Movie Mythbusting Optional Worksheet

Thanks for joining us to dive into *The New World*! This worksheet is completely optional, but we will be touching on some of these questions/themes in the program. If you are a person who likes to write things down, feel free to use this worksheet to help organize your thoughts, and follow along!

1. Before watching, what do you already know about John Smith’s interaction with Pocahontas, and the Jamestown colonists interactions with the Powhatan tribes? What sources have you learned this story from?

2. *The New World* has many stretches of time that don’t include dialogue or action, but rather sweeping shots of nature – why do you think filmmakers included scenes that aren’t traditionally “exciting”?

3. Pocahontas would have been 10 or 11 when she met John Smith, who would have been around 28. Historians agree that there is no evidence of a romantic relationship between the two. Why do you think their love story persists generally in popular culture?

4. Actress Q’orianka Kilcher, who played Pocahontas, was around 14 when this movie was filmed. Her love interests (Colin Farell and Christian Bale) would have been around 28 and 31. While this is closer to historical accuracy in terms of age, as noted in the above question, there is no historical evidence of a romantic relationship between Pocahontas and John Smith, and she would have been several years older when she married John Rolfe. Why do you think the film made the controversial choice to include historically inaccurate romances between an underage girl and adult men?

5. Ignoring historical accuracy, what was your favorite and least favorite part of *The New World*? Why?