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i Think : U.S. History

Colonial America



by Sharon Coletti

** It is the goal of InspirEd Educators to create instructional materials that are interesting, engaging, and challenging. Our student-centered approach incorporates both content and skills, placing particular emphasis on reading, writing, vocabulary development, and critical and creative thinking in the content areas.

Edited by Christi Szrejter

Cover graphics by Sharon Coletti and Print1 Direct

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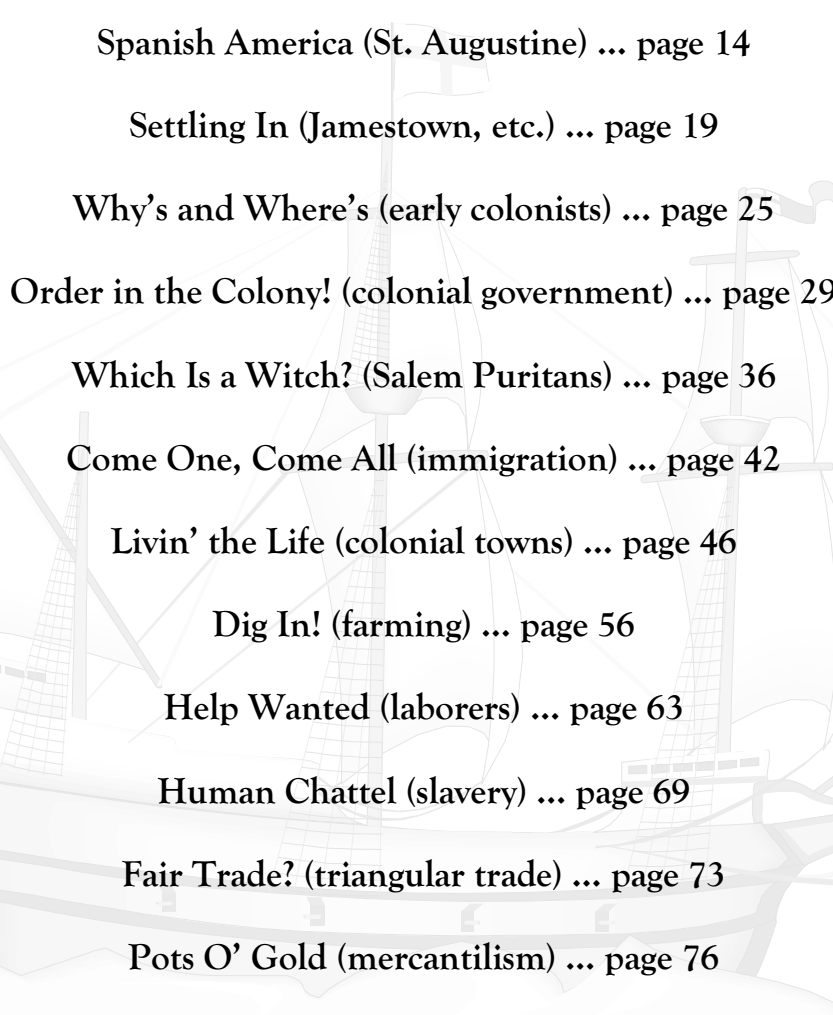
ISBN # 1-933558-25-7

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Printed in the United States of America

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A Mystery of History

Springboard:

Students should read “The White Doe” and answer the questions.

Objective: The student will be familiar with the mystery and legend surrounding the “Lost Colony” of Roanoke.

Materials:

The White Doe (Springboard handout)
Mystery of the Lost Colony (handout)
... The Rest of the Story (handout)

Terms to know:

colony - settlement of emigrants under the control of the mother country
charter - document granted by a ruler, giving certain rights/privileges to an individual or group
emigrant - one who leaves his/her homeland to settle elsewhere
palisade - a fence of strong stakes or trees

Procedure:

- After reviewing the Springboard, explain that *the “Legend of the White Doe” has been told and retold for more than 300 years and there are many versions of the story. One fact common to all of the stories is that England’s first attempt at colonization in America failed; the settlement disappeared.* Go on to explain that *in this lesson the student(s) will be examining one of history’s great mysteries, “the Lost Colony” of Roanoke.*
- Hand out copies of “Mystery of the Lost Colony.” The student(s) should work individually or in pairs to study the facts and clues to draw conclusions about what may have happened to the Roanoke settlement.
- They should then write “... The Rest of the Story” telling what they think happened and then share their versions of the story ending.

