

# 2023 Northern Neck History Fair

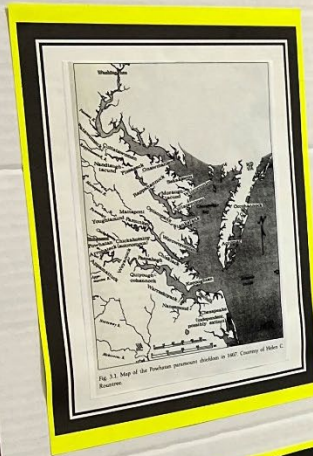


Exhibits on Colonial and Revolutionary  
Virginia by Chesapeake Academy 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders  
and Northumberland Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> Graders





# Courtship & Marriage of Powhatan Indians in Early 17<sup>th</sup> Century Virginia



## MAP of POWHATAN PARAMOUNT CHIEFDOM:

A modern map shows the locations of various Indian groups in Tidewater Virginia that in 1607 constituted the Powhatan paramount chiefdom. By 1607, Powhatan had expanded his domain, through a combination of force and diplomacy, to between twenty-eight and thirty-two groups anchored by the Powhatan Indians and five others: the Pamunkey, the Arrohattuck, the Appamattuck, the Youghittanund, and the Mattaponi. While the core groups were situated along the James, Mattaponi, and Pamunkey rivers, the land the Indians called Tsenacomoco extended from north of the Rappahannock to the south side of the James, from the fall line to the Eastern shore. (encyclopediavirginia.org)

Created by:  
Shannon Wilson

## Courtship in Algonquian-speaking Powhatans of Tsenacomoco\*

Man (Groom) initiates courtship → proposes to woman (Bride)

- looks for woman able to perform expected "tasks" including:

- Bearing children, farming
- Collecting fuel (fire) & foraging
- Butchering animal carcasses & cooking
- Create household implements
- Supervising young children

Woman accepts or declines proposal

Bride's parents need to agree & accept proposal

Groom's parents pay "bridewealth"

Groom provides gifts of food to bride & returns to parents' town to prepare a house  
- demonstrates ability to provide for her  
- house furnishings likely made for him by female relatives

Both families meet for formal marriage ceremony @ bride's home

Couple's hands joined together (by bride's father or elder) & break a long chain of shell beads over their heads

Feast in celebration & couple returns to new house

## "Fun Facts" about Powhatan Indians:

Matriarchal society - family lineage passed down through female line (i.e., Powhatan's right to be chief was inherited from his mother)

Marriages - Economic not usually romantic in nature; couples depended on one another for survival

Groom's family offered *bridewealth* - unlike English society where bride's family offered a *dowry*

A physical beauty was a less important trait for marriage; only usually considered a valuable attribute, chiefly, in choosing a wife for marriage

Parental society - "Bridewealth" - expected to last a lifetime. Additional material property registered in parent's name

• House and common with *newcomer* - • Men were a source of wealth & high status

## Interesting Facts about Chief Powhatan:

• *Wahunsoacock* (aka *Wahunsenawkey*) - an Algonquian name meaning "He who looks upon the land as his own"

• Chief of the Powhatan people, he was a powerful leader who united the various tribes of the Tidewater region

