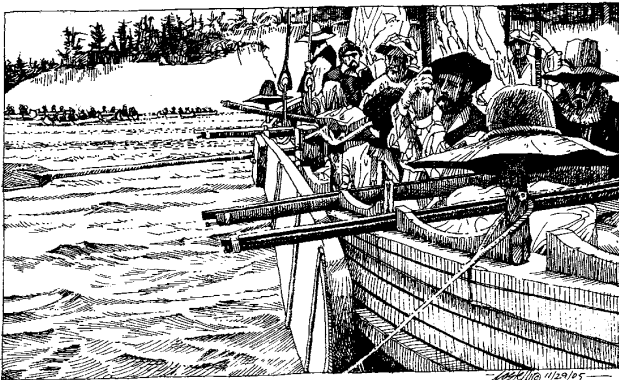
## Captain John Smith's Second Voyage

July 24 – September 7, 1608

On July 24, 1608, Captain John Smith set out from Jamestown with twelve men to finish exploring the Chesapeake Bay. The trip got off to a slow start when bad weather forced the men to spend three days at the Indian town of Kecoughtan (kee - coe - tan) near the mouth of the James River. To pass time, Smith and his men showed off by firing "rockets" into the air for the Indians.

When the weather improved the explorers sailed north for almost 200 miles, where they found that the head of the Bay divided into four large rivers. Today we call those rivers the Sassafras, Elk, Northeast, and Susquehanna (suss - kwe - han - na).

Shortly after this discovery, many of the crew members fell ill. As the sick men lay in the bottom of the shallop, a group of Indians carrying bows and arrows approached in birch bark canoes. Thinking quickly, Captain Smith placed hats on sticks and stuck pistols between them to make it look like he had more healthy men on board than he really did. The trick worked, and two sides met to trade.



*When several men became ill on the Upper Bay, Smith put hats on sticks and placed muskets between them to make the Indians think he had more men than he really did. Drawing courtesy Marc Castelli.*



*At the Indian town of Kecoughtan on the James River, the explorers showed off for the Indians by firing rockets into the air. Drawing courtesy Marc Castelli.*

Sailing back towards the mouth of the Sassafras River, Smith's men were met by another group of Indians in dugout canoes. They turned out to be warriors from the Indian town of Tockwogh (tock - wha). The town was set inside a large wall called a palisade, which protected the Tockwogh from raiding tribes. The settlers were treated kindly, and during the visit the Natives told Captain Smith about a powerful tribe to the north called the Susquehannock (suss - kwe - han - nock). Two Indian guides agreed to lead the settlers to the mouth of the Susquehanna River to meet leaders from this nation.

When he saw the Susquehanna River, Captain Smith realized he had finally reached the true head of the Chesapeake Bay. The explorers waited nearly two days for the Susquehannock to arrive near present-day Port Deposit, Maryland, until a group of sixty warriors came down the river in canoes.



These Indians were very different from any Natives the English had seen before. They spoke a different language, wore different clothing, and stood much taller than members of other tribes. Captain Smith described their tallest chief as “the goodliest man we ever beheld.” The Susquehannock also brought the explorers trade goods such as bear skins, tobacco pipes, baskets, shields, bows, and arrows.

After spending two more days on the Upper Bay, Smith and his men headed south to chart the rivers they had missed on their first voyage. From August 8 - 12, 1608, they sailed up the Patuxent River and mapped thirteen Indian towns. Then they headed to the mouth of the Rappahannock (rap - a - han - ock) River, where they spent nearly two weeks exploring this large tributary.

During their travels, the settlers were ambushed several times by Natives firing arrows from the cliffs lining the narrow river's shores. Luckily, the explorers had lashed Indian shields to the side of the shallop earlier in the trip, and the arrows bounced away. When Smith's expedition reached the river's fall line near present day Fredericksburg, Virginia, they were attacked once more by armed warriors. This time, the

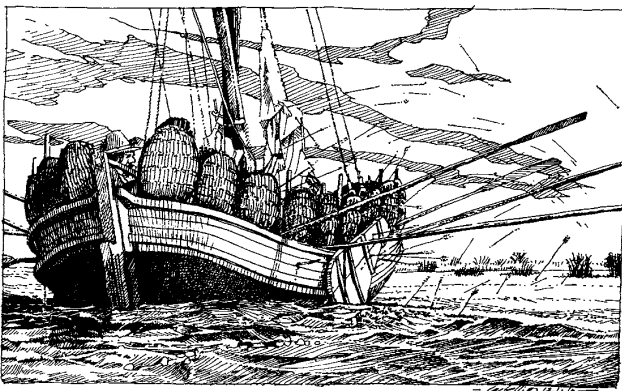


*During a visit to the Indian town of Tockwogh, the Natives began a chant in which they “held up their hands to the Sun, with a most fearful song.” Drawing courtesy Marc Castelli.*

Englishmen wounded an Indian and took him prisoner. The explorers treated the Indian's wound, and in return he told his people that they were friendly. After this, the settlers had peaceful meetings with the Natives on the Rappahannock. On their way back to Jamestown, the crew quickly explored the Piankatank (pee - ank - a - tank), Elizabeth, and Nansemond Rivers before heading home to their fort. The exploration of the Chesapeake Bay was complete.

Captain John Smith never found gold, silver, or a “Northwest Passage” to the Pacific Ocean. Instead, he found a body of water rich in natural resources such as crabs, fish, geese, ducks, oysters, and clams.

He also visited dozens of Indian towns and met tribes from at least three different language groups. His journals describing how the Natives dressed, hunted, fished, and farmed are still studied by historians today. In 1612, John Smith used notes and sketches from his voyages to make the first useful map of the Chesapeake Bay. This map served as a guide for thousands of settlers looking for a fresh start in the “New World,” and forever changed the course of history.



*On the Rappahannock, Natives fired arrows at the shallop from cliffs lining the river's narrow upper sections. The crew survived the ambush by lashing Indian shields—obtained earlier through trade—to the side of the boat. Drawing courtesy Marc Castelli.*



## Captain John Smith's Second Voyage

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Use information from the reading to answer each of the following questions in a complete sentence.

1. What were the four large rivers that the explorers saw at the head of the Bay?


2. Why had the Tockwogh built a wall around their town?


3. How were the Susquehannock people different from other Indians on the Bay?


4. How did the explorers protect themselves on the Rappahannock River?


5. Why were Captain John Smith's voyages on the Bay so important?
