

Grade 3: Unit 3, Week 4 Making Journeys

Read Aloud: **The Lost Colony** by Raymond C. Dingledine, Jr.

Wonderful Words: *colony, disappeared, imagine, mystery, remember*

The Lost Colony

A long time ago, in 1584, some English people came to Roanoke Island. Roanoke Island was in an area then called Virginia. Later the same area came to be called North Carolina. The people who traveled there wanted to be the first English people to start a colony in America. But, after a time, these people and their colony disappeared. As time went by, the colony became known as the lost colony. This is the true story of that lost colony.

The story began when Walter Raleigh was a young boy. He lived in the country of England. England is on an island off the shore of Europe, across the Atlantic Ocean from America. Walter Raleigh liked to listen to people talk about sailing on the ocean. He knew that a man called Columbus had sailed Spanish ships from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean to America. Walter Raleigh wanted English ships to sail to America some day.

When he grew up, Walter Raleigh became a good friend of Queen Elizabeth, the ruler of England. She wanted her country to be strong and powerful, and Walter Raleigh wanted to help her. It was his hope that a colony in America would help make England even stronger.

Walter Raleigh asked some men to sail to America to find a place where he could start an English colony. They agreed and sailed across the ocean to a place called

Roanoke Island. There they discovered many fish in the water. There were also large trees and a variety of animals and birds on the island. There was also a group of Indians living there. The men became friends with the Indians.

The Englishmen stayed for awhile. Later, when they went back to England, they had a surprise for Walter Raleigh. Two Indians, Manteo and Wanchese, had come with them! Walter Raleigh was very happy to see the Indians and to hear about what the Englishmen had seen. He wanted English people to live with ease on Roanoke Island. He spoke to Queen Elizabeth about the island, and she was so excited. She decided that the new land would be called Virginia. Queen Elizabeth was so happy with Walter Raleigh that she wanted to do something special for him. The Queen said that Raleigh was now to be called Sir Walter Raleigh in honor of his achievements.

Now Sir Walter Raleigh was ready to start a permanent colony in Virginia. He asked another group of men to go to Roanoke Island. But the men soon became unhappy. The weather was not good for planting. They missed their country and their homes. Imagine their surprise when English ships came to the island one day! The men were very ready to sail back to England, leaving behind only a fort.

Sir Walter Raleigh would not give up his dream so easily. He was ready once more to start a colony. This time men, women, and children would sail from England.

Again English people sailed to Roanoke Island along with Manteo and Wanchese. John White was their ruler. His daughter Eleanor had a little girl who was named Virginia Dare for the new land, Virginia. She was the first English child born in the new land.

John White was now the proud grandfather of Virginia Dare.

Soon John White had to leave his granddaughter Virginia Dare. The colony needed supplies, and he sailed back to England to try to get more people and food. Sir Walter Raleigh couldn't easily help him because he was involved in a war between England and Spain.

A year went by, then two. By then, John White was ready to sail back to Virginia. He was very excited when he came to Roanoke Island. He called loudly to the people, and the men from the ship began to make noise by singing. But he had an unhappy surprise. All the people on the island had disappeared. Where were Virginia Dare and her mother and the rest of the people? They had disappeared!

John White looked and looked. He found the word Croatoan on a tree. Had Virginia Dare and the people moved to an island called Croatoan? Had Croatoan Indians moved them away from the shore? Had the people moved north? John White never found the colony. After a time, he had to stop looking and return to England.

Did Virginia Dare live and grow into a woman? We still do not know. The lost colony of Roanoke Island is a true mystery story. But we remember those English people today. We remember Sir Walter Raleigh with a city called Raleigh in North Carolina.

colony

Define: A **colony** is a place that is ruled by another country.

Example: William Penn sailed from England to start the **colony** of Pennsylvania.

Ask: How many **colonies** can you name from the original thirteen?

imagine

Define: To **imagine** is to picture a person, thing, or event in your mind.

Example: At the swim meet, I **imagined** myself winning first place.

Ask: What do you **imagine** yourself doing?

mystery

Define: A **mystery** is something that is a puzzle or cannot be explained.

Example: It is a **mystery** to me where I lost my keys.

Ask: What **mystery** stories do you know?

remember

Define: To **remember** something is to bring it back to your mind.

Example: I **remember** the beautiful mountains when I went camping last year.

Ask: What do you **remember** about school last year?

disappear

Define: **Disappear** is when someone or something can't be seen anymore.

Example: My gloves **disappeared** on the way home from school.

Ask: When has something **disappeared** from where you thought it would be?