



# What Worked Well?

The Roanoke colony nor the initial attempt at the Jamestown colony were successful. We are going to examine what worked well for the two colonies, and what did not work well.

WORKED WELL

DID NOT WORK WELL



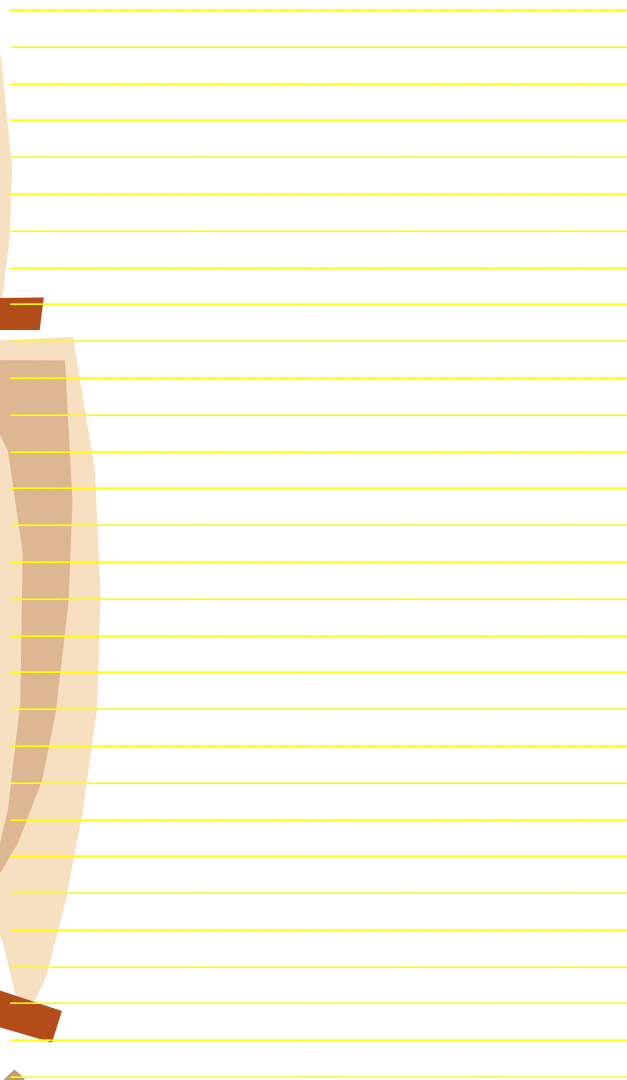
Two causes for many of the early colonists' difficulties have been discussed.

One is that the colonists were not of community spirit. It was every man for himself, and self-centeredness and greed were the driving forces.

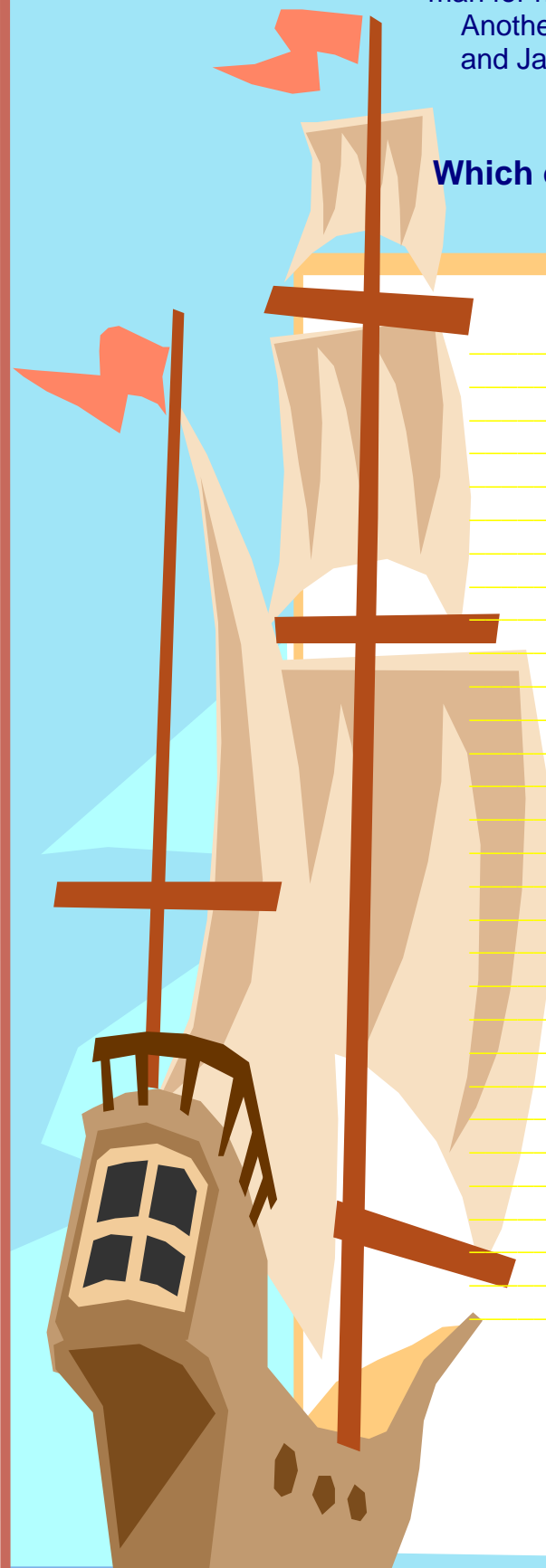
Another theory is that a major drought at the time that both Roanoke and Jamestown were being settled was the cause of their difficulties.

