

## Unit 5, Lesson 6: 1619: A Particularly Important Year in American History

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### Lesson Overview

In this lesson students will learn why the year 1619 is considered to be such an important year in American history.

### Delaware Content Standards

- History Standard 1, 4-5 [Chronology]: Students will study historical events and persons within a given time frame in order to create a chronology and identify related cause-effect factors.
- History Standard 2b, 4-5 [Analysis]: Students will examine historical materials relating to a particular region, society, or theme; chronologically arrange them; and analyze change over time.

**Big Ideas:** Change over time, causes-effects

### Essential Questions:

- Why is 1619 such an important year in American history?

### Enduring Understandings:

Students will understand that 1619 marks the year when (a) the first Africans arrived in what became the United States, (b) when the foundations for representative government in the United States were laid, and (c) when the survival of an English colony in Virginia was boosted by the arrival of women.

### Resources:

- [Resource 1: Why is 1619 Considered to be Such a Significant Year in History](#)
- [Resource 2: 1619 Graphic Organizer](#)
- [Resource 3: Checks for Understanding](#)

### Procedures:

1. **Warm-Up:** Pose the following question to students - what are some dates that are considered important in American history? Why are they considered important?
  - a. Have them work in small groups to come up with a list. Then, invite volunteers to share their responses.
2. **If students identify 1619** and the arrival of the first people from Africa to the area that became part of the United States, ask if they are aware of any other reasons why 1619 might be considered important.
3. **If students do not identify 1619**, post “1619” for all to see and ask if anyone knows what 1619 is considered important.
  - a. Point out that 1619 is important for at least three reasons and that the students will now read why that is so.
4. **Building Content Knowledge:** Distribute copies of [Resource 1](#) that includes the reading “*Why is 1619 Considered to be Such a Significant Year in History*” (below) and have students read why 1619 is considered such an important year in American history.
5. **Graphic Organizing/Summarizing:** Distribute copies of [Resource 2 - 1619 Graphic Organizer](#) and have students fill in the three reasons why 1619 is considered to be such an important year in American history.

6. **Debrief:** Highlight the fact that key events in the year 1619 helped ensure the survival of a colony that grew into the United States as one of the richest and most powerful countries in the world.
7. **Check for Understanding:** distribute copies of [Resource 3](#) and have students complete the checks for understanding.