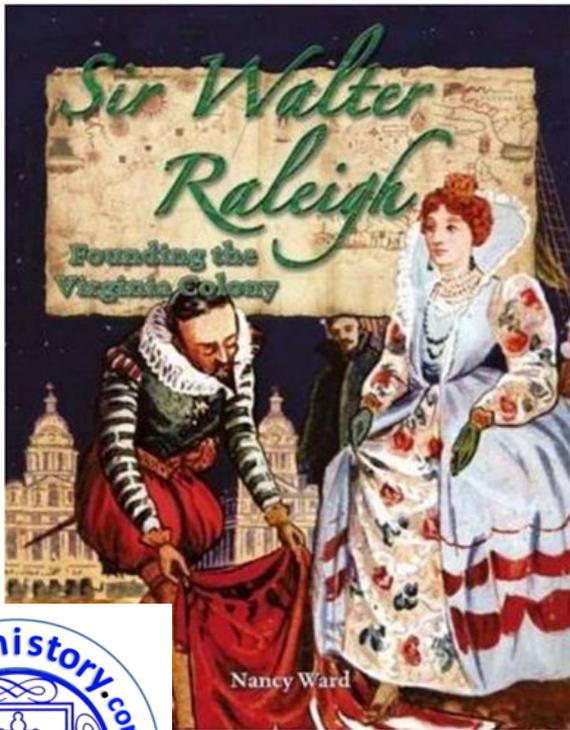


Elizabethan Conquest: *Virginia*



Reasons for voyages of exploration

Exam-style question, Section B

'The main reason that voyages of exploration were undertaken during Elizabeth I's reign was to increase England's wealth'. How far do you agree?

You may use the following in your answer:

- Anglo-Spanish relations
- developing trade.

You **must** also use information of your own. **16 marks**

Exam tip

You can make a link between developing trade and Anglo-Spanish relations, which were worsening. Remember, much of Spain's wealth was from its colonies in the New World.

Remember to agree or disagree in opening sentence then compare all paragraphs to the focus in the question

16 Marker – Statement with a focus, remember the main body of the essay remains the same! Just the focus of your agreement changes

Possible bullet points:

- Increase England's wealth
- Anglo-Spanish relations (retaliation / provocation / undermine Spain's power)
- Developing Trade routes & markets
- Political reasons
- To compete with European powers / empire building
- Privateering

**Reasons for
colonisation of
Virginia**

Virginia was close enough to Florida and the Caribbean, but far enough from Spanish colonies to be safe

A base in the New World to attack Spanish colonies

Trade was vital to English economy, so new markets were needed as Spain were making it difficult in Europe

Undermine Spain's influence in the New World

Offer the Native Americans an alternative to Spanish domination, trading with English settlers instead

To being rivalling Spain's overseas empire, it would take 200 more years to build the British Empire, but these early experiences & mistakes helped

A good example to encourage further colonisation in the New World

A base of privateering

Tobacco and Sugar was popular from Virginia





Sir Walter Raleigh

- Gentry (rich & influential)
- Explorer & Courtier
- One of Elizabeth's favourites
- Popularised tobacco & potatoes
- **1584** – paid by Elizabeth to explore and settle lands in North America (given a **patent**)
- Raleigh had to persuade other colonists to invest in and join him in his conquest

Significance:

- Investigated, organised and funded the establishment of Virginia
- Ruled Virginia as governor
- Created the 'blueprint' to be used for further English colonisations later

Timeline

The colonisation of Virginia

1578 Sir Humfrey Gilbert sets out to North America on voyage of exploration but fails and is bankrupted

1583 Gilbert leads another voyage of exploration to America. It fails. Gilbert dies on the return journey

1585 Colonists set sail for North America and begin the English colonisation of Virginia

1587 New group of colonists arrive in Virginia and establish colony at Roanoke

1590 English sailors arrive at Roanoke only to find it abandoned. All the colonists have disappeared

1580 Drake returns from circumnavigating the globe with spices, treasure and tales of Nova Albion

1584 Raleigh begins planning new colonisation attempt by sending a fact-finding mission to Virginia

1586 Surviving colonists abandon Virginia and return to England



Tin, utensils, metal knives, fish, nuts and a variety of fruits & vegetables were bartered with the Indians.

Reports were sent back to England of a paradise here and the Native American Indians were friendly and welcoming!

