

Roanoke Short Story

The fate of the Roanoke Colony is one of America's great mysteries. When John White returned to the Roanoke Colony in 1590 he found it completely deserted. The only clue was the word "CROATOAN" carved on a tree.

Today you are going to explore "what might have happened" to the Roanoke Colonists through historical fiction.

Let's review some of the POSSIBILITIES of what might have happened to the colonists:

- **The colonists moved further inland into America due to starvation or drought.**
 - The Jamestown colonists found four white men living under the leadership of an Indian Chief known as Geganocan in 1608.
 - There is a legend among some American Indians in modern-day North Carolina that they are descended from members of the Roanoke Colony. These American Indians knew English and knew about Christianity before Europeans arrived.
- **The colonists were killed by American Indians.**
 - Chief Powhatan told John Smith (from Jamestown) that he had the Roanoke colonists killed. He showed John Smith English made tools to back up his claim.
- **The colonists tried to return to England on their own.**
 - They had small boats with them. These small boats might have sunk.
- **Spanish troops attacked the colony.**
 - The colony was meant to be a base to attack the Spanish. Maybe Spain found Roanoke first.

What do you think was most likely to have happened?

Here are the REQUIREMENTS of your short story:

1. Your short story must be at least one page long, hand-written, and single-spaced. If you choose to skip lines, your story must be two pages. If you choose to type your story, your rough draft must meet the previous requirements.
2. Your story will begin sometime after John White left in 1587.
3. You have some flexibility as to the point-of-view of your story, however, it must be told in the first person. Some options include: a Roanoke colonist, an American Indian, one of the Spanish, or another creative option. You also have flexibility on the format of your story. It could be a journal or narrative, for example.
4. Your story MUST include the following:
 - a. **Setting** – Your story will take place in the Roanoke Colony and the nearby areas.
 - b. **Narrative Voice** – This must be told from the point of view of someone who was there. See step # 3 above.
5. While your story is fictional, it must make sense historically. Remember, this story takes place in the late 1500s.
6. Here are some dates and names that might be useful to you:
 - The second group of Roanoke settlers arrive on July 22, 1587
 - John White leaves for England in late 1587
 - John White returns to Roanoke on August 18, 1590
 - John White’s daughter’s name was Eleanor Dare – Eleanor’s husband’s name was Ananias
 - John White’s granddaughter’s name was Virginia – she was born on August 18, 1587

GRADING RUBRIC FOR THE ROANOKE SHORT STORY			
CATEGORY	YOU GOT IT! 10 - 7	GETTING THERE ... 6 - 3	NEEDS WORK 2 - 0
ORGANIZATION 10 POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot is easy to follow • The story has a beginning, a middle, and an end • The introduction is interesting and gives information about characters and setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot is somewhat easy to follow • The story is missing an introduction or conclusion • Characters/setting are vaguely introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot line is very difficult to follow • No evidence of a beginning, middle, or end • Characters/setting are not introduced
IDEAS & DETAILS 10 POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters develop through the use of a narrator, self, or others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters are mainly described by the narrator and no one else 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters are vague and not developed
HISTORICAL SENSE & SETTING 10 POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both time and place of setting are present and accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting is missing time or place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting is missing