

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Virginia Dare and the Lost Colony

While the French and the Spanish were exploring North America and South America, the English also were coming over to this land. They had sent ships to the coast of Virginia, and had given it its name. At that time, Virginia included a lot of land that was later divided into separate states.

They said, "If this new country is so beautiful, let us make new homes for our people there."

So one day in 1587, a ship with a number of English men, women, and children on board started out from England. It was bound for Virginia; and glad enough were the people when the ship drew near the shore and they could see the grass and the trees.

"It is a beautiful shore," said John White, the leader of the band of colonists.

As soon as they could, the colonists set to work to make homes for themselves in the new country.

This was on Roanoke Island, off the coast of what is now the state of North Carolina. The climate was warm and there was plenty of lumber with which to build. The soil, too, was very rich, and they soon had fine fields of corn and potatoes.

## Roanoke Island

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One day a little baby girl was born — the first English child born in America. This was on August 18, 1587. How proud the father and mother were!

"She is the baby of the colony," said her grandfather, John White. "Let us name her Virginia."

The little colonial baby was named Virginia Dare, and all the people in the colony loved her and

helped to take care of her in her rough forest home.

# Virginia Dare

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## 1. When was Virginia Dare born?

- a. 1585
- b. 1586
- c. 1587
- d. 1588

By and by, when the colony was well settled, Mr. White said: "I will go back to England for more supplies. So take good care of baby Virginia while I

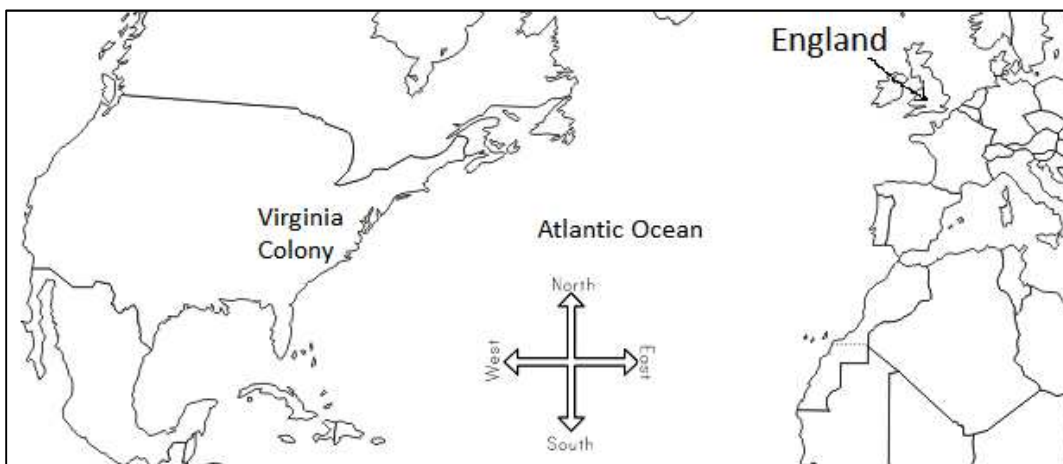
am gone. Do not leave this place unless you find that you cannot hold it against the Indians. But if you have to go away, leave a sign for me. Cut the name of the place to which you go on one of the trees near the shore."

Then John White sailed away. "Keep the colony together! Take care of the baby!" he shouted as the ship sailed out of the harbor.

"We will try!" the brave men and women shouted back.

## 2. John White sailed away to \_\_\_\_.

- a. England
- b. France
- c. Ireland
- d. Scotland



## 3. When John White left the Virginia Colony to return to England, what ocean did he cross?

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It was a long journey. Then, too, England was very busy with a war when John White reached there, and no ship could be spared to take him back.

## England

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For several long years, John White waited. At last a ship was given to him, and he set sail for his colony.

As he neared the Virginia coast, he often wondered if the people would be there to welcome him. "The baby Virginia is now three years old," he said to himself. It would have been her third birthday—August 18, 1590. He tried to think how she would look.

## colony

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Sometimes the thought came to him that she might not be alive; for a colony was a hard place for a little baby to live in. The houses were not

always warm, and there was not always food enough for the people. Then, too, the Indians and colonists sometimes did not get along.

"I hope nothing has happened to the baby, or to the colony," White kept saying to himself.

But now the vessel was coming into the harbor. The boats were lowered, and soon the sailors would be on land again.

## vessel

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But why did no one come down to the shore to meet them? Were the colonists gone? Where were the little houses that he had left standing near the shore?

"Surely, if they have gone away, they have left some word!" said John White. As soon as he landed, he began to search for a tree that should tell him where the colonists had gone.

At last he found the letters of the word *Croatoan* cut in the bark of a tree.

Now Croatoan was the name of an Indian tribe not far away. So he

said, "They have gone to the Croatoans!" But the Croatoans said that they knew nothing of the colonists.

