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England Seeks Riches

In the late 1500s, England began to notice that the Spanish colonies (settlements far away from the country that rules it) in America were turning out to be successful. These colonies' successes were making Spain very rich. The English, wanting a share in the riches, decided to start their own colonies. England claimed land north of the Spanish colonies in Florida and named the land "Virginia." This is where The Queen of England decided that their first colony would be. She sent explorers to the land in 1585. The explorers discovered an area called Roanoke. They became friendly with the American Indians living in the area. It was decided that this would be the best place to start their first colony.

The First Colony at Roanoke

The first group of settlers was sent to the colony. It was a group of 107 men led by Sir Richard Grenville. They built a fort at Roanoke. They quickly learned that they were in trouble. They had hostile relations with a local group of American Indians, and much of their food supply was ruined on their voyage. Captain Grenville returned to England to get more supplies for his colony.

Another English explorer, Sir Francis Drake, visited the colony while Grenville was away. He saw that the colony was failing and offered to help by taking them back to England. When Grenville finally returned to the settlement, he found it was abandoned. The first colony at Roanoke was no more. So, leaving a few of his men behind, Grenville returned to England.

The Second Colony at Roanoke

England was not ready to quit. They decided to try again. They sent more colonists to Roanoke in 1587. This time the group was led by John White. A group of 115 colonists

was sent to Roanoke. The colonists expected to find the men that Grenville had left behind. All they found was a human skeleton.

The colonists worked hard to build their settlement. It was very difficult. They continued to have strained relations with the group of American Indians the first colony had conflicts with. Some of the men were killed because of disagreements with them. The colonists soon realized they once again did not have enough supplies. John White returned to England to gather more. A war between England and Spain made it impossible for White to return for several years. When he finally made it back to the colony, he was met with a mystery. Everyone had disappeared without a trace. The only thing left behind was the word CROATOAN carved into a wooden post and the letters C-R-O carved into a tree outside the settlement.



Connections

John White's Journeys

John White was born in London in 1540. He was a talented painter and mapmaker. In 1585, he joined an expedition to the Americas.

John spent time taking notes about his experiences in America. He also painted what he saw. His notes and paintings have helped us learn about the American Indian people that lived there. Because of White, we have learned a lot about the Algonquin tribes.

In 1585, White returned to England. While there, he was offered the job of returning to start an English colony. He agreed to take the job and gathered 113 people to join him in the colony. His daughter and her husband made the

journey with him.

The colonists set sail for the Americas in 1587. White was named the governor of the colony. When they landed, the colonists quickly realized they were not prepared. They did not have enough food and supplies. Their fights with the American Indians were dangerous.

White returned to England at the end of the year to gather supplies for the colony. A war broke out between England and Spain. This kept White from returning to his colony for three years. When he finally returned, the settlers had vanished. John searched but never found them. He returned to England, defeated.





Tennessee Lesson

The Mystery of the Lost Colony of Roanoke

Natalia and Steven walked excitedly toward their classroom. They couldn't wait for class to begin. They knew Ms. Johnson always had something fun up her sleeve for history class. As they entered the classroom, they noticed that Ms. Johnson was nowhere to be found. A group of their classmates was huddled together in the back of the room. Natalia and Steven hurried toward their friends to see what was going on.

When the children reached the back of the room, they noticed that their classmates were examining a box full of items. There was an old-fashioned detective hat, magnifying glass, flashlight, camera and a small notebook. "I wonder what we're going to do with these," Natalia said excitedly to Steven. Just as Steven was about to reply, Ms. Johnson walked into the room and greeted the class.

"Good morning, class! It's time to put your detective skills to work. This week, we're going to be exploring one of America's biggest mysteries: the lost colony of Roanoke!"

The class cheered in excitement. Ms. Johnson had been teaching them all about the English colonies and John White's journeys to the New World. They couldn't wait to learn more.

"Today," Ms. Johnson said dramatically, "We're going to do some research to figure

out what may have caused the colony's disappearance." She pointed to a table set up with supplies. "I have textbooks, maps and photographs for you. You are also welcome to use the class computers for your research. Use your detective skills to determine what caused the colony to disappear. I can't wait to hear your theories!"