Promises of riches were importance because of the previous failures!

Manteo & Wanchese:



Two Native American Indians were brought back to England and helped write a dictionary and teach their language 'Algonquian', which would prove useful when colonising Virginia

Revision: Documentary of Roanoke Island <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxIUcW2n2bY>

In pairs, plan how Raleigh is going to colonise Virginia, what will he require, what does he need to consider or worry about etc...

The following headings might help:

- Who?
- When to sail?
- Ships?
- Supplies?
- Other considerations

Stick this in your books

This is Raleigh's plan

Your job is to work out how he will address and manage the things on his plan

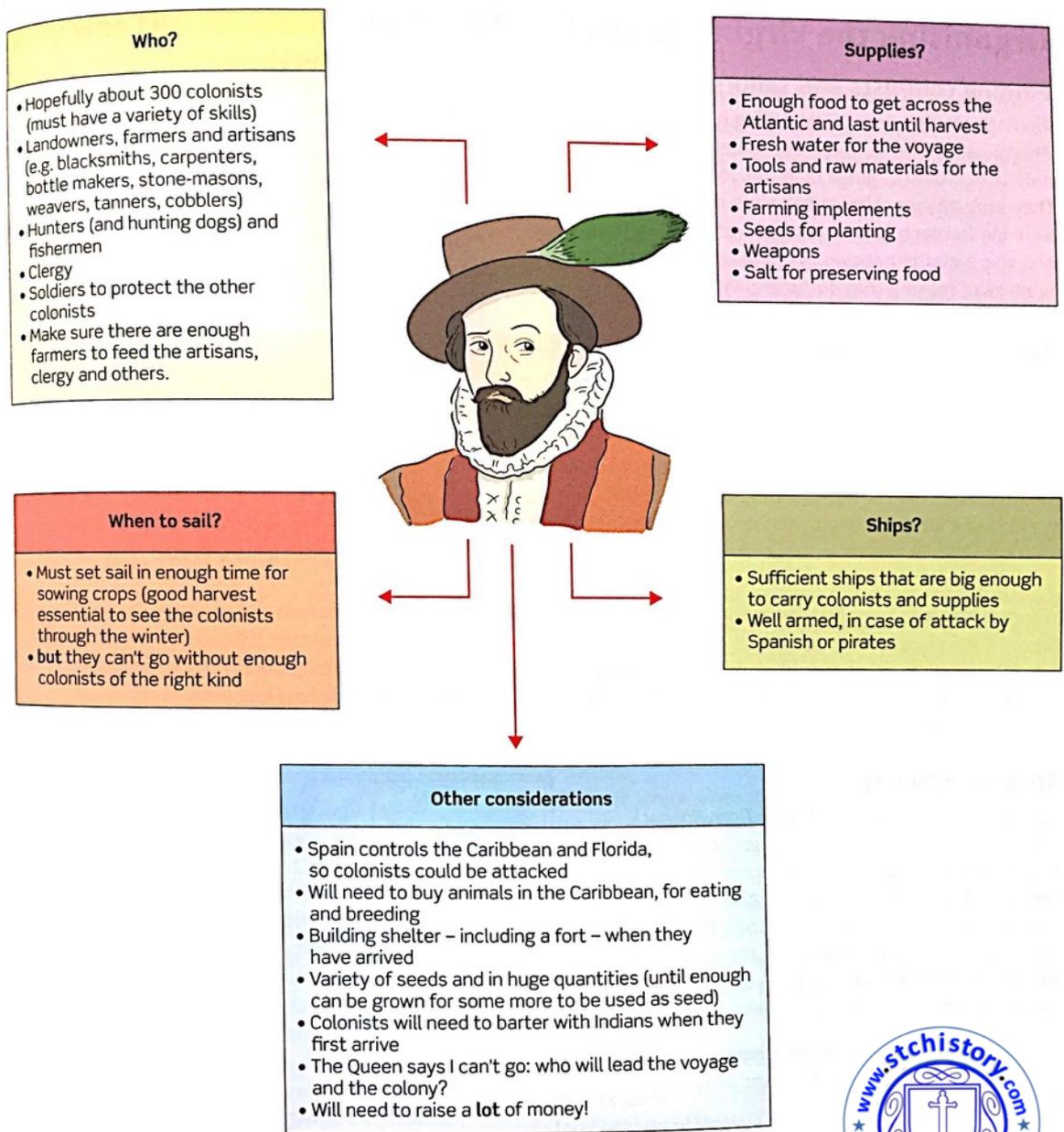
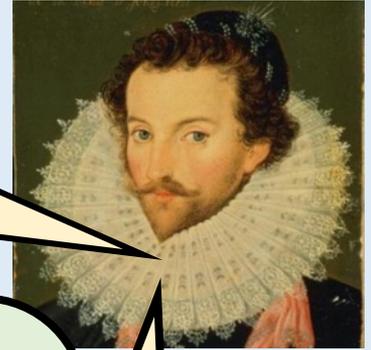


