



### Historical Truth Table

<p>What is factual- literal historic experience? What leads you to believe this? Prior knowledge? Additional information</p>	<p>What is artistic fiction? Can't be verified yet based on human nature.</p>	<p>What is historically true-plausible? Can't be verified yet based on historical context. What leads you to believe this? Prior knowledge? Additional information</p>	<p>What important historical information are you not sure of? What leads you to believe this? Prior knowledge? Additional information</p>



## Primary Account 1

(John Smith's Account of Pocahontas Saving his Life The history of Virginia, in four parts. I. The history of the first settlement of Virginia, and the government thereof, to the year 1706. Library of Congress pages 25-)

§. 26. Anno 1612, Two Ships more arriv'd with Supplies: And Capt. Argall, who commanded one of them, being sent in her to Patowmeck to buy Corn, he there met with Pocahontas, the excellent Daughter of Powhatan; and having prevail'd with her to come Aboard to a Treat, he detain'd her Prisoner, and carried her to James Town, designing to make Peace with her Father by her Release: But on the contrary, that Prince resented the Affront very highly; and although he loved his Daughter with all imaginable Tenderness, yet he would not be brought to Terms by that unhandsome Treachery; till about two Years after a Marriage being proposed between Mr. John Rolfe, an English Gentleman, and this Lady; which Powhatan taking to be a sincere Token of Friendship, he vouchsafed to consent to it, and to conclude a Peace, tho' he would not come to the Wedding.

§. 27. Pocahontas being thus married in the Year 1613, a firm Peace was concluded with her Father. Both the English and Indians thought themselves intirely secure and quiet. This brought in the Chickahomony Indians also, tho' not out of any Kindness or Respect to the English, but out of Fear of being, by their Assistance, brought under Powhatan's absolute Subjection, who used now and then to threaten and tyrannize over them.

§. 28. Sir Thomas Dale returning for England, Anno 1616, took with him Mr. Rolf and his Wife Pocahontas, who, upon the Marriage, was christen'd and call'd Rebecka. He left Capt. George Yardly Deputy-Governor during his Absence, the Country being then entirely at Peace; and arriv'd at Plymouth the 12th of June. Capt. John Smith was at that time in England, and hearing of the Arrival of Pocahontas at Portsmouth, used all the Means he could to express his Gratitude to her, as having formerly preserv'd his Life by the Hazard of her own: For, when by the Command of her Father, Capt. Smith 's Head was upon the Block to have his Brains knock'd out, she saved his Head by laying hers close upon it. He was at that Time suddenly to imbarck for New England, and fearing he should fail before she got to London, he made an humble Petition to the Queen in her Behalf, which I here choose to give you in his own Words, because it will save me the story at large.

§. 29. Capt. Smith's PETITION to Her Majesty, in Behalf of Pocahontas, Daughter to the Indian Emperor Powhatan.

To the most High and Vertuous Princess, Queen ANNE of Great Britain.

Most Admir'd Madam,

THE Love I bear my God, my King, and Country, hath so often embolden'd me in the worst of extream Dangers, that now Honesty doth constrain strain 27 me to presume thus far beyond my self, to present your Majesty this short Discourse. If Ingratitude be a deadly Poison to all honest Virtues, I must be guilty of that Grime, if I should omit any Means to be thankful.

So it was,

That about Ten Years ago, being in Virginia, and taken Prisoner by the Power of Powhatan, their chief King, I receiv'd from this great Savage exceeding great Courtesie, especially from his Son Nantaquaus; the manliest, comeliest, boldest Spirit I ever saw in a Savage; and his Sister Pocahontas, the King's most dear and well-beloved Daughter, being but a Child of Twelve or Thirteen Years of Age, whose compassionate pitiful Heart of my desperate Estate gave me much Cause to respect her. I being the first Christian this proud King and his grim Attendants ever saw, and thus inthrall'd in their barbarous Power; I cannot say I felt the least occasion of Want, that was in the Power of those my mortal Foes to prevent, notwithstanding all their Threats.

