**History v. Hollywood: How Accurate is Disney’s *Pocahontas?***

**Basic Information:** Read the basic facts about Pocahontas below. We will then watch scenes from the movie *Pocahontas*. As you watch, see if you can identify parts of the film that seem accurate and inaccurate and record them in the chart at the bottom of this page.

**Basic Facts About Pocahontas:**

1. Pocahontas was born in 1595 – 12 years before the founding of Jamestown – and died in 1617 at the age of only 22.
2. Pocahontas was the daughter of a Powhatan chief who lived in what is now Virginia.
3. John Smith claimed that he was captured by Powhatan hunters, and that he was nearly executed by them, but Pocahontas rescued him just before his execution.
4. There is significant controversy about whether Pocahontas really rescued John Smith. Some have argued that it happened, others have argued that Smith made it up, while still others have argued that Smith misinterpreted a Powhatan ceremony as his near execution.
5. After the “rescue”, Pocahontas and John Smith remained friendly, often visiting each other’s settlements. Pocahontas even brought the Jamestown settlers food during the Starving Time. There is no evidence, however, that Smith and Pocahontas were lovers.
6. John Smith returned to England in 1609 due to an injury from a gunpowder explosion.
7. Pocahontas was captured in 1613 by Jamestown settlers, perhaps to be held as ransom
8. While captured, Pocahontas met John Rolfe. He fell in love with her, and wrote a letter describing his “unbridled desire” for her. We do not know how she felt about him. They were married in 1614.
9. Rolfe and Pocahontas had one child, and through him they have many living descendents.
10. In 1616 Pocahontas was taken to England as the Virginia Company hoped to encourage new colonists by showing that Native Americans could be “civilized.”
11. While in England, Pocahontas met John Smith again, but few details of their encounter remain.
12. Just as the 1617 return voyage to Virginia began, the 22 year old Pocahontas became ill and died. She was buried in England.

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| **What Seems Accurate** | **What Seems Inaccurate** |
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