

# Document-Based Assessment



18A.1.2,  
16A.1.6

## Colonial Labor

The English colonists in North America faced many daunting tasks. They needed to fell timber, establish farms, and build settlements. The amount of work required was overwhelming. Who did that work? Use your knowledge of Colonial America and Documents A, B, and C to answer questions 1 through 4.

### Document A

"This Indenture, Made the Fourth Day of August in the Twentieth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second King of Great Britain, & And in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty five Between William Buckland of Baford Carpenter & Joiner of the one Part, and Thomson Mason of London, Esq. of the other Part,

Witnesseth, That the said William Buckland . . . shall and will, as a faithful Covenant Servant, well and truly serve the said Thomas Mason his Executors and assigns in the Plantation of Virginia beyond the Seas, for the Space of Four Years, next ensuing his Arrival in the said Plantation in the Employment of a Carpenter and Joiner. . . .

And the said Thomas Mason . . . shall and will at his . . . proper Costs and Charges, with what convenient Speed [he] may, carry and convey, or cause to be carried and conveyed over unto the said Plantation, the said Wm Buckland and from henceforth, and during the said Voyage, and also during the said Term, shall and will at the like Costs and Charges, provide for and allow the said Wm Buckland all necessary Meat, Drink, Washing, Lodging, fit and convenient for Wm as Covenant Servants in such Cases are usually provided for and allowed and pay and allow William Buckland Wages on Salary at the Rate of Twenty Pounds Sterling per Annum Payable Quarterly."

—*Indenture Contract of William Buckland, 1755*

### Document B

"Ran away from the Subscriber, living near James-Town, last Sunday was Fort-night, a Negroe Man, named Harry, who formerly belonged to Col. Grymes, of Richmond County: He is about 5 Feet 7 Inches high, thin visag'd, has small Eyes, and a very large Beard; is about 35 Years old; and plays upon the Fiddle. He had a dark-colour'd cloth Coat, double breasted, 2 cotton Jackets, dy'd of a dark Colour, a Pair of Buckskin Breeches, flourish'd at the Knees, and a blue Great Coat. It is suppos'd he is gone to Richmond County, where he has a Wife. Whoever apprehends him, so that he be brought to me near James-Town, shall have a Pistole [gold coin] Reward, besides what the Law allows. William Newgent. N.B. As he ran away without any Cause, I desire he may be punish'd by Whipping, as the Law directs."

—*advertisement in the Virginia Gazette, March 20 to March 27, 1746*

### Document C

"And as for the general sort that shall go to be planters, be they [very] poor, so they be honest, . . . the place will make them rich: all kinds of [workers] we must first employ, are carpenters, shipwrights, masons, sawyers, brick makers, bricklayers, plowmen, sowers, planters, fishermen, coopers, smiths, . . . tailors, turners, and such like, to make and fit all necessities, for comfort and use of the Colony, and for such as are of no trades (if they be industrious) they shall have their employment enough, for there is a world of means to set many thousands to work, partly in such things as I mentioned before, and many other profitable works, for no man must lie idle there. . . ."

—*Virginia Company pamphlet recruiting Jamestown settlers, 1609*

- Where was Document A probably written?
  - in England
  - aboard ship
  - in Virginia
  - in Jamestown
- In Document B, the advertiser states that Harry ran away "without any Cause." Yet the advertisement hints at a likely cause. What is it?
  - to escape whipping
  - to practice his trade
  - to enjoy stolen goods
  - to join his wife
- What reasonable conclusion about Jamestown in 1611 might you draw from Document C?
  - Jamestown needed new leadership.
  - Jamestown had no enslaved people.
  - Jamestown needed many types of workers.
  - Jamestown was moving from farming to industry.
- Writing Task** Based on Documents A, B, and C, and on what you have learned in Chapter 3, write a letter from the point of view of an indentured servant in Jamestown. Use information from the documents and the chapter to give your family or friends an impression of what life as an indentured servant in Jamestown might have been like.