

# ATPE BOOK of the month CLUB

**Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland** by *Sally Walker*

1. Imagine you are one of the settlers living at Fort James in 1607. Consider the facts brought to life by the discovery of JR 1225B, and write your own account of a day at the fort.
2. Make a list of common items that are found in graves from the colonial period. How do you think some of these items ended up in the graves? Why do you think the shell found at Harleigh Knoll was placed in the graveyard?
3. What do you think the Native Americans thought of the settlers? Look at the circumstances of JR 1225B's death and the fact that "the Capitan" was buried outside the fort. How does this compare with what you already know about relations between the early European settlers and the native inhabitants of North America?
4. Why do you think the indentured servants made up the majority of the workforce? What are the positive and negative aspects of this system?
5. What consequences might result from having a trash pit in your basement? What do you think motivated the colonists on Neale's farm to use this method instead of having an outside garbage pile like Fort James?
6. Examine the Calvert coat of arms. What symbols would you use in a coat of arms representing your family? Make a drawing or collage.
7. Compare the life of an indentured servant like the Leavy Neck boy with that of a slave, such as the ones who worked near Harleigh Knoll.
8. How accurate do you think the reconstruction of HK7's face was? What artistic license might have been taken?
9. Some of the skeletons featured in this book are more than 400 years old. What clues will scientists 400 years from now use to learn about our lives today? Do you think that modern record-keeping, books and the vast amount of information we preserve about our society, along with the rise of the Internet and digital images, will preclude the need for excavations like the ones in the book? Why or why not?
10. The people of Jamestown and colonial Maryland had lives very different from ours. What do you think were the most striking differences between their lives and the way we live today? What has remained the same?

