

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Vanishing of Roanoke

In the late 16th century, a group of English settlers established a colony on Roanoke Island, off the coast of what is now North Carolina. Led by John White, these pioneers aimed to create a permanent settlement in the New World.

However, their dreams were soon dashed by a series of misfortunes. Food supplies dwindled, relations with the local Native American tribes soured, and tensions within the colony ran high. In 1587, John White left Roanoke to sail back to England in search of reinforcements and supplies, leaving behind his daughter, Eleanor Dare, and her newborn daughter, Virginia.

When White returned to Roanoke in 1590, he was met with a chilling sight—there was no sign of the colonists anywhere. The settlement had been abandoned, with no indication of what had happened to its inhabitants. The only clue was the word "CROATOAN" carved into a tree, suggesting that the colonists may have relocated to the nearby Croatoan Island.

Despite extensive searches and investigations, the fate of the Lost Colony of Roanoke remains a mystery to this day. Numerous theories have been proposed, ranging from assimilation into Native American tribes to violent conflict with neighboring settlements.

One prevailing theory suggests that the colonists may have fallen victim to disease, starvation, or attacks by hostile Native American tribes. Another theory posits that they may have attempted to sail back to England on their own, only to be lost at sea.

The disappearance of the Roanoke colonists has captured the imagination of historians, archaeologists, and storytellers alike, spawning countless theories and interpretations. To this day, the Lost Colony of Roanoke remains one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in American history, a haunting reminder of the fragility of human civilization in the face of the unknown.



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### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who led the English settlers to establish the colony on Roanoke Island?
  - A) John Smith
  - B) John White
  - C) Eleanor Dare
  - D) Virginia Dare
2. Why did John White leave Roanoke and sail back to England?
  - A) To search for food
  - B) To find reinforcements and supplies
  - C) To explore other islands
  - D) To visit his family
3. What was the only clue left behind by the colonists when John White returned?
  - A) A map to a hidden treasure
  - B) A letter explaining their departure
  - C) The word "CROATOAN" carved into a tree
  - D) A trail of breadcrumbs
4. What are some of the theories about the fate of the Lost Colony of Roanoke?
  - A) Assimilation into Native American tribes
  - B) Violent conflict with neighboring settlements
  - C) Disease, starvation, or attacks by Native Americans
  - D) All of the above
5. Why is the disappearance of the Roanoke colonists considered a mystery?
  - A) Because they were never found
  - B) Because they left behind many clues
  - C) Because they wrote a detailed explanation
  - D) Because they left a map to their new location