Steven and Natalia gathered around the table with supplies. They decided to take an old map and a book about the history of Roanoke. As they started to work, Ms. Johnson stood over them. "Great choices," she said. "That book has some interesting photographs that might help you."

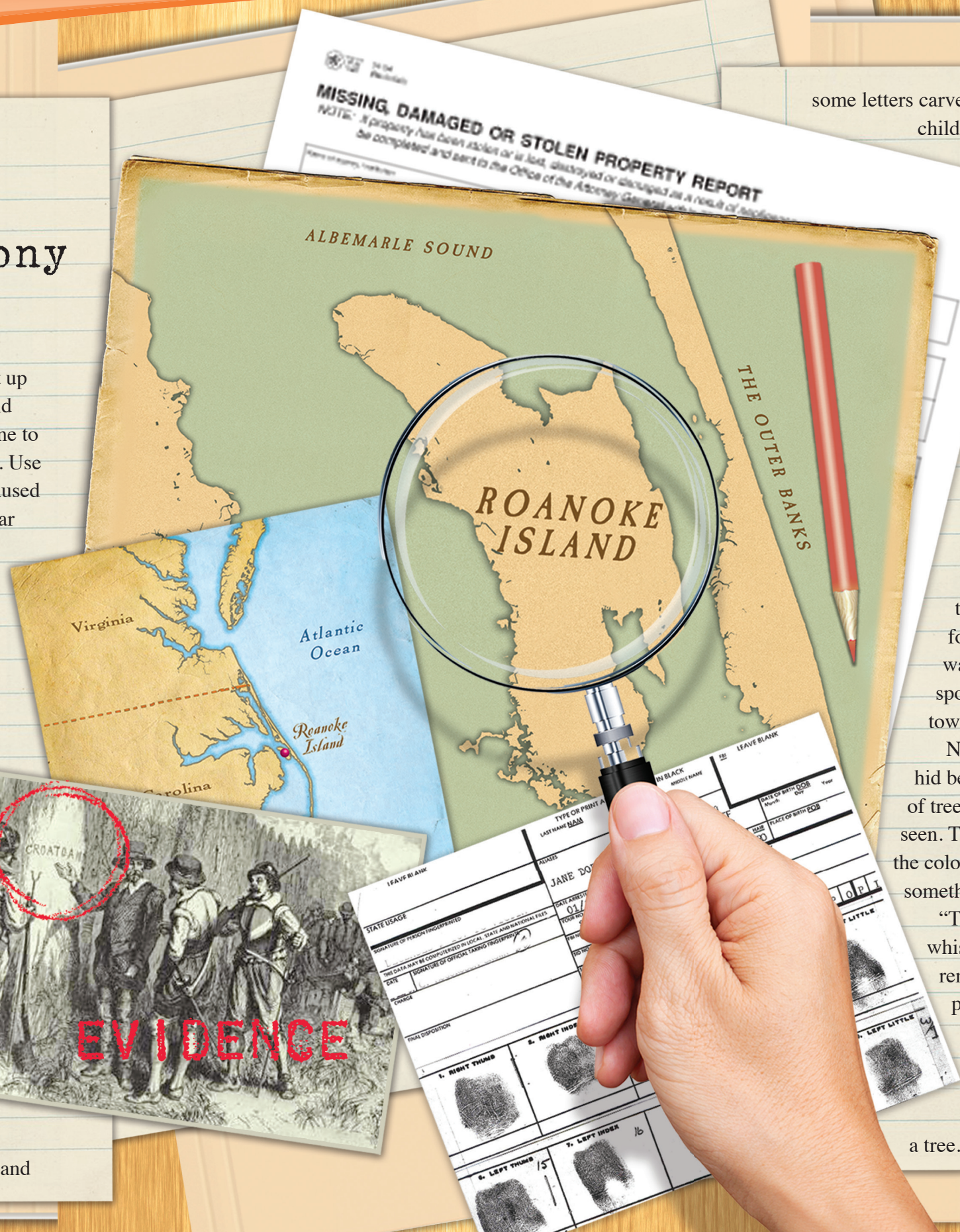
Natalia opened the book and flipped carefully through the pages. "What's that?" Steven asked. He was pointing to an old photograph. It looked sort of like an old painting.