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

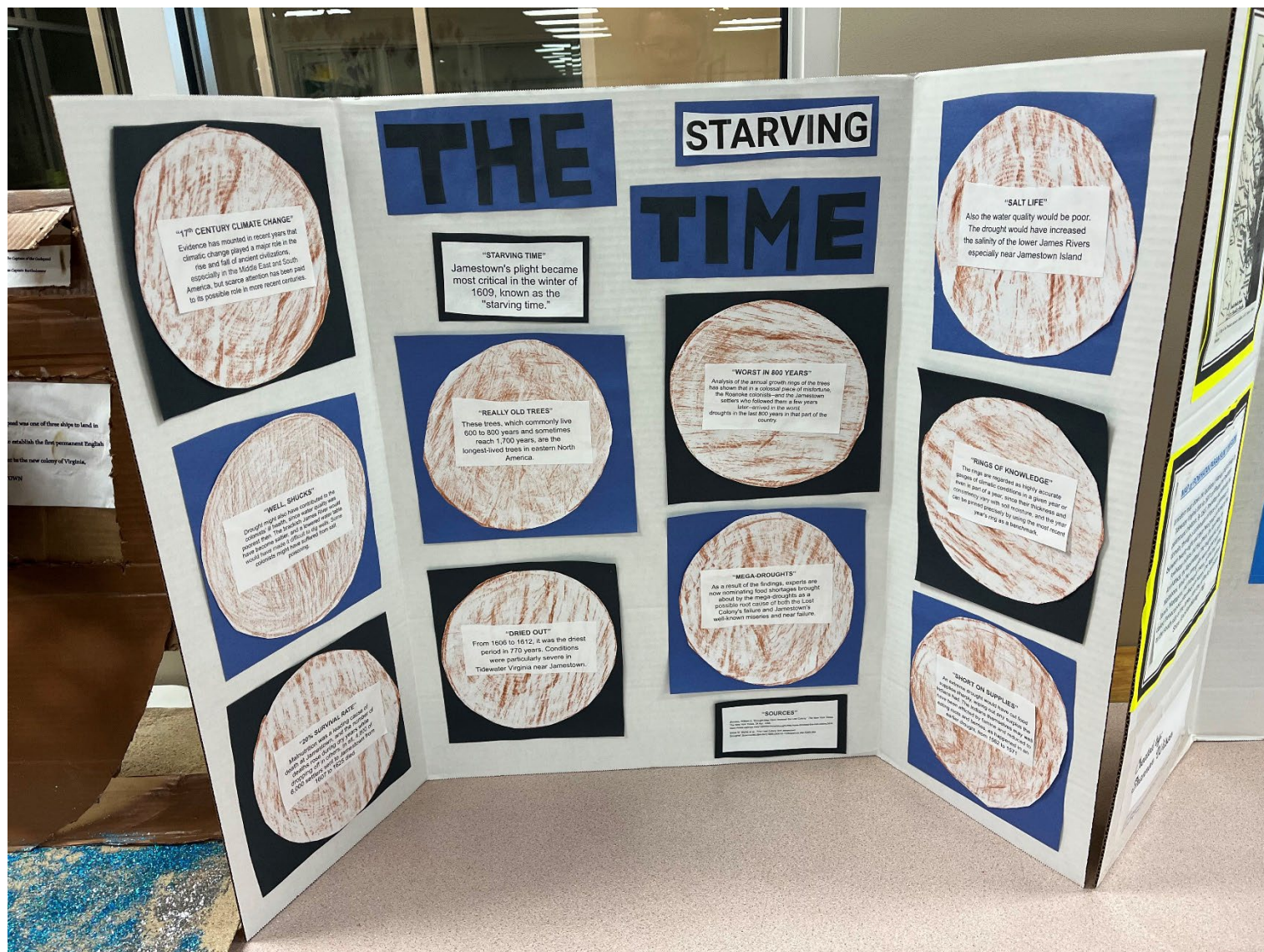
• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and warrior, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English

• He was a skilled orator and a powerful leader, and he was known for his ability to negotiate with the English