Figure 3.8 Raleigh's organisations and planning to prepare for the voyage to Virginia.

£££ Raising funds for Virginia

"Your majesty, I have set up a colony on the west coast of North America as you asked. The problem is the costs, I beg of you, please fund this mission, or I fear we may lose the gains we've made"



"No! You know I am careful with our money, and we have a very significant problem on the horizon, things have gotten pretty bad between us and Spain, I cannot afford your colony and I need you here anyway!

I will give you £400, gunpowder and ship, the rest you'll have to raise yourself, because I am supporting you, others will see this as a worthwhile venture!
Walsingham is interested in investing, I'll have a word!"

"I do want you to name it Virginia though, I think that has a ring to it, you know, in honour of me being the Virgin Queen! ;-)

"I am trying, we're bartering our cheap English wool with the Indians! I really do think if we can successfully establish this colony we can provide work for English cloth makers and merchants. It will also provide tobacco and gold that we can sell at home and make you even richer!"

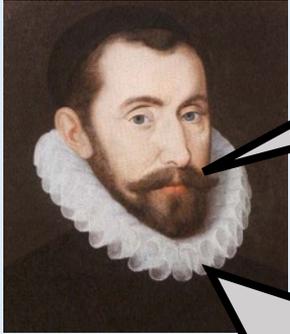


£££ Raising funds for Virginia

“Hey Sir Francis Walsingham, the Queen has said you will fund our mission to colonise Virginia? I’ve invested loads of my own money, would I do that if there was a risk??”



“I’m interested, but you have failed previously, won’t it be a waste of money trying again?”



“No, not this time, I promise I will take any Spanish ships that come our way, including their cargoes, just look how much money Drake has brought back!”

“Well when you put it like that! You’re right, Drake is running round here like he’s king of the world! I could do with some of that!”

“Do you think you can persuade the Queen to let me go? She has said I have to stay here because of the worsening relations with Spain! Someone needs to lead the voyage and the colony”



Roanoke Island

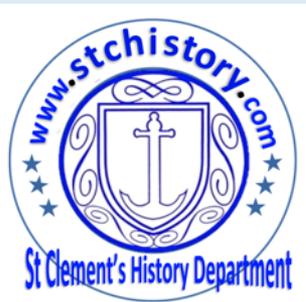
- In the end, Raleigh only managed to get 107 colonists, despite the 300 he'd hoped for!
- All were men
- Half were soldiers, but there were landowners, farmers, skilled craftsmen and mathematicians attracted by the promise of making their fortunes in Virginia

Ships & timings:



- 5 ships were sent (Tiger, Roebuck, Lion, Dorothy & Elizabeth)
- The Tiger was the biggest and carried all of the perishables (meats, vegetables, beer, wine, seeds and grain)
- 9 April 1585, this was already too late for planting their crops when they arrived to see them through the winter
- The English landed on Roanoke Island in 1585, this is where they began settling.
- Raleigh was not allowed to go due to being the Queen's favourite and she needed him because of the tensions with Spain

Appointing leaders:



Who	Role	Suitability
Richard Grenville	Expedition commander	Grenville was a very experienced sailor and soldier; adventurous and hot headed. He did not get on with Ralph Lane, the governor of Virginia. He was known to be feared rather than loved.
Ralph Lane	Governor of Virginia	Lane was an expert on fort building. He was also an explorer and a battle hardened soldier who could rise to a challenge. He enjoyed hardship and pitting his wits against nature with his 'can do' attitude.
Thomas Harriot	Translator and cartographer	Harriot had worked with Manteo and Wanchese, the Native Americans brought to England in 1584 to learn Algonquin, with whom he formed a strong bond. He understood navigation and was skilled at making maps.



