

# Looking Back to 1619: Key Historic Events in Virginia

~ Learn more about the 2019 Statewide Commemoration “American Evolution” ~

**Newport News, VA, Jan. 29, 2019** – How many of you were aware that 2019 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of four milestones in Virginia’s history? In 1619, the following occurred:

1. The first representative legislative body met.
2. The first reported Africans arrived.
3. The first females were brought from England to Jamestown.
4. The first Thanksgiving was held.

To commemorate these “firsts,” the Virginia Tourism Corporation has launched *American Evolution*, a state-wide series of programs marking the 400th anniversary of events that took place in Virginia in 1619. As a result, three popular attractions in Newport News will help tell the story of the past 400 years by hosting these special exhibits in 2019:

- The [Virginia Living Museum](#) is featuring through April 21 an exhibit called *American Adventure*, a 2,000 sq. ft. interactive maze that includes an indoor rock wall and zip-line that challenges visitors to survive a year as one of the original Jamestown colonists.
- At [The Mariners’ Museum](#), the exhibit *Waters of Despair, Waters of Hope: African Americans and the Chesapeake Bay* explores the major influences and impact that Africans and African Americans have had on the bay since the early 1600s through today. The exhibit uses artifacts, images, and recordings to tell the story of slave importation and labor in the Chesapeake Bay region.
- The [Peninsula Fine Arts Center](#) recently opened two exhibitions, *African Art: Power and Identity* and *Cash Crop*. The museum developed the series to commemorate the landing of the first Africans to the Virginia Colony. *African Art: Power and Identity* celebrates the creativity of African artists who created utilitarian objects of great beauty, while *Cash Crop* is composed of 15 life-sized casts that represent the millions of African people brought to the New World.

For additional details, including admission prices, visit the specific website listed above for each exhibition. To learn more about statewide events and exhibits associated with the Virginia Tourism Corporation’s *American Evolution*, visit [www.americanevolution2019.com](http://www.americanevolution2019.com).

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