# “The Starving Time” Grant McCormick

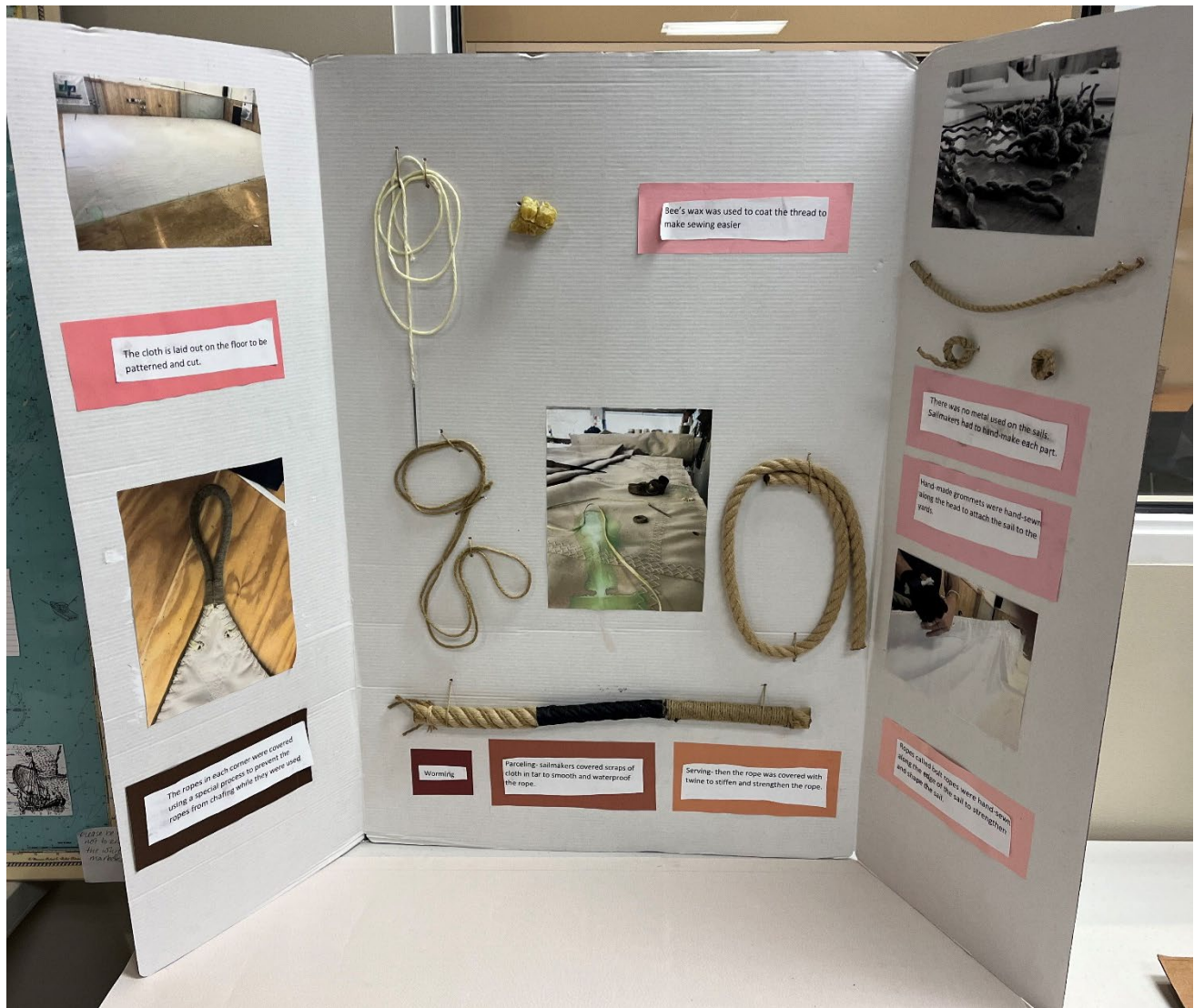




“Jamestown Fort”