Why did the colonisation fail?

Exam-style question, Section B

Explain why the attempt to colonise Virginia in 1585–86 was a failure.

You may use the following in your answer:

- the colonists
- Wingina. (Indian chief)

You must also use information of your own. **12 marks**

Exam tip

Organise your information before you answer. You have been given two prompts for reasons that you can write about. Choose what other reason(s) you want to include before you begin writing.

We will now assess the reasons why the colonisation failed.

These are the "bullet points" (reasons) in a 12 marker

Reasons:

- Bad planning
- The Voyage
- No food / farming resources
- The colonists themselves
- Inexperience
- Native American Indian resistance
- Spanish Armada taking resources and money

Stick this diagram in your books, as previously, add further detail from the following pages to each category

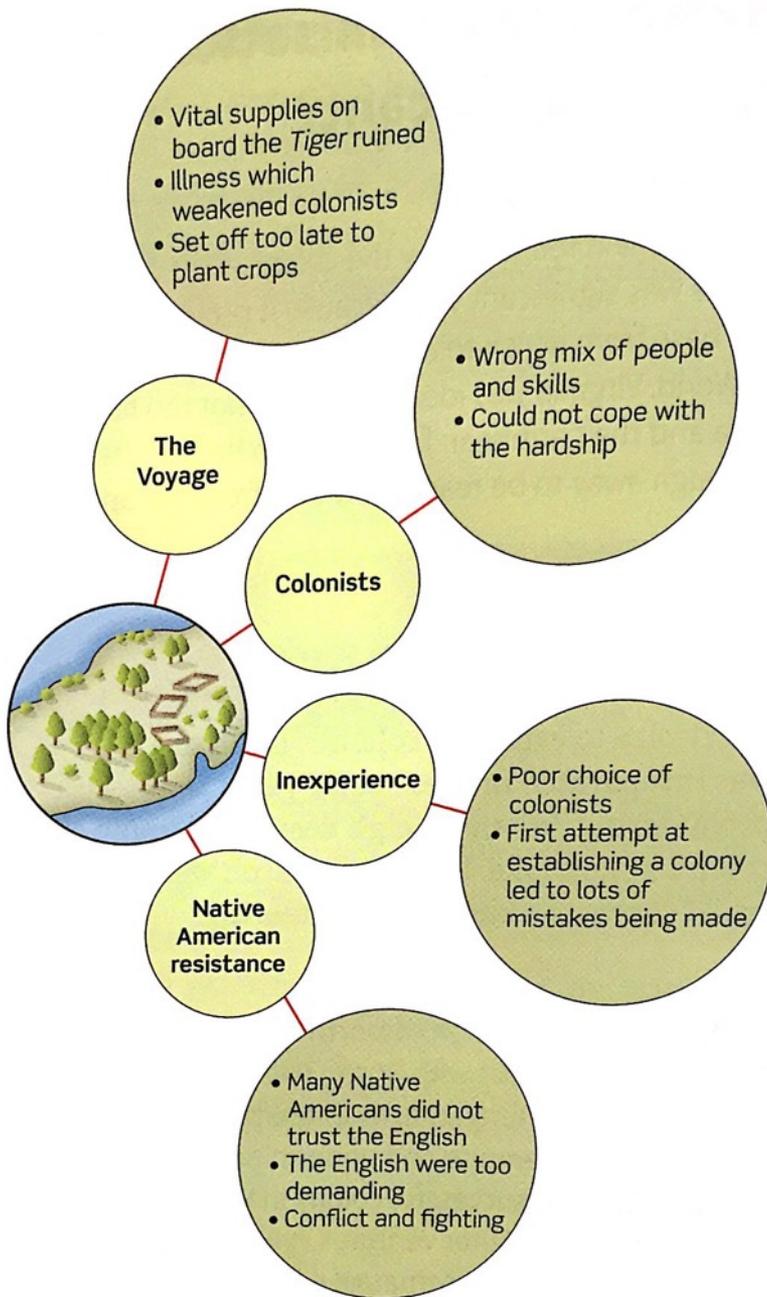
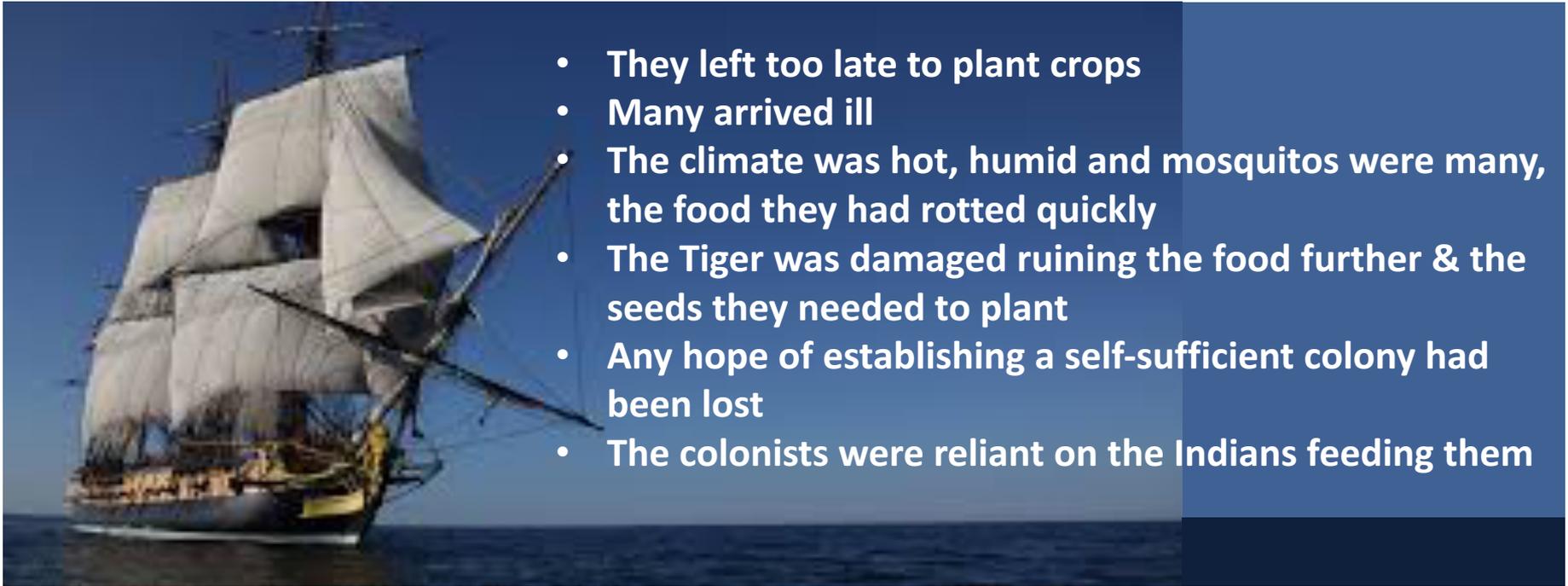


