**Starving Time in Jamestown**

Excerpts from John Smith’s A Historie of Virginia

…within six months after Captaine Smiths departure, there remained not past sixtie men, women and children, most miserable and poore creatures; and those were preserved for the most part, by roots, herbes, acornes, walnuts, berries, now and then a little fish: they that had startch in these extremities, made no small use of it; yea, even the very skinnes of our horses. Nay, so great was our famine, that a Salvage we slew, and buried, the poorer sort tooke him up againe and eat him, and so did divers one another boyled and stewed with roots and herbs: And one amongst the rest did kill his wife, powdered her, and had eaten part of her before it was knowne, for which hee was executed, as hee well deserved; now whether shee was better roasted, boyled or carbonado’d, I know not, but of such a dish as powdered wife I never heard of. This was that time, which still to this day we called the starving time; it were too vile to say, and scarce to be beleeved, what we endured: but the occasion was our owne, for want of providence, industrie and government, and not the barrennesse and defect of the Countrie,

**Based on your knowledge of the period described by Captain Smith and the evidence in the text, write responses to the following.**

1. **Citing evidence from the text, describe the general conditions of the “starving time” in Jamestown.**
2. **What does Smith mean when he says, “but the occasion was our owne, for want of providence, Industrie and government, and not the barrennesse and defect of the Countrie”?**

**Also from John Smith’s A Historie of Virginia**

You cannot deny but that by the hazard of my life many a time I have saved yours, when you would have starved…But I protest by the God that made me, since necessities do not have the power to force you to gather for yourselves the fruits that the earth does yield, you shall not only gather for yourselves, but those that are sick. And since I have never had more from the store than the worst of you, you shall see me divide it among the sick. And the Savage “trash” you so scornfully repine at; being put in your mouths your stomachs can digest, if you would have better you should have brought it.

Therefore I will set a course – you shall provide what is to be had…he that gathers not every day as much as I do, the next day shall be set beyond the river, and be banished from the Fort as a drone, till he amends his conditions or starve… he who shall not work shall not eat.

**Do a close reading of the text above and then write a response that uses evidence (quotes).**

1. **Citing examples directly from the text, describe the means by which John Smith “saved” the Jamestown colony.**
2. **What does he mean by “he who shall not work shall not eat”?**