

Card 5
The First Charter of Virginia, April 10, 1606

Original Charter:

That the said Person or Persons, having committed any such robbery, or Spoil, shall, within the term to be limited by such Proclamations, make full Restitution or Satisfaction of all such Injuries done, so as the said Princes, or others so complaining, may hold themselves fully satisfied and contented; And, that if the said Person or Persons, having committed such Robbery or Spoil, shall not make, or cause to be made Satisfaction accordingly, within such Time so to be limited, That then it shall be lawful to Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to put the said Person or Persons, having committed such Robbery or Spoil, and their Procurers, Abettors, and Comforters, out of our Allegiance and Protection; And that it shall be lawful and free, for all Princes, and others to pursue with hostility the said offenders...

Text Dependent Question

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

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Modern Translation

If any person or group of persons commit robbery or damage to another colonist, he or she must within a certain amount of time, replace or pay for what has been stolen or damaged. If the person, or group, does not repay or replace what has been stolen or damaged, he or she can be sent out of the colony to live on their own. Anyone who helped the thief can also be sent away. It is legal for the thieves to be chased or hunted down.

Text Dependent Question

- 1) Confirm the prediction you made on the other side of this sheet. What legal right does this section of the First Charter of Virginia give the colonists? Provide evidence from the text.
- 2) If someone is caught stealing or damaging property, what is their first punishment?
- 3) What happens if the criminal does not do the first thing the law asks?
- 4) What happens to someone who helps the person who has committed a crime?
- 5) How would this law help the colonists survive and thrive?