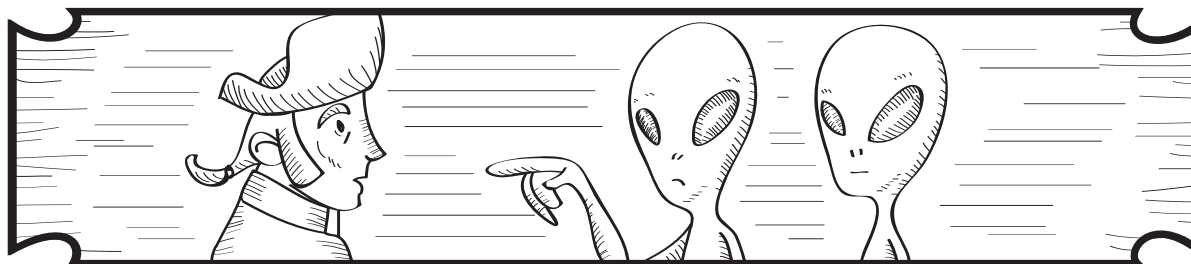


The Mystery of Roanoke

Attention, history detectives! Here's a case that needs some serious sleuthing. In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh sent out a small group of explorers and settlers to establish a colony in North America. By the following year, the colony of Roanoke was founded. Despite the difficult conditions, Roanoke enjoyed early triumphs. The first child of English parents was born in America in 1587. Her name was Virginia Dare.

Things took a turn for the mysterious in 1590. John White, Virginia's grandfather, brought a ship to the New World with plans to help resupply the new colony. However, when he reached Roanoke, the colony was completely deserted. Over a hundred people – men, women and children – had all disappeared. White noted that there was no sign of battle or any message left that indicated what had happened. Where had the colonists of Roanoke gone? To this day, no one knows for sure. Theories range from practical to other-worldly: Some historians guess that the colonists joined local Native American tribes, others claim that aliens abducted them.



What do you think happened? Write up your own theory to explain the mystery of Roanoke.