The White Doe

Virginia Dare was born in the early British settlement of Roanoke off the North Carolina coast. Daughter of Eleanor and Ananias Dare, she was in fact the first English child born in the New World. There was great happiness in the colony upon the infant's birth, but the joy was not to last long.

The settlement soon fell under attack by hostile natives. Luckily, Chief Manteo, leader of the Croatan tribe and a friend to the colonists, arrived at the village just in time to rescue the inhabitants. He took them to his village where they lived among the Croatan people.



Fair-skinned and blond, young Virginia certainly attracted attention as she grew, particularly the attention of young men. Though many sought her hand in marriage, Virginia Dare was still only a girl, not yet ready to choose a mate. Most of the young Croatans were patient and willing to wait to win her, but one was not.

Chico, the tribal medicine man, was desperately in love and wanted Virginia to marry him at once. When she refused, he became angry and cast a spell on her, turning her into a white doe. Before long word spread among the people that the white doe was the leader of all of the deer of Roanoke. Because of her fame, many hunters tried to slay the deer, but she always escaped.

Finally, a great hunt was planned, and all of the bravest and noblest warriors set out to find the creature. Each man hunted for a different reason: some for the challenge, some for the glory, some for love, and some for hate. One young warrior, Wanchese, was the son of the chief who had traveled to England, met Queen Elizabeth, and received a silver-tipped arrow from her.

It was with that special arrow, some say magical, that Wanchese shot the white doe in the heart. The young man moved quickly to claim his **quarry**, but as he approached the place where the animal fell, he did not see the white doe. Instead he saw the lovely form of the young girl Virginia Dare. He rushed toward the dying girl, but it was too late. As she drew her last breath, her body disappeared and a white doe bounded off into the forest.

Even to this day people still say that sometimes in the evenings a beautiful white doe can be seen roaming the woodlands of Roanoke Island.

This story of "The White Doe" could **BEST** be described as a

- A. myth.
- B. fairy tale.
- C. legend.
- D. biography.

The word "quarry" in the passage most nearly means

- A. prey.
- B. hunt.
- C. arrow.
- D. girl.

Which is an **OPINION** statement?

- A. Virginia Dare was born in the colony of Roanoke.
- B. Young Virginia was a beautiful, fair-skinned child.
- C. Many Croatan men wanted to marry Virginia Dare.
- D. A white doe is said to be seen at times on Roanoke.

The White Doe - Answers & Explanations

Virginia Dare was born in the early British settlement of Roanoke off the North Carolina coast. Daughter of Eleanor and Ananias Dare, she was in fact the first English child born in the New World. There was great happiness in the colony upon the infant's birth, but the joy was not to last long.

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This story of "The White Doe" could **BEST** be described as a

- A. myth.
- B. fairy tale.
- C. legend. *
- D. biography.

(A legend is a traditional story said to have a basis in fact, but which has been embellished and exaggerated over time.)

The word "quarry" in the passage most nearly means

- A. prey. *
- B. hunt.
- C. arrow.
- D. girl.

(The hunted animal is the prey. In this case Wanchese hunted the white doe, which he tried to claim after shooting it in the heart.)

Which is an **OPINION** statement?

- A. Virginia Dare was born in the colony of Roanoke.
- B. Young Virginia was a beautiful, fair-skinned child. *
- C. Many Croatan men wanted to marry Virginia Dare.
- D. A white doe is said to be seen at times on Roanoke.

(Though C and D are part of the "legend of the white doe" and may or may not be true, B is an opinion statement.)

??? Mystery of the Lost Colony ???

THE FACTS

In 1584 Elizabeth I, Queen of England, granted Sir Walter Raleigh a charter to establish colonies in the New World. That year he sent an expedition led by Phillip Amadas and Arthur Barlow to select a suitable site for settlement. When they returned to England, joined by Chief Manteo and Wanchese of the Croatan tribe, they reported back to Raleigh. They told him that they had chosen Roanoke Island off the coast of North Carolina, a lush land between the stormy barrier islands and the mainland.