## Croatoan

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"Did they not come to you?" Mr. White asked. "I will give you presents if you will tell me what has become of my people."

### 4. What word does John White find carved into the bark of a tree?

- a. Croatoan
- b. Goodbye
- c. Indian
- d. Massachusetts

But the Indians would tell him nothing. Then away he hurried to the other tribes; but they could not tell him where his people had gone. At last he gave up all hope, and went back to the ship. He had tried his best, but could learn nothing. His friends were lost, the baby Virginia was lost, and all the colonists were lost.

## colonists

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Years after, other English people went to the same place to found another colony. They, too, tried to find out something about the lost colonists. But no one was able to learn what happened to them.

There is little doubt, however, that the Indians knew what happened to the colonists. Some think that the baby Virginia grew up in the Indian village, since the Native Americans often adopted lost or abandoned children. But we do not know, and we never shall know, the true story of poor little Virginia Dare.

### 5. What do you think happened to the colonists?

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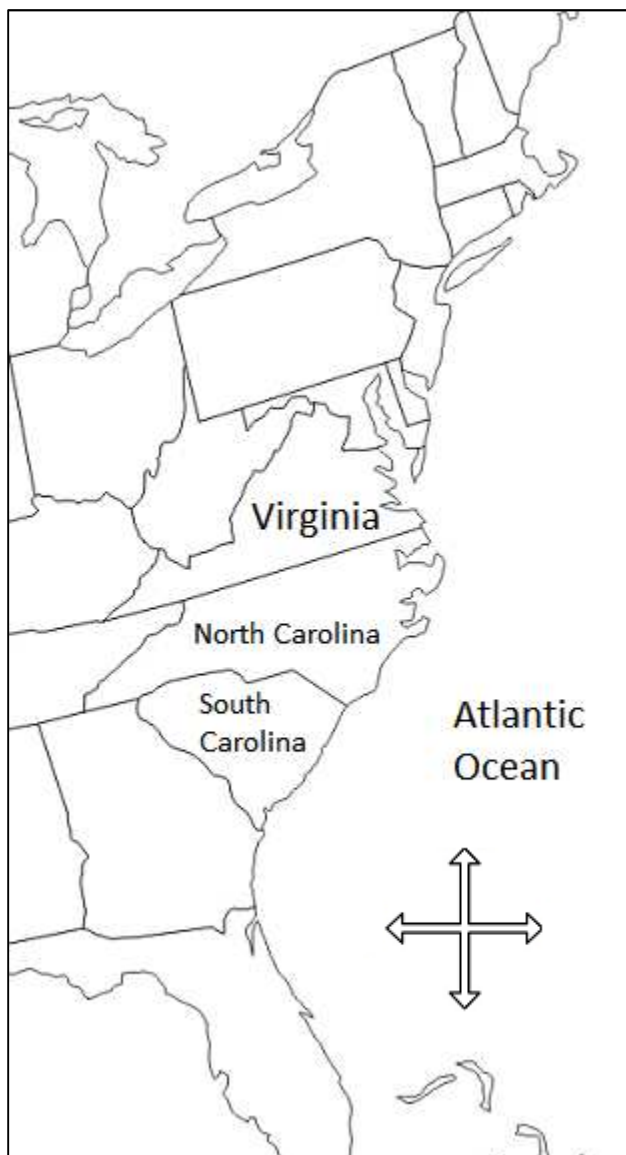
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The map to the left shows the eastern portion of the United States today.

6. Roanoke Colony was located in what is now the state of North Carolina. Color North Carolina red on the map to the left.

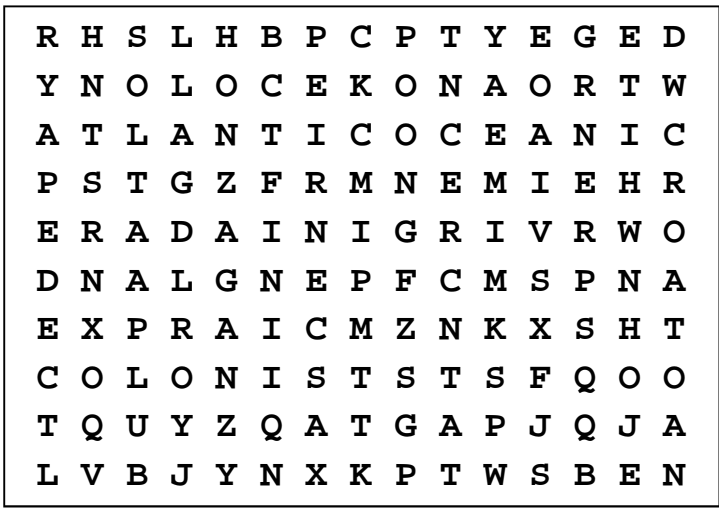
7. North Carolina borders what large body of water?

