Name: Hour:

## The Lost Colony Mystery

# Background Information

Even though the Spanish claimed all of North and South America, other countries decided to explore and settle in North America. The French settled in present-day Canada and the Dutch in present-day New York. History would be made when the English decided to explore and settle in North America.

John White was a talented artist. He traveled in 1585 with the first English exploration to a place called Roanoke. Roanoke is an island near the coast of present-day North Carolina. He sailed back to England in 1586 and returned to Roanoke as governor the next year, bringing with him more than 100 settlers.

In 1587, White sailed back to England. He left all of the 100 colonists behind. He did not return until 1590, nearly three years later.

When he finally returned, to his shock and grief, he found no trace of the colonists who had disappeared. The only clues to their whereabouts were two engravings (or carvings) – one in a tree and one in a wooden post.

**Step One:** Come up with a hypothesis, or educated guess, to what **YOU** believe happened to the colonists of Roanoke Island. There are no wrong answers!

**Step Two:** Use the information found in your CSI: Roanoke evidence file to answer the questions on the next page. **You must answer in complete sentences!** Then, write your final hypothesis here. There are no wrong answers!

**1. What is the land east of Roanoke Island?**

**2. What is located west of Roanoke Island?**

**3. Why did John White leave Roanoke and return to England?**

**4. Why did it take John White so long to return to Roanoke Island?**

**5. What was engraved, or carved, in the tree?**

**6. What was engraved, or carved, in the post?**

**7. What do YOU believe these two engravings mean?**

**8. What artwork has John White given us as evidence?**

**9. Why wasn’t John White able to search long for the colonists when he returned?**

**10. Do natives live nearby? How do you know?**

**11. Could ships have easily sailed to Roanoke Island from the Atlantic?**

**12. Could the Spanish have had anything to do with the disappearance?**

**13. What do we know of the weather conditions?**

**14. Is there any evidence that the colonists all died? If so, what?**

**15. Is there any evidence that the colonists all survived? If so, what?**