Peyton Herrington and Lily Webb

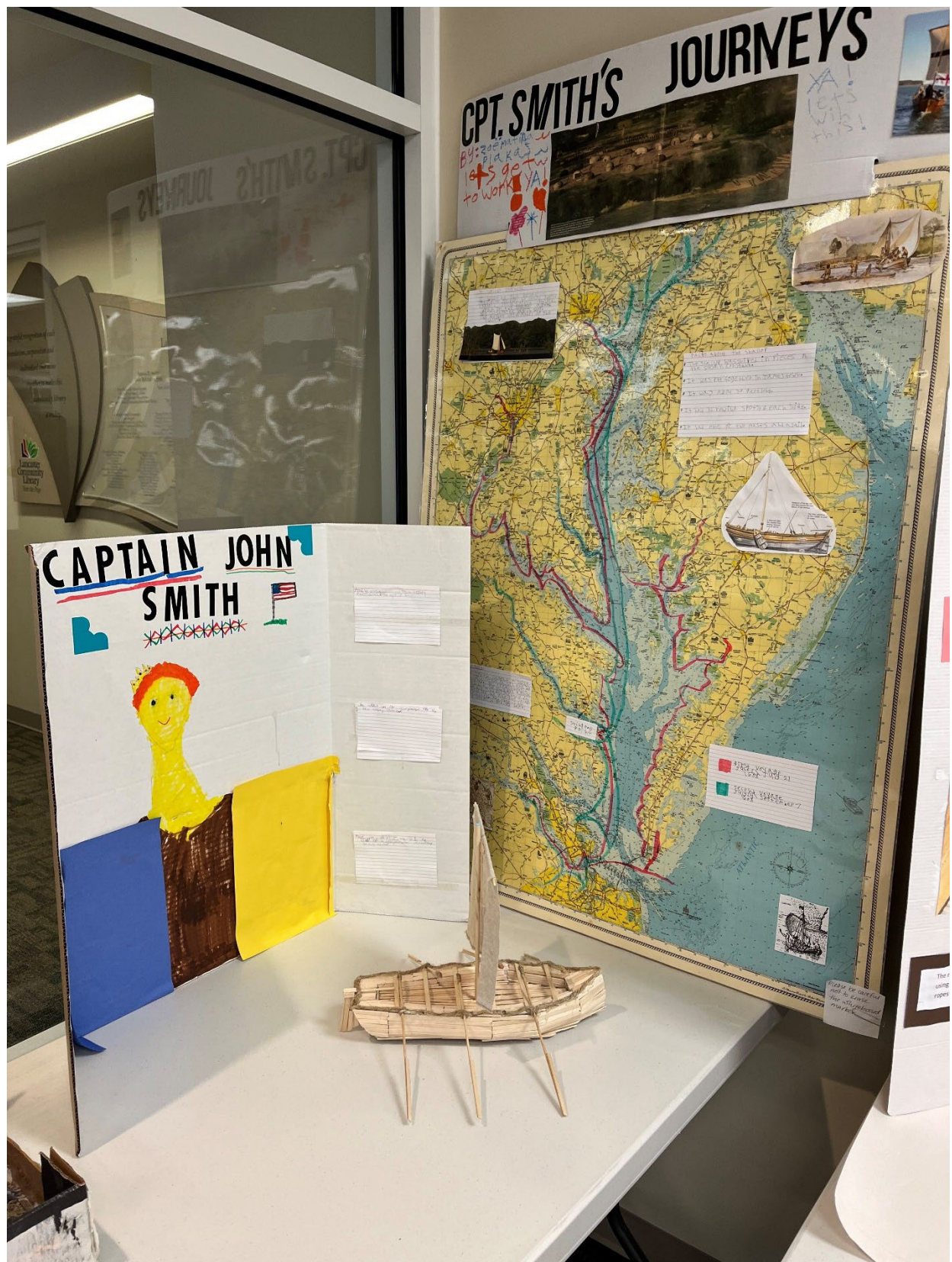




# “Traditional Sailmaking in 1607”

Kenzie Ruddock

