

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a better understanding of the Lost Colony of Roanoke, its historical context, and the various theories surrounding its mysterious disappearance. The student will also engage in creative activities that promote critical thinking and historical analysis.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for writing
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, paper)
- Access to a computer or tablet for research (if available)
- A map of early American colonies (can be drawn or printed)
- Printouts of key facts about Roanoke (if possible)

Before the lesson, familiarize yourself with the basic facts of the Roanoke Colony, including its founding, the mysterious disappearance of its settlers, and the various theories that have emerged over time.

Activities

- **Creative Storytelling:**

The student will write a short story from the perspective of one of the colonists. They can imagine what life was like in Roanoke and what might have happened to them. This will help them engage with the emotional and social aspects of the colonists' experiences.

- **Map Creation:**

Using the map of early American colonies, the student will mark the location of Roanoke and any relevant places discussed in the lesson. They can also include illustrations or symbols representing different theories about what happened to the colony.

- **Group Discussion:**

If possible, involve family members in a discussion about the theories surrounding Roanoke. The student can present their findings and opinions, encouraging a lively debate about what might have happened and why the colony vanished.

- **Art Project:**

The student can create a visual representation of the Lost Colony, whether it be a drawing, collage, or even a model. This project can depict the colony's life, the environment, or theories about their disappearance.

Talking Points

- "The Roanoke Colony was established in 1587, but when a supply ship returned in 1590, no one was there. What do you think happened?"
- "One of the most famous clues left behind was the word 'CROATOAN' carved into a tree. Why do you think this was significant?"
- "There are many theories about the disappearance: some say they were attacked by Native Americans, while others think they may have integrated into local tribes. Which theory do you find most interesting?"

- "The Roanoke Colony was one of the first attempts by the English to settle in America. How do you think this influenced future colonies?"
- "Imagine being one of the settlers. What would you miss most about England? What would you hope to find in the New World?"
- "The mystery of Roanoke has sparked interest for centuries. Why do you think people are still fascinated by it today?"
- "What role do you think communication played in the challenges faced by the Roanoke settlers?"
- "How do you think the environment and geography of Roanoke affected the colony's success or failure?"
- "If you were to start your own colony today, what would you do differently than the settlers of Roanoke?"
- "The Lost Colony is often referred to as America's oldest mystery. What other mysteries in history are you curious about?"
- "What lessons can we learn from the story of Roanoke that might apply to modern exploration and settlement?"
- "In your opinion, does the mystery of Roanoke make it more interesting or less interesting? Why?"