Figure 3.10 Why did the Virginia Colony fail in 1585–86?

There were 2 attempts at colonising Virginia, both failed. The 1587-90 attempt is still a mystery today as to what happened, but the first attempt had clear reasons for failure.

The voyage

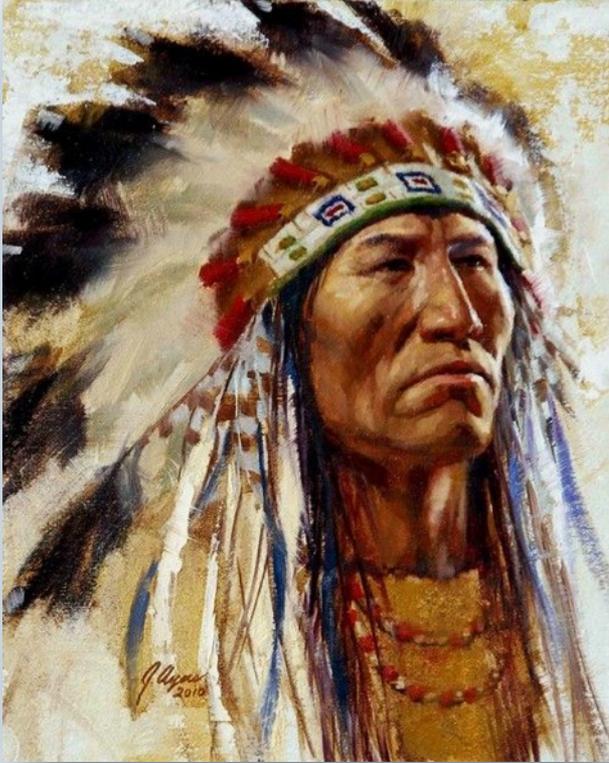


- They left too late to plant crops
- Many arrived ill
- The climate was hot, humid and mosquitos were many, the food they had rotted quickly
- The Tiger was damaged ruining the food further & the seeds they needed to plant
- Any hope of establishing a self-sufficient colony had been lost
- The colonists were reliant on the Indians feeding them

