

Name _____

Date _____

Roanoke

Sir Walter Raleigh received a charter from Queen Elizabeth I of England for the colonization of the area of North America known as Virginia. The charter allowed Raleigh ten years to establish a settlement in North America. If he did not establish it within ten years, he would lose his right to colonization.

Raleigh and Queen Elizabeth intended for the colonization to provide riches. They also intended that the venture be a base from which raids against Spanish treasure ships could be made.

In 1584, Raleigh sent an expedition to explore the east coast of North America. Their goal was to find an appropriate location for colonization. The expedition was led by Phillip Amadas and Arthur Barlowe. They proceeded to choose an area of modern North Carolina known as the Outer Banks as an ideal location. From this location, they could raid the Spanish, who had settlements to the south.

The following spring, a group was sent to establish the colony. This group was led by Sir Richard Grenville. Grenville was assigned to explore the area, establish the colony, and return to England to report on the success of the venture. The establishment of the colony was initially postponed. This may have been due to the food that was ruined when the ship struck ground upon arrival at the Outer Banks. Despite the lack of food, Grenville left a group of men to establish the English colony at the north end of Roanoke Island. He then left, promising to return with more men and more supplies in April.

April of 1586 passed, and Grenville did not arrive. Sir Francis Drake stopped by the colony after a successful raid and offered to take the colonists back to England. They accepted his offer. Shortly after they left, Grenville's relief fleet arrived. After finding the colony abandoned, Grenville left a small group at the colony to maintain an English presence and to protect Raleigh's claim. He took the rest of his force with him and returned to England.

In 1587, Raleigh sent another group of colonists to the New World. These colonists were led by John White. White was a friend of Raleigh's who had been on previous expeditions to Roanoke. This new group of colonists was supposed to pick up the fifteen men that had been left at Roanoke. They were then supposed to settle further north in the Chesapeake Bay area.

When this group of colonists reached Roanoke, they found no trace of the previous colonists, except for the bones of one man. The new settlers landed on Roanoke Island on July 22, 1587. Less than a month later, White's daughter (Eleanor) gave birth to the first English child born in the Americas. The child was named Virginia Dare. There was unrest between the settlers and the neighboring tribes. The colonists convinced White to return to England to ask for help for the colony. There were roughly 115 colonists left behind when White returned to England.

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Roanoke (Cont'd)

Crossing the Atlantic in winter can be dangerous, and White barely made it back to England. Plans for relief were delayed because the captain refused to sail back during winter. After that, the coming of the Spanish Armada further postponed White's return, because all of the English ships were being used for defense against the Spanish fleet. Because of the continuing war between Spain and England, White was not able to return to Roanoke until 1590. He arrived on August 18, 1590, but he found no trace of the colony.

The only message found was the word "Croatoan" carved on a wooden post. Some believe that the colonists joined one of the Native American tribes. It is likely that the settlement was overrun by local tribes. While this is the most likely theory, no one has ever been able to explain the meaning of "Croatoan" or found definitive evidence of the fate of the Roanoke colony. This is why Roanoke is sometimes known as "the Lost Colony."

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Roanoke Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. The group sent to establish a colony at Roanoke was led by:
 - a. Sir Richard Grenville
 - b. Sir Walter Raleigh
 - c. Sir Francis Drake
 - d. Sir Walter Scott
2. The first English child born in the New World was named:
 - a. Betsy Ross
 - b. Virginia Dare
 - c. Elizabeth James
 - d. Mary Wayne
3. Roanoke was also intended to be a base from which they could raid:
 - a. Mexican flotillas
 - b. Russian ships
 - c. Spanish treasure ships
 - d. French vessels

Fill In:

4. When Roanoke disappeared, the only clue found was the word _____ carved into a tree.
5. Roanoke is sometimes known as the _____ Colony.
6. _____ received a charter from Queen Elizabeth I of England for the colonization of the area of North America known as Virginia.
7. The expedition to find an appropriate area for colonization was led by Phillip Amadas and _____.
8. In 1587, Raleigh sent another group of colonists to the New World that was led by _____.

True or False:

- ____ 9. After returning to England for supplies, John White was not able to return to Roanoke until 1590 because of the continuing war between England and France.
- ____ 10. There were roughly 115 colonists left behind when White returned to England for supplies.

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Roanoke Answers

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Fill In:

- When Roanoke disappeared, the only clue found was the word Croatoan carved into a tree.
- Roanoke is sometimes known as the Lost Colony.
- Sir Walter Raleigh received a charter from Queen Elizabeth I of England for the colonization of the area of North America known as Virginia.
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