

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Mystery in History from Leslie Cicilline

Grade – 5

Length of class period – Two 60 minutes periods

Inquiry – What happened to the Lost Colony at Roanoke Island?

Objectives:

- Students will use facts and evidence to hypothesize what happened to the Lost Colony at Roanoke Island.
- Students compose a historical fiction piece of writing

Materials:

- *John White's Log -First Americans by Joy Hakem* (primary source)
- [*The Lost Colony of Roanoke Island: An Historical Mystery That Remains Unsolved after 400 Years*](#)
- <http://www.risingshoreroanoke.com/Bookclub%20Kit%20%20Clues%20to%20Mystery.pdf> (primary source)
- Worksheet “What Happened to the Lost Colonists at Roanoke Island” (attached)
- Blank paper, tea bags, plastic cups, paint brushes

Activities:

Day One:

- Read about the lost colony
- Students highlight from primary source documents, the facts and evidence (clues) to what happened to the colonists and list them on the hand out.
- Students use the facts and evidence to write their theory of what happened to the lost colonists.
- Paint paper with tea and let it dry. This will make the paper look yellow and old. The students will write their letters on the paper.

Day 2: Students take on the role of a colonist that was left behind on the island of Roanoke. Students compose a letter to John White explaining what happened to them.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Students' letters to John White contain theories supported by clues in the primary source documents.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

“Initiate questions and hypothesis about historical events being studied”

Name: _____

What happened to the Lost Colony at Roanoke Island?

List the **facts and evidence**:

Use these facts and evidence to come up with a theory about what happened to the colonists.

Now you will be writing a historical fiction piece. Pretend you are a colonist that was left on Roanoke Island. Write a letter to John White telling him what happened to you and asking for his help. Before you start writing think about:

Who are you?

Where are you writing from?

When are you writing (date)?

What happened?

What are you requesting?

Write your rough draft letter. Remember to use proper letter format.