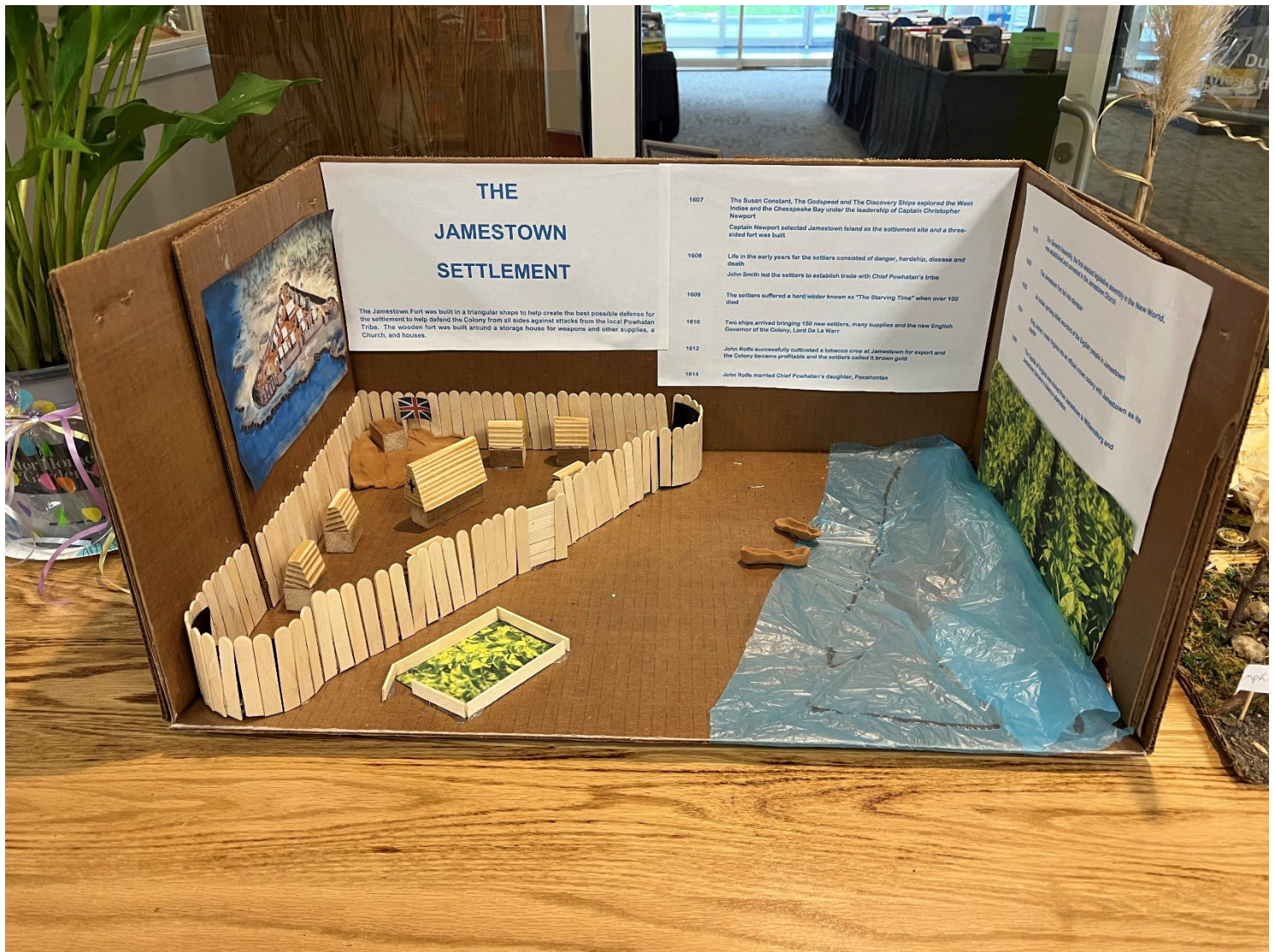




“Capt. Smith’s Journeys”

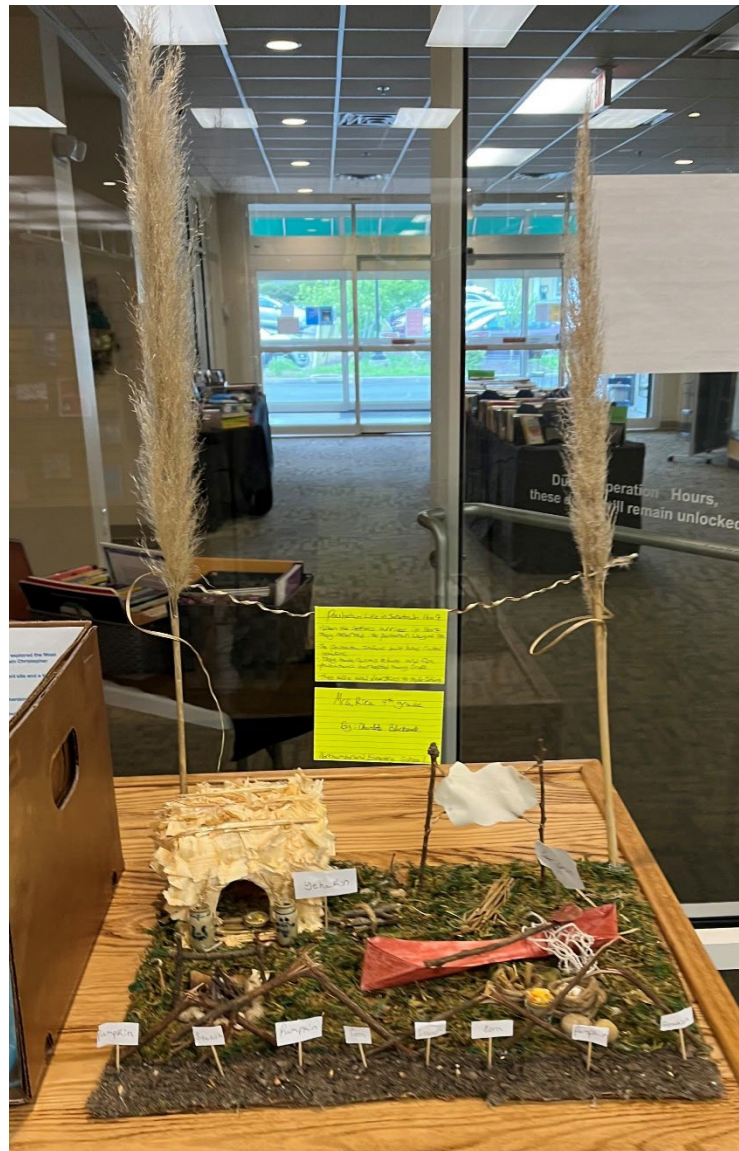
Zoe Plakas





“The Jamestown Settlement”