"That's the tree!"

Natalia said excitedly.

"When Ms. Johnson taught us about the Roanoke Colony, she said that all John White could find

was a post and a tree with only one word and



some letters carved into them." The two children grinned at each other and touched the photograph. When Natalia and Steven opened their eyes, they found that they were transported back to the Roanoke Colony. The children walked around the colony but saw no signs of life. The colonists were nowhere to be found. The settlement appeared to have been long forgotten. Just as Natalia was about to speak, they spotted a few men walking toward them.

Natalia and Steven quickly hid behind a thick group of trees, careful not to be seen. The men looked around the colony as if searching for something.

"That's John White," whispered Steven, "I remember him from the pictures Ms. Johnson showed us."

The children watched closely as the men approached a tree. John White looked

closely at the tree and touched the letters C-R-O carved into it. Steven and Natalia listened as the men talked about what they had found. According to the men, there were no signs that the colonists had been in any danger. Before John White returned to England for supplies, he had instructed the colonists on what to do if they had to leave the colony before he returned. White had instructed the colonists to carve their destination into a tree. He also told them to carve a cross next to the destination if they had left due to serious danger. There was no such cross.

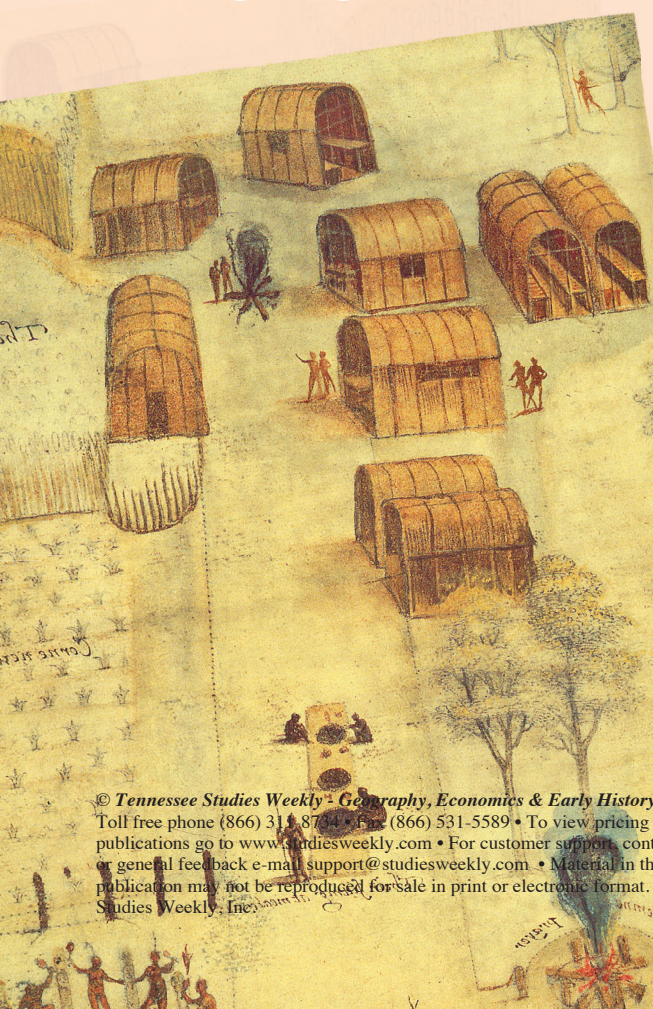
The men seemed confused. If they weren't in any serious danger, what could have caused the colonists to leave? It had been three long years since John White had left the colony. The men wondered aloud about the fate of the colonists. It was clear that the colonists had been gone for a long time. There was no sign that the colonists had been in trouble. They knew that the Croatan was a friendly American Indian tribe that lived in the area. They wondered if the colonists had turned to them for help.

As the men started to turn away from the tree, the children knew it was time to leave. "Let's head back before any of the men see us," whispered Steven. "I bet we'd give those men quite a fright if they saw us." They both touched the photograph in their book.