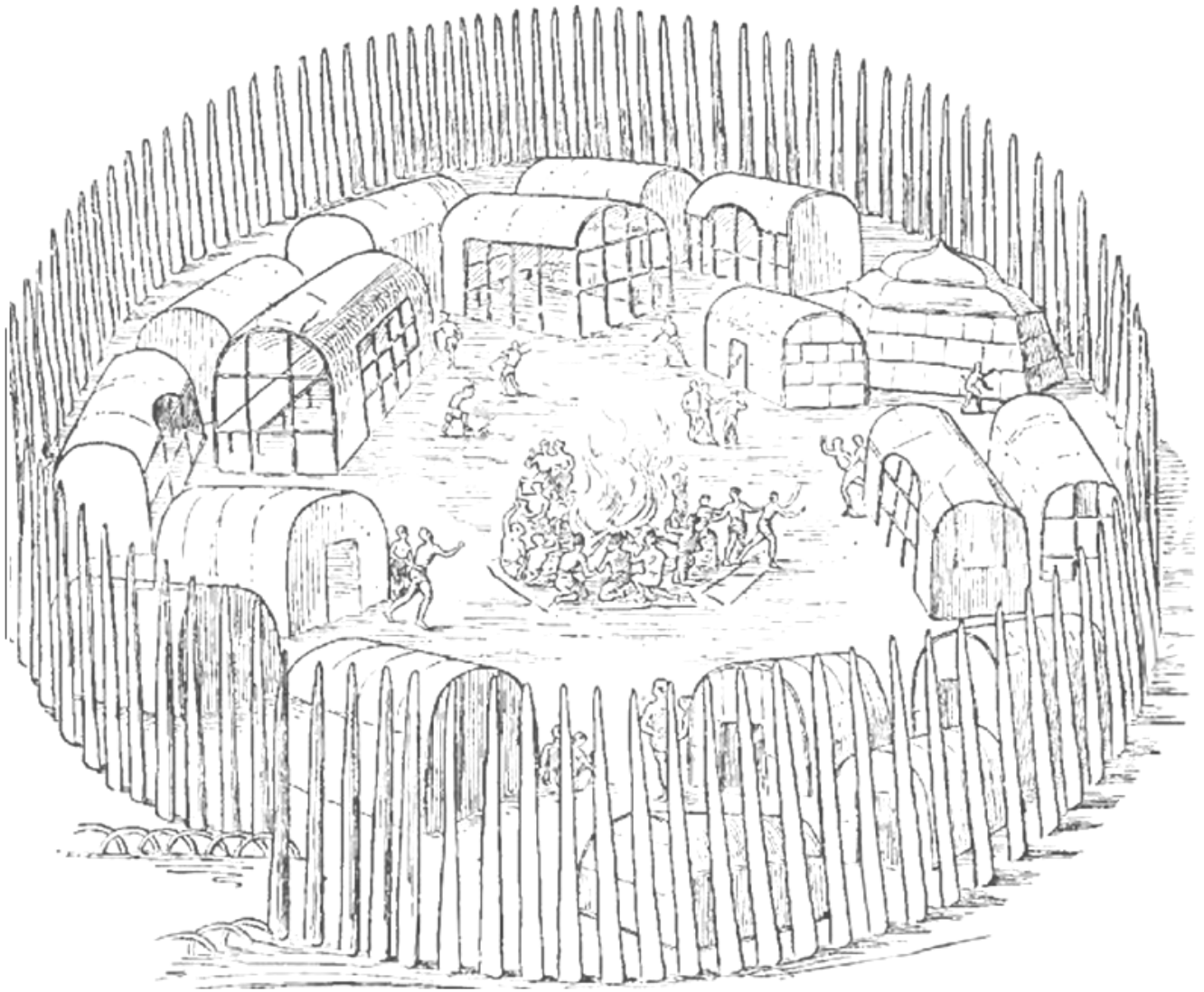
- a. Arctic Ocean
- b. Atlantic Ocean
- c. Gulf of Mexico
- d. Pacific Ocean

8. Label the cardinal rose on the map to the left with the four cardinal directions. Hint: Virginia is north of North Carolina.

Find the terms below in the word search puzzle.

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|----------------|---------------|
| Atlantic Ocean | John White    |
| colonists      | Roanoke       |
| Croatoan       | Colony        |
| England        | Virginia Dare |





**The illustration above is of the type of Native American village that would have existed near the Roanoke Colony. The village is surrounded by palisades for protection. Color the picture.**

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**Rewrite the sentence with correct capitalization.**

virginia dare was the first english person born at roanoke.

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Click here for the workbook answer key: <http://bit.ly/1jLuqw7>