

**Card 3**  
**The First Charter of Virginia, April 10, 1606**

Original Charter:

Giving and granting, ... Power and Authority to take and surprise, by all Ways and Means whatsoever, all and every Person and Persons, with their Ships, Vessels, Goods, and other Furniture, which shall be found trafficking, into any Harbor ...Creek,... or Place, within the Limits ...of Colonies... not being of the same Colony, until such time, as they, being of any Realms, or Dominions under our Obedience, shall pay...to the Hands of the Treasurer of that Colony, ... two and a half upon every Hundred, of anything so by them trafficked, bought, or sold; And being Strangers... until they shall pay five upon every Hundred, of such Wares and Merchandises, as they shall traffic, buy, or sell, within the ... Colonies, ... WHICH Sums of Money...during the Space of one and twenty Years... shall be wholly employed to the Use, Benefit, and Behoof of the said several Colonies...

Text Dependent Question

1) What legal rights does this section of the First Charter of Virginia give the colonists? Provide evidence from the text.

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**Modern Translation**

This document grants the power and authority to the colonist to take possession of any person, ship, or supplies that come into the waters owned by the colony for the purpose of trade. The colonists can hold onto the ships or supplies until the owners agree to pay a tax. For English ships this tax would be 2.5 % of the value of the ship or supplies. If the ship is from another country, the tax is 5%. This law is in place for the next 21 years. Any money collected by this tax is to be given to the colony's treasurer and will be used to benefit the colony.

**Text Dependent Question**

- 1) Confirm the prediction you made on the other side of this sheet. What is the main legal right this section of the First Charter of Virginia gives the colonists? Provide evidence from the text.
- 2) What can the colonists take from people who come to the colony to trade?
- 3) What do the traders or ship owners do to get back their ships and supplies?
- 4) How would this law help the colonists survive and thrive?