The next year Raleigh sent his first party of emigrants, 100 men with assorted skills under the leadership of Captain Ralph Lane to establish a settlement and build a fort at Roanoke. Unfortunately, everything that could go wrong did. The men arrived on the island too late to plant crops and Captain Lane killed the chief of a local tribe over a stolen cup! For whatever reason, when a supply ship arrived in Roanoke in 1586, all that remained of the settlement was the abandoned fort. Sir Richard Grenville, the captain of the supply ship, left fifteen men to hold the island and returned to England to break the news to Raleigh.

Still Raleigh refused to give up on colonization and devised a new plan. He organized a large expedition of men, women, and children under the leadership of Governor John White. Among them were White's pregnant daughter, Eleanor Dare, his son-in-law Ananias Dare, and the Croatan Chief Manteo. The group set sail in 1587, intending to rescue the fifteen men from Roanoke and move on to the Chesapeake Bay area to establish a settlement there. Again their plans failed.

Because no one in the expedition was familiar with the Chesapeake Bay area, a pilot named Fernandez was hired to guide the ships. Fernandez, though, was neither honest nor agreeable and did not get along with Governor White. Consequently, when the ships arrived in Roanoke, Fernandez refused to guide them further and left.

Though the settlers soon discovered that the fifteen men had been killed, they apparently still decided to stay in Roanoke and establish their settlement there rather than search for the Chesapeake. They unloaded their supplies, repaired the fort, and began their lives in the dangerous land. On August 18th White's daughter gave birth to a daughter, Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the Americas. Soon after, Virginia's grandfather decided to return to England to report their situation and bring more supplies.

Once more their plans went awry. John White arrived in England shortly before the nation's war with the Spanish Armada, and no ships were available for his return voyage. It was two years before he could find passage and when he finally arrived on his granddaughter's third birthday in 1590, Roanoke was completely deserted. Searches of the area failed to locate any of the settlers and to this day no one is certain what happened to them.

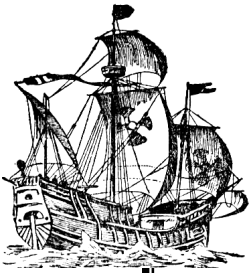
??? Mystery of the Lost Colony ???

THE CLUES

- Spanish records indicate that a ship that landed on Roanoke in June of 1588 found the colony deserted.
- John White found the settlement deserted, plundered, and surrounded with a high palisade of large trees, describing it as “very fort-like.” On one of the tree trunks was carved the word “CROATAN,” Chief Manteo’s tribe. The letters “CRO” were also found on another trunk nearby.
- White said the carvings were “to signifie the place, where I should find the planters seated, according to a secret token agreed upon betweene them and me at my last departure from them. ...”
- Supposedly, White had told the settlers that if they were **FORCED** to leave the colony, they should carve a cross above their destination, but no cross was found.
- John Lawson, an English explorer who visited Roanoke and spent time with the Hatteras Indians in 1709 wrote, “Several of their ancestors were white people ... the truth of which is confirmed by gray eyes being found infrequently among these Indians and no others.”
- Hamilton MacMillan of North Carolina published what could be relevant information about the Pembroke Indians in 1888. He said they claimed their ancestors to be from “Roanoke in Virginia,” Raleigh’s description of the colony. He also noted that they spoke English, had the same last names as many colonists, and that many had European features including fair hair and light eyes.
- Documents discovered in Spanish and British records indicate that after White left Roanoke in 1587 the colony may have split up into two groups. It is believed that one may have traveled on to the Chesapeake Bay area using maps left behind by White and/or Fernandez.
- After the English settlement at Jamestown was established, reports reached the colonists that some of the Roanoke colonists were alive and living nearby. A search of the area, though, turned up nothing.
- Recent study of tree rings in giant bald cypress trees on Roanoke Island show that the worst drought conditions in the past 800 years may have occurred during the years the “lost colonists” lived there. Rings estimated from around the 1580’s were very narrow, indicating poor growing conditions.
- Recent archaeological digs at eight Croatan, now called Hatteras, sites in coastal North Carolina revealed many artifacts from the time of the “Lost Colony.” A wealth of artifacts, both European and Native American, were found including pottery, pipe pieces, gun flints, lead shot, wine bottles, beads, rolled copper, deer teeth, and more. Two English coins, copper farthings from the 1670’s, were also found among the artifacts.

