

English Colonization of America

The Lost Colony

What is The Lost Colony?

Roanoke Colony was the first attempt by the English to establish a colony in the Americas. Unfortunately, the colony failed when the settlers disappeared under mysterious circumstances giving the colony the nickname **The "Lost Colony."**

Where Was The Colony Located?

The Roanoke Colony was located on **Roanoke Island** off the coast of North Carolina. The land was considered part of Virginia at the time. In 1584, the land of Virginia, was granted to **Sir Walter Raleigh** by **Queen Elizabeth I**. **The British hoped to establish a foothold in the Americas to expand their empire.**

The Colony:

After exploring, Raleigh decided Roanoke would be a good place to establish a colony. The first attempt at establishing the colony failed because the settlers struggled to survive and they were constantly fighting with Native Americans. A second attempt at starting a colony at Roanoke occurred in 1587. This time 115 colonists traveled to Roanoke, led by **John White**. The colonists began to build their settlement on Roanoke. Unfortunately, the colonists continued to have disputes with the local tribes and some colonists were killed. **They also discovered that they were not prepared to build a successful colony.** John White decided to return to England in order to gain supplies. But White could find little help for the colony. England was in the middle of a large battle with Spain. As a result, White was unable to return until three years later in 1590. When White arrived in Roanoke in 1590, **he found the colony completely abandoned.**

Your Task

It's America's greatest mystery: **Where did they go? That's your question to answer.** You and your group members are investigators who have been sent to Roanoke Island to look over all of the clues and **form a hypothesis about what happened to The Lost Colony of Roanoke.**

Assign Group Roles

1. Assign 1 person the job of being the **REPORTER**. At the end of the activity, this person will be responsible for **creating a paragraph (4-6 sentences) to present to the rest of the class that details their group's hypothesis.** Your paragraph should include evidence from the clues and the opinions of your group members.
2. Assign 1 person the job of being a **MANAGER**. This person will help **generate a conversation**, making sure that the rest of the group is **on task**.
3. Assign 1 person the job of being the **PRESENTER**. This person will **read the group's hypothesis to the class.**
4. Assign 1 person the job of being the **EDITOR / SUBMITTER**. This person will **review the group's hypothesis paragraph**, and **IF** it meets requirements, **turn it into the red tray when complete.**

Directions:

1. Read each clue card at your table - take turns having ONE person read each clue card while the other group members listen to the clue being read.
2. Then, discuss each clue after reading it.
3. Each person will write down the key facts from each clue on their worksheet after reading a clue.

Doing this will help the reporter
come up with a group hypothesis
paragraph at the end.