*After some six Weeks fattening amongst those Savage Courtiers, at the Minute my Execution she hazarded the beating out of her own Brains to save mine, and not only that, but so prevail'd with her Father, that I was safely conducted to James Town, where I found about eight and thirty miserable, poor and sick Creatures to keep Possession for all those large Territories of Virginia. Such was the Weakness of this poor Commonwealth, as had not the Savages fed us, we directly had starv'd.*

*And this Relief, most Gracious Queen, was commonly brought us by this Lady Pocahontas, notwithstanding all these Passages, when unconstant Fortune turn'd our Peace to War, this tender Virgin would still not spare to dare to visit us; and by her our Jars have been off appeased, and our Wants still supplied. Were it the Policy of her Father thus to employ C 2 ploy 28 her, or the Ordinance of God thus to make her his Instrument, or her extraordinary Affection to our Nation, I know not: But of this I am sure, when her Father, with the utmost of his Policy and Power, sought to surprize me, having but eighteen with me, the dark Night could not affright her from coming through the irksome Woods, and, with water'd Eyes, give me Intelligence, with her best Advice to escape his Fury; which had he known, he had surely slain her.*

*James Town, with her wild Train, she as freely frequented as her Father's Habitation; and during the Time of two or three Years, she, next under God, was still the Instrument to preserve this Colony from Death, Famine, and utter Confusion, which if, in those Times, had once been dissolv'd, Virginia might have lain, as it was at our first Arrival, till this Day. Since then, this Business having been turn'd and varied by many Accidents from what I left it, it is most certain, after a long and troublesome War, since my Departure, betwixt her Father and our Colony, all which Time she was not heard of, about two Years after she herself was taken Prisoner, being so detain'd near two Years longer, the Colony by that means was reliev'd, Peace concluded, and at last, rejecting her barbarous Condition, she was married to an English Gentleman, with whom at this present she is in England. The first Christian ever of that Nation: The first Virginian ever spake English, or had a Child in Marriage by an Englishman. A Matter surely, if my Meaning be truly consider'd and well understood, worthy a Prince's Information.*

*Thus, most Gracious Lady, I have related to your Majesty what at your best Leisure our approv'd Histories will recount to you at large, as done in the Time of your Majesty's Life: And, however this might be presented you from a more worthy Pen, it cannot from a more honest Heart. As yet I never beg'd any thing of the State; and it is my want of Ability, and her exceeding Desert; your Birth, Means, and Authority; her Birth, Vertue, Want and Simplicity, doth make me thus bold, humbly to beseech your Majesty to take this Knowledge of her, tho' it be from one so unworthy to be the Reporter as my self: Her Husband's Estate not being able to make her fit to attend your Majesty.*

*The most and least I can do, is to tell you this, and the rather because of her being of so great a Spirit, however her Stature. If she should not be well receiv'd, seeing this Kingdom may rightly have a Kingdom by her Means; her present Love to us and Christianity, might turn to such Scorn and Fury, as to divert all this Good to the worst of Evil: Where finding that so great a Queen should do her more Honour than she can imagine, for having been kind to her Subjects and Servants, 'twould so ravish her with Content, as to endear her dearest Blood to effect that your Majesty and all the King's honest Subjects most earnestly Desire. And so I humbly kiss your gracious Hands, &c.*

*( Sign'd ) John Smith.*

*Dated June, 1616.*

## Secondary Account 2

“Excerpt from *The American Dream of Captain John Smith*, written in 1991 by historian J.A. Leo Lemay”

*Scholar J. A. Leo Lemay in *The American Dream of Captain John Smith* claimed that Smith was a trustworthy author who wrote different accounts for different purposes: to describe the new land in the first account, to promote colonization of it in the second. Lemay included another piece of primary evidence to make his case: a letter Smith wrote to Queen Anne in 1616 describing the rescue. Lemay claimed that there was no doubt that the event happened, but that Smith misunderstood its meaning: it was less a rescue than an elaborate native ritual. Historian Philip Barbour agreed, claiming that the event was actually a Native American rite meant to signify death and rebirth, symbolizing Smith's assumption of a new tribal identity under Powhatan's patronage. Something obviously happened, but its import was misunderstood by the actor at its center*

For more information read the article from which this is excerpted at <https://studylib.net/doc/8285883/did-pocahontas-rescue-john-smith%3F>