...The Rest of the Story

...The Rest of the Story



Spanish America

Springboard:

Students should study the “St. Augustine, 1589” map and answer the questions.
(The map shows ships, fields with crops, and houses. The fact that this settlement was mapped in 1589 suggests that it may be older than Roanoke and/or succeeded.)

Objective: The student will be able to explain the importance of St. Augustine in American history.

Materials:

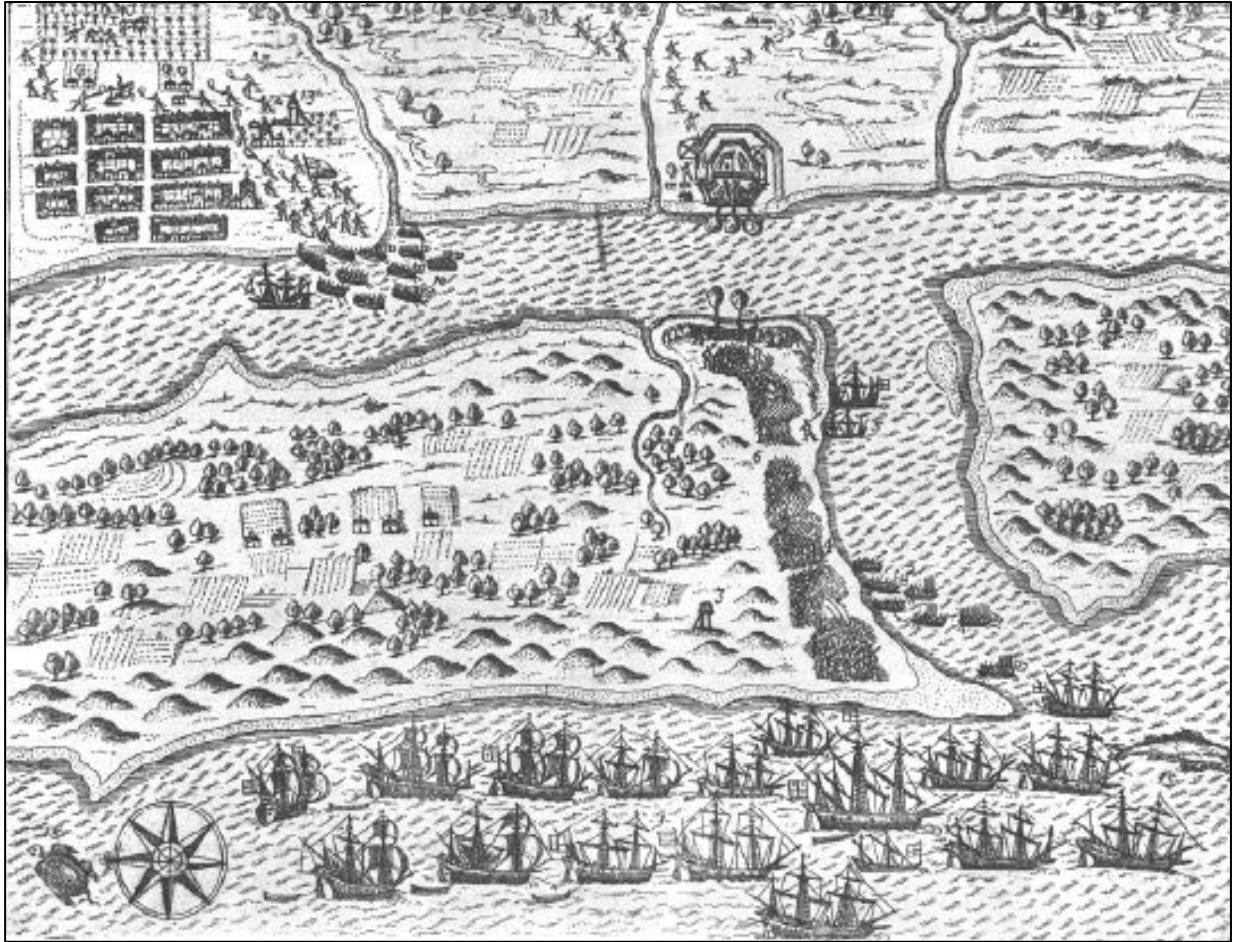
St. Augustine, 1589 (Springboard handout)
Spanish St. Augustine Celebrates (handout)
St. Augustine: A Place in History (handout)
St. Augustine Assessment (optional handout)

