

Name _____

Date _____



The Lost Colony of Roanoke

Let's take a trip, everybody gather 'round;
We're about to go 20 years before Jamestown.
In 1587, on an island
Off the coast of present-day North Carolina
Where settlers landed—115.
They came to make the first permanent British colony.
During the first year it was rough;
The settlers were running out of food and luck.
So the colony's governor, John White,
Sailed back to England to gather more supplies.
But when White arrived in England, his timing was poor
Because Spain and England broke out in a war.
So his plan to return to Roanoke was derailed,
'Cause the war required every single ship with a sail.
Three years later, White and his crew came back
But the settlement was gone. Yup, just like that,
The people, the buildings, gone without a trace,
Except a wooden post with one word carved in its face:
CROATOAN. To this day no one knows
What happened to the colonists, but there's some who suppose
They went to Croatoan, an island nearby,
Inhabited by an Indigineous tribe.
It's thought the colonists couldn't survive
On their own, so they abandoned Roanoke
To live with the Croatoans.
Another theory says the settlers were killed
By Spanish colonists from Florida, but there's more still.

We've got theory number three:

They tried to sail back to England and died at sea.

Now, despite what archaeologists found in the ground,

We'll probably never know exactly what went down.