Before they knew it, they were back in Ms. Johnson's classroom. Natalia turned to Steven and said, "I think I've got some ideas about what may have happened to the colonists. Let's start writing them down!"

"Great idea," Steven replied. "But let's watch the Studies Weekly video about the Roanoke Colony, first."

THE LUMBEE AND CHESAPEAKE



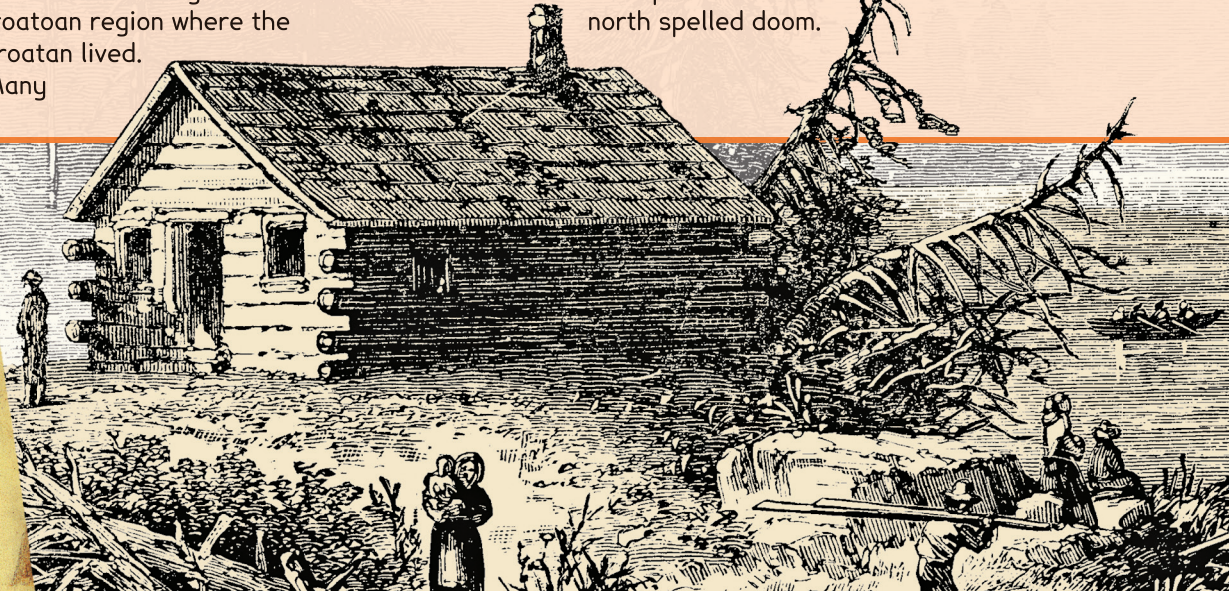
On August 18, 1590, John White finally returned to the settlement at Roanoke Island. When he arrived, he found that everyone was gone. It looked as though it had been deserted for a while. Where they went and what happened to them is still one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in history.

There are many theories and explanations for their apparent disappearance. One explanation is that they were all killed by a nearby American Indian tribe that was hostile to them. Another suggests they could have been taken or killed by Spanish explorers or raiders. One theory offers that the Roanoke colonists left the Island to live with a local American Indian tribe that was friendly to them; the Croatans.

Today there is a tribe of Lumbee Indians in North Carolina that believe their ancestors migrated from the local Croatan region where the Croatan lived. Many

historians believe the Lumbee to be the descendants of the Lost Colony and the Croatan tribe. Proof, they say, can be seen in their surprisingly long-held English traditions and in the way they looked. They had been known to speak English, even amongst themselves. Many of them also practiced Christianity. Many Lumbee have also been said to have fair skin and gray eyes. This would have indicated that the Lost Colony had made families with the Croatan tribe.

Another theory suggests that the Lost Colony may have joined the Chesapeake Indians to the north. If this is true, it is possible that the colonists all died when the tribe was attacked by the nearby Powhatan Indians. If this theory is true, that means that there would be no surviving members of the Lost Colony and that joining the Chesapeake to the north spelled doom.