Procedure:

- After discussing the Springboard, explain that this lesson offers a closer look at the colony of St. Augustine.
- Hand out “Spanish St. Augustine Celebrates.” Read or have the student(s) read the article. Then have them suggest reasons why St. Augustine may not receive as much attention as other early settlements and if/how that can be remedied. Then explain that in this lesson the student(s) will be working for the city of St. Augustine to increase interest in its history and tourism.
- Hand out copies of “St. Augustine: A Place in History.” Students should research the various aspects of the city to complete the handout and then use what they learn to create an informational brochure or commercial to call attention to St. Augustine’s place in history and its upcoming 450th anniversary.
- Have the student(s) share their products and discuss. (An optional “St. Augustine Assessment” is provided.)



St. Augustine, 1589

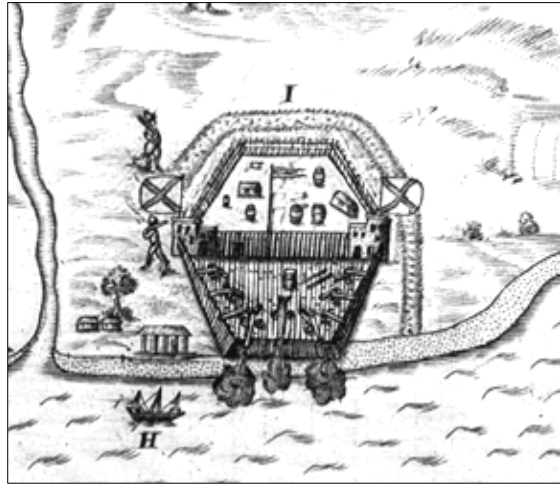


Study the map and identify at least THREE things that appear to be man-made. _____

Considering that the colony of Roanoke was established in 1565, how might you explain the existence of this map? _____

SPANISH ST. AUGUSTINE CELEBRATES

St. Augustine, Florida – It was on this day 440 years ago that the first permanent settlement was established in what would become the United States. St. Augustine, Florida was founded by Pedro Menendez de Aviles and an expedition of 500 soldiers, 200 sailors, and 100 farmers, craftsmen, and some of their wives and children. Not long afterwards, the colonists held a feast to celebrate their new settlement and their friendship with the Timucuan people, a Native American tribe in the area.



So if this is true – and it is – why is so little mention made of this successful colony? Most school textbooks and other sources tell about the failed colony in Roanoke, Virginia (now in North Carolina). All provide details about Jamestown, the first successful British colony in the Americas. And every school child from kindergarten onward can describe the “first Thanksgiving” when Pilgrims and “Indians” held a feast in thanks for their friendship and the bounty of the land. Yet little if anything is said of the first European baby born in America, Martin de Arguelles, born in St. Augustine in 1566 or 1567, a full twenty years before the legendary Virginia Dare. In fact in 1577, ten years before Roanoke was settled, Pedro Menendez Marquez wrote that there were “forty-four women, sixty-two children, and eleven pregnant women” in St. Augustine!

Today Jamestown, Virginia and Plymouth, Massachusetts attract millions of tourists to their reconstructed towns. Shopkeepers in period dress sell postcards and trinkets that boast of settlements long gone. St. Augustine, however, is still intact! There are actually 36 buildings standing that date back to the original colony with 40 more reconstructed to their original appearance. Unlike its English “cousins,” St. Augustine is a living city.

Still, despite its long history and rich cultural traditions, American history seems to almost ignore St. Augustine. But why? Bill Adams, St. Augustine’s director of Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism, has some ideas. “English historical traditions ... write the Spanish out of their history books or diminish their contributions, so Americans have inherited that.” He explains that another factor is St. Augustine “hasn’t advertised itself very well. It hasn’t gotten any press.”

Adams thinks the growing Hispanic population in America could increase public interest in his beloved historic city. “St. Augustine is not only the birthplace of European culture and settlement in the United States, but of Spanish culture in North America.” He is hopeful that the 450th anniversary of St. Augustine in 2015 will finally attract the nation’s attention.