Weston Kenner



“Powhatan Life in Jamestown 1607”

Charlotte Blackwell

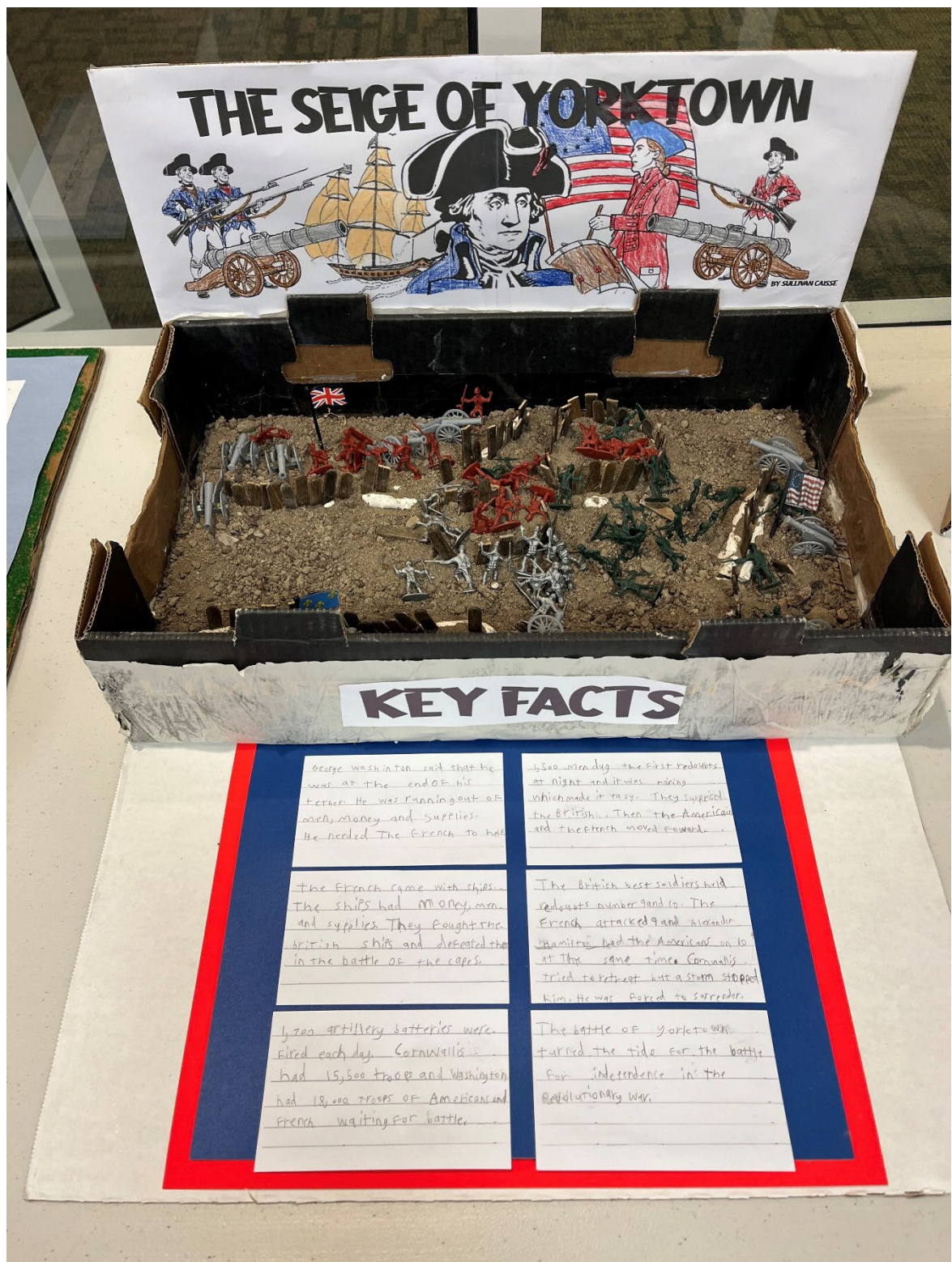




“The Godspeed 1607”