Planning a Colony

This week, you learned about the Lost Colony of Roanoke. Imagine that you were one of the early English colonists at Roanoke. Work with a partner to come up with a plan of what you must do in order to help your colony be successful. Be sure to answer the following questions: Where will you live? What will you eat? How will you decide what jobs everyone will do? Who will lead your colony? When you finish, share your plan with your classmates. Did any other groups come up with similar ideas? Did any groups come up with ideas that are different from yours?

Dig This!

Did you know that people are still trying to find the lost colony? These people are called archaeologists. They learn about history by studying items that were left behind. These objects from the past are called artifacts. Studying them helps us learn about how people used to live.

Archaeologists look for items by using special tools to dig up the land. They must be careful not to cause damage while they dig. These researchers have been digging up places where they think the colonists may have gone. The places they look at are called dig sites.

At one site, they found pieces of an item that they believe may have once been a pot. They believe it belonged to the colonists. Unfortunately, they can't be certain. More digging and testing must happen before we can ever truly solve the mystery of the lost colony.



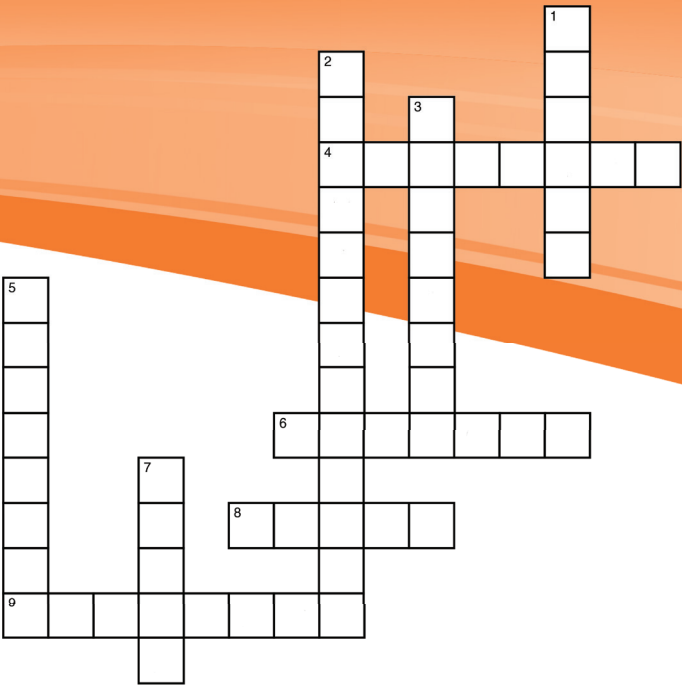
Name _____

ACROSS

4. Word carved into a post at the Roanoke colony
6. Original settlement of the “Lost Colony”
8. Man who led the English colony of Roanoke in 1587
9. A simple object that was made by people in the past
2. A person who studies human history by excavating sites and analyzing artifacts
3. Tribe of American Indians that may be responsible for the disappearance of the Lost Colony

DOWN

1. A settlement far away from the country that rules it
5. Name given to the land claimed by England
7. Country that had successful colonies in the Florida area



Lost Colony of Roanoke Chart

In the chart below, draw a picture and write your description of each term.

Term	Picture	Description
Roanoke Island		
John White		
Croatan Indians		
Archeologists		
Artifacts		

Let's Write

The fate of the Roanoke colonists remains a mystery today. This week, you learned that curious historians are still looking for clues to find out what happened to the colonists. In a short essay, explain what you think happened to the colonists. Why did the colony fail? Where do you think the colonists went? Use the stories and theories in this week’s issue to help you.

1. In 1584, the first English expedition arrived in Roanoke. Why did the English want to establish colonies in the new world?
2. Archaeologists often set up dig sites to search for artifacts. Make a list of artifacts that you might expect to find at the site of the Roanoke colony.
3. When John White returned to the empty colony of Roanoke, he saw the word “Croatoan” carved onto

Think&Review

- a post. What conclusions could he draw about the disappearance of the colonists?
4. The colonists at Roanoke had a close relationship with the Croatan Indians. What caused the colonists to become friendly with them? What effect did the relationship have on the colonists?