

## **Roanoke Disappearance Theories**

**Directions:** Based on one of the disappearance theories, create a short story.

**1) Which theory did you choose?**

**2) Summarize the theory in your own words:**

**3) What characters will be in your story?**

**4) Are there any relationships in your story? What are they?**

**5) Is there conflict in your story? What is the conflict?**

**6) How is that conflict resolved?**

## Roanoke Disappearance Theories

1) The [Jamestown](#) colonists (first permanent English settlement) sent out several [search parties](#) to find members of the lost colony and made a habit of questioning any [Native Americans](#) with whom the Jamestown members made contact. Some of these natives told tales of white settlements further down the coast, with two-story, thatched-roof houses, a style unique to the English. Others told of nearby tribes who could read English and dressed similarly to Europeans. Perhaps the most dramatic report from Jamestown was the sighting of a boy dressed as a native. He had blond hair and was fair-skinned.

These reports corroborate the most widely held theory of what became of the Roanoke colonists: They assimilated (became part of) into some friendly Native American tribe.

2) Over the course of generations, intermarriage between the natives and the English would produce a third, distinct group. This group may be the Lumbee tribe.

The Lumbee tribe is native to North Carolina, yet no certain lineage (where they came from) can be pinned down. The tribe's oral history links them to the Roanoke settlers, and this tradition is supported by some of their surnames (last names) and the tribe's ability to read and write English. Family names of some of the Roanoke colonists, like Dial, Hyatt and Taylor, were shared by Lumbee tribe members as early as 1719. The settlers who met them were astonished to find Native Americans that had grey eyes and spoke English. Even within the Lumbee tribe, the veracity of the group's link to the Roanoke colonists is in dispute. **The Lumbee Connection**, as it's come to be called, is intriguing.

3) The Roanoke settlers fell victim to the Spanish, whose settlement was just down the coast in [Florida](#). It's certain that the Spanish in the [West Indies](#) were aware of the English colonists' presence. One Roanoke settler named Darby Glande left the 1587 expedition once it set ashore in [Puerto Rico](#) to take on supplies. He later reported that he told Spanish officials the location of the Roanoke settlement.

4) The colonists wandered into a violent shift in the balance of power among inland tribes. Natives with whom the colonists were friendly lost their hold over the area, and Native Americans hostile to the settlers took control. If the Roanoke colonists made the trip inland when this happened, the [men](#) would've likely been killed and the [women](#) and children captured as [slaves](#). The colonists would have then been traded along a route that spanned the U.S. coast from present-day [Georgia](#) to [Virginia](#).