Millie Mayhew and Daniella McLaughlin

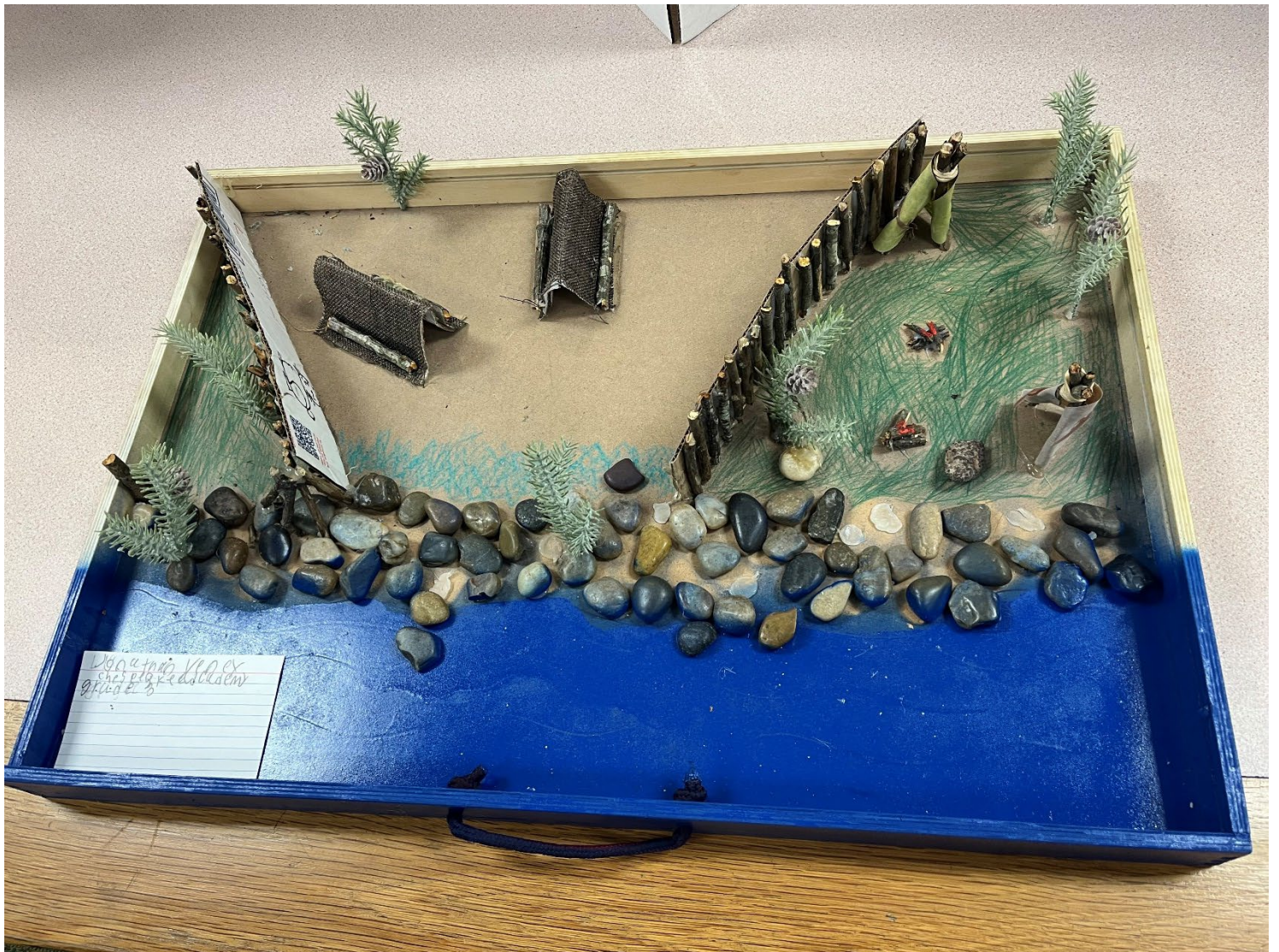




“The Siege of Yorktown”

Sullivan Caisse





"Indian Village"  
Jonathan Veney





“The Godspeed”

Rachel Trollip