

# Williamsport



© 2024 J Williams III  
All Rights Reserved

# Williamsport

**Materials Needed:** One sheet of white Butcher paper measuring 20 in. x 36 in. per group, ruler, pencils (graphite and colored), markers

This activity will allow students to experience each of the four stages of development that have progressively impacted the town of Williamsport.  
**Stage 1 – Setting Boundaries (1600 – 1750) Stage 2 - Industrialization (1750 - 1900) Stage 3 – Agricultural Development (1800 – 1960) Stage 4 - Urbanization (1960 – Now)**

Welcome to the rural village of Williamsport, Scotland back in the 1700's. Williamsport is similar to other villages in Europe during the 18th century. Change is very slow, people move at a slow pace, and people have very little access to or information about the world outside of their village.

- London is one of the only two urban areas in Europe during this time, the vast majority of people living in Europe reside in small rural villages like Williamsport. Home life and work life were closely integrated as most of the work done will take place in nearby fields, in homes, or nearby workshops.
- Life expectancy is slightly over 40 years old and people are getting married as teenagers and having babies in their early twenties. Many women will die during childbirth and one out of three babies will not live long enough to experience their first birthday due to the lack of medical knowledge and primitive medical instruments. Only 50% of the children making past their first birthday would make it to their 21st birthday.
- Most of the townspeople are poor farmers. If a family owned a tract of land it was usually passed down to the oldest son to ensure it would continue to be profitable for the family. Marriages were arranged and a man needed to own land to prove he could support a family and gain approval from the brides family. Most farmers made their own food, clothes, furniture, tools, and homes. Most people during this time would never travel more than 25 miles in their lifetime and villages were connected by a system of dirt roads that were inoperable in rain, sleet, or snow. There were two items used for fuel and found close by - firewood and coal.

**Create groups of 3 or 4, update the map periodically with the 10 developments provided in each stage of this activity while it's being covering it in class (Stage 1 – Unit 4, Stage 2 – Unit 7, Stage 3 – Unit 5, Stage 4 – Unit 6). Good Luck!!!!**

# Williamsport

## Stage I – Boundaries – Unit 4

**Please follow the directions below to help draw the boundaries associated with the town of Williamsport.**

1. The first thing that has to be added to the Williamsport map is a compass in the top left hand corner within a box or a circle that is 3 inches x 3 inches. The compass will show North, South, East, West, North East, North West, South East and South West. Then write the town name - Williamsport in the top right hand corner of the sheet in a box that is not larger than 5 inches x 2 inches. Then please write the names of the group members on the back of the sheet (Even the ones that are absent).
2. Next we must replicate the James River which runs through Williamsport. Draw a river about 1 to 2 inches wide that runs from the north west corner of the map to the south east corner, the river should have some curves to reflect a real river and not just be drawn with straight lines. The James River is a very important way for goods to be transported in and out of Williamsport.
3. The main street of Williamsport is called Jefferson Avenue and will run right down the middle of the map from the northern end of the map to the southern end of the map, Jefferson Avenue should be drawn about one inch wide in a straight line. There will need to be a bridge constructed and drawn to cross the James river and connect both sections of Jefferson Avenue.
4. There is a small dirt road called Cavalier Drive that travels from the south west corner of the map to the north east corner of the map; the road should be no more than a half an inch wide and will provide a connection to Jefferson Ave, just south of the Jefferson Avenue Bridge and then Cavalier Drive will continue to the north east corner of the map after crossing the James River with a bridge connecting both sections of Cavalier Drive.
5. The Warwick coal mine is a very important resource and is located in the southwestern part of Williamsport. The coal mine is just north of Cavalier Drive's most southwestern section and should be shown as a half circle that is about 2 inches wide by 2 inches tall.

# Williamsport

## Stage 4 – Urbanization – Unit 6

6. With so much growth in the northeast section of town, a new road has to be constructed to help with the traffic flow. The new road is called Mercury Boulevard and it will begin at Jefferson Avenue just north of the Jefferson Avenue bridge as it crosses the James River and will extend in a straight line east to the edge of the map crossing over Cavalier Drive. The new road has provided easy access to new land areas that can help support growth in the area. A new office park with space to accommodate 100 businesses has been built on the northern side of Mercury Boulevard east of Cavalier Drive. Draw a large square with a O in the middle of the square to represent the Office Park. With so many wealthy people living near the Northeast corner of town a new shopping mall is being constructed. Draw a large square to represent the mall on the northern side of Mercury Blvd. near Cavalier Drive. Place a capital M inside of the large square being drawn to represent the shopping mall.

7. Now that the Mall and Office Park have been built and become so popular; the city has decided to sell some land that has become valuable after the creation of Mercury Boulevard to investors who live in Kiln Creek. The land is south of Mercury Boulevard and was quickly cleared of trees to create 3 new subdivisions and each subdivision will have 125 luxury homes. Draw 3 round circles east of Cavalier Drive and south of Mercury Boulevard to represent these three new subdivisions, each circle should have a road that connects the subdivision to Mercury Boulevard. Place a capital S inside each circle to represent the subdivisions on your map.

8. With all the new housing being built around Kiln Creek it has become very expensive to live in that part of town. Lots of newly graduated college students who are looking for inexpensive housing have begun buying and improving homes in the East End area. With these new residents moving into this area more stores are being built to accommodate their needs. Draw 5 squares in the East End community south of the James River and east of Jefferson Avenue; the squares will represent a Home Improvement store (H), a Bank (B), a Furniture Store (F), a BBQ restaurant (R), and a grocery store (G). After drawing these squares onto the map, label each store with the appropriate letter.

9. Crime has gotten worse around the Stuart Gardens housing towers with so many people living in such a close area. Draw 5 squares near Stuart Gardens south of the Huntington Rail Lines, east of Jefferson Avenue, and north of Cavalier Drive; these squares will represent a Police Station (P), a Easy Loan store (E), a Rent to own Furniture Store (R), a Fast food restaurant (F), and a convenience store with prepackaged food (C). After drawing these squares onto the map, label each store with the appropriate letter.

10. Eventually the wealthy people in Kiln Creek feel like they are paying the bulk of the taxes for Williamsport and that the people living in the Stuart Gardens and East End communities are not providing enough financial support for the town of Williamsport. The residents living in Kiln Creek take a vote and decide to form their own city with all the land east of Jefferson Avenue and north of the railroad tracks. Draw two squares to represent a police station (P) and fire department (F) in the new city of Kiln Creek, after drawing the squares onto the map label each square.