Expectations vs reality

- The hope of getting rich quick was clearly not happening!
- Hard work was needed by all colonists to set up and establish the colony, the merchants and 'gentlemen' had no intentions of hard manual labour, they expected the Indians to do it all
- There were no precious metals as promised
- They colonists found themselves foraging for nuts and berries in the winter
- The colonists hated each other! The farmers refused to do the farming for the upper classes, they came here to work on their **own** lands.
- The Native American Indians were harder to control than the colonists expected
- Soldiers could fight, but couldn't farm! They were also ill-disciplined, at least one soldier was executed and his body left to rot as a warning!
- Too many craftsmen, not enough farmers
- There was no stone, so the fort they planned to build was made of wood instead
- Most of the gunpowder was damaged when the Tiger was damaged meaning hunters and fishermen faced problems especially as English fishing techniques didn't work in Roanoke's shallow waters

Native American Indian resistance



- The positive relations with the Algonquian Indians Manteo and Wanchese on previous voyages would not be repeated on this colonisation mission
- Local chief **WINGINA** ruled Roanoke Island, he was unpredictable and suspicious of the English
- **WINGINA** turned against the English, fed up of them demanding food
- **WINGINA** believed the English had supernatural powers from their God and would try and destroy the Indians, this was based on the deaths of Indians with no physical contact from the English (European illnesses they'd never seen before)
- There were violent clashes between the Natives and the English as the English were desperate for handouts
- By spring 1586 **WINGINA** asked other chiefs to join him and attack the English
- Ralph Lane (Governor of Virginia) found out and was ready, **WINGINA** was killed.
- Lane and remaining colonists abandoned Virginia and went home 27 July 1586

Roanoke 2! The History Mystery!



Despite the failings of the first attempt to colonise Roanoke, they tried again in 1587, this would be the beginnings of one of the most famous mysteries in English history! What happened to the Roanoke 2 colonists – to this day, we still don't know!

- Walter Raleigh made Manteo Lord of Roanoke in the hope he could persuade other local tribes to co-operate
- John White was put in overall charge of the expedition (White had survived the 1585 attempt and knew what to expect)
- John White's advisor had been found dead with 16 arrow wounds
- Manteo led a revenge attack but killed the remaining friendly Indians from the nearby Croatoan settlements
- John White was summoned home to tell Raleigh what was going on (leaving his wife and daughter), but due to the Armada, didn't make it back until 1590

- When he arrived back, the colony was deserted!
- There was a tree with Croatoan carved into it suggesting theyd moved to the Croatoan settlement up river, but they were never found!



Good documentaries on the Roanoke Mystery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxIUcW2n2bY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVRdkWHhPKU>

Summary

- Walter Raleigh was behind two attempts to establish an English colony in Virginia.
- England's colonies in Roanoke failed due to inexperience, the suitability of the colonists and the resistance of local American Indians.
- Conditions in Virginia were much harsher than the colonists were expecting.
- Many of the 1585 colonists did not co-operate with each other.
- The English were very dependent upon the local American Indians to survive.
- The local Indian chief, Wingina, did not trust the English and turned hostile.



Checkpoint

Strengthen

- S1** Give two reasons why the English wanted a colony in Virginia.
- S2** Give two reasons why Walter Raleigh was important in setting up the colonies.
- S3** Give two reasons why the colonies failed.

Challenge

- C1** Explain how Raleigh's preparations for the 1585 venture shows he was taking great care to establish a successful colony.
- C2** Explain why the type of colonists sent in 1587 was so different from those in 1585.
- C3** Explain how the following led to the failures of the 1585 and 1587 colonies:
- a** poor luck **b** poor judgement.

If you are not confident about any of these questions, form a group with other students, discuss the answers and then record your conclusion. Your teacher can give you some hints.