

#8883

ROANOKE: THE LOST COLONY

Grade Levels: 4-10

28 minutes

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA 1997

DESCRIPTION

This historical reenactment presents the brief life of the first English settlement in the New World. The Roanoke Island Colony, founded by Sir Walter Raleigh, had a precarious beginning and a mysterious end that continues to puzzle historians. Cultural differences between the English and Native Americans, poor judgment, England's politics, and weak leadership contributed to the disappearance of the Lost Colony by 1591.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: **United States History**

- ◆ Standard: Understands why the Americas attracted Europeans, why they brought enslaved Africans to their colonies and how Europeans struggled for control of North America and the Caribbean
 - Benchmark: Understands the cultural and environmental impacts of European settlement in North America (e.g., friendly and conflictory relations between English, French, Spanish, and Dutch settlers and Native Americans; how various Native American societies changed as a result of the expanding European settlements and how they influenced European societies; the impact of the fur trade on the environment)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To identify major differences in culture, customs and society of the Native Americans and the English colonists.
2. To list reasons for taking a scientist and an artist to the New World.
3. To depict the types of skills and occupations the new colonists needed to possess.
4. To present ideas and solutions regarding the mystery of the Lost Colony.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Point out on a map or globe the location of England in relation to North Carolina and Spain.
2. Discuss differences in culture, customs and society of the Native Americans and the English colonists.
3. List some of the reasons for taking a scientist and an artist to an area planned for colonization. Discuss the importance of recordkeeping.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Compare and contrast the cultural differences between the Native Americans and English colonists. How did these differences lead to conflict between the two groups? What were some of the differences among the Native American tribes and individuals?
2. What were the differences between the first and second expeditions to Roanoke? How did the types of people in each group affect its ability to survive in the new land and to deal with the Native Americans? How did the actions of the first group affect the second?
3. How would people from all walks of life—laborers, tradesmen, farmers, soldiers, etc.—interact in a colonized environment like the one described in the video?
4. What situations or circumstances led to the extinction of the colony at Roanoke? What problems had the colonists been dealing with that might have forced them to leave Roanoke?

Applications and Activities

1. Simulate the steps necessary to establish a colony in an unfamiliar environment. Compare what it would have been like in the 1590s with what it might be like on another planet today.
2. Construct a replica of a seagoing vessel of that era. Describe what it might be like to spend months traveling on it.



SUMMARY

This live-action program features realistic historical reenactments, both in England and America, with acting and production values dramatizing key events in early U.S. history. The Roanoke Island Colony, sponsored by Sir Walter Raleigh, was established on Roanoke Island, off the northeast coast of what is now North Carolina, under the leadership of Sir Richard Grenville and Sir Ralph Lane. The settlers fared badly and returned to England in June of 1586. In 1587, Raleigh sent out another group, under

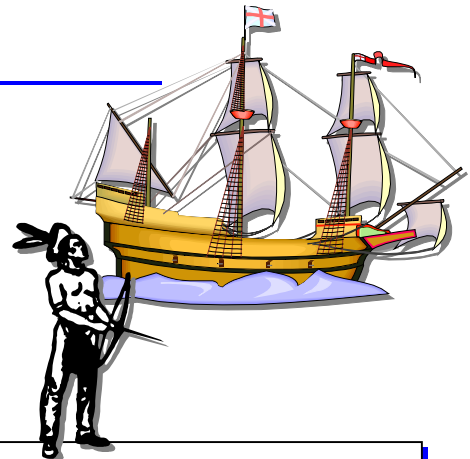
John White, consisting of 117 men, women and children. White was forced to go back to England for supplies but his return to the colony was delayed by the threat and then the actuality of the Spanish Armada. When he did return to Roanoke on August 17, 1590, he found an eerie silence and all the colonists gone. The only clue to their fate was the word "Croatoan" carved on a tree—apparently a reference to an island off the coast held by friendly Indians. No trace was ever found of the settlers, but some historians have offered theories about their fate. Whatever happened, they were the beginning of the European settlement of North America.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Colonizing North America: Early Settlements #3022
- The New World Colonized #3491
- The New World Explored #3492



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE LOST COLONY OF ROANOKE**
<http://tjjunior.thinkquest.org/3826/intro.html>

Many people have tried to solve this mystery and have different theories to the ending of the Lost Colony of Roanoke. Read the various theories and read about the people involved in this English colonization and their feelings while on Roanoke Island.

- **SIR WALTER RALEGH 1554-1618**
http://www.nmm.ac.uk/education/fact_ralegh.html

Read about this courtier and other brief descriptions about him, such as "Did Walter Raleigh fight against the Spanish Armada?" "Was this new Colony successful?" and more.