**Which of these two causes do you think is the most convincing?**

**Defend Thyself!**



A large white rectangular area with horizontal yellow lines for writing, set against a background of a stylized ship and a landscape.





## Teacher's Guide to What Worked What Did Not

The Web page [www.nationalcenter.org/ColonyofRoanoke.html](http://www.nationalcenter.org/ColonyofRoanoke.html) offers a wealth of information about Roanoke for this lesson. Although brief, it gives both a primary and secondary source and insight that will be helpful to students in learning about the Lost Colony and successfully completing the summative assessment at the end of the unit of study. (NOTE: The answer to the activity \$ 64,000 Question is located in this text)

The Web page [www.tobacco.org/History/Jamestown.html](http://www.tobacco.org/History/Jamestown.html) is a wealth of information about Jamestown for this lesson. Although it is lengthy, there is much to be learned from this site. Timeline re-accountings, narratives, and rich detail are included, making it easy for students to evaluate and interpret what they are reading. Select text from this site to be used to complete the graphic organizer that accompanies this lesson.

Another site to visit that will document some of their problems is [www.wm.edu/wmnews/042398/drought.html](http://www.wm.edu/wmnews/042398/drought.html). This site is particularly interesting because it gives reason rather than blame to many of the problems that the colonists suffered. Science research lends a hand to history and archeology to present the reasons factor. Some great class discussion and opposing ideas can be developed from the information presented here. If you present the drought theory and have supportive discussions, be prepared for responses on the summative assessment that points less of a finger at the colonists' inadequacy and somewhat more to problematic circumstances, which they had to endure.

These two sites have listings of the original colonists and their occupations. Students can easily draw conclusions from the lists that the men who came were poorly suited for setting up a colony, growing crops, and going about the general task of surviving. [www.apva.org/history/list.html](http://www.apva.org/history/list.html) and <http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vcdh/jamestown/>

At any rate, be sure to include the items below, as they will be invaluable to successfully completing the summative assessment. Of course, you may

include any additional bits of information and details you and your students find fascinating.

#### WHAT WORKED WELL:

- Site was picked for its moorings
  - Deep water so ships could be tied up close to shore
  - Close to the main means of transportation
  - Close to the main means of communication with England
  - Military advantage
- Leadership
  - John Smith was an asset in his dealings with the Native Americans.
  - John Smith was responsible for running Jamestown like an army camp. His, no work, no eat, policy is what finally produced more responsible behavior among the colonists.
  - John Rolfe brought tobacco to them, which became their cash crop and means of finally earning some money from England.
  - For the most part, they were resourceful. (One example, building a ship from the scraps left after a hurricane demolished ships in Bermuda.)
- The relationship established with Pocahontas
- Bringing women to the colony was finally a way that helped to settle down the colonists and bring some reason to begin to make the colony permanent.
- Arrival of First and Second Supply

#### WHAT DID NOT WORK WELL:

- Location
  - It was a swamp.
  - The location was unhealthy due to disease carrying mosquitoes.
  - Fresh water was scarce - often colonists had to drink brackish water.
- Colonists
  - The men were inexperienced and unqualified for such a commercial venture.
  - Those who came were considered gentlemen and did not know how to farm or hunt.

Cooperation was almost non-existent. Every man was out for himself and accounts tell of discord, conspiracy, fighting, blame, lying, cheating, and libel.

Greedy. Even with a significant death toll due to starvation, once tobacco was introduced, and men realized they could make money by growing it, that was all they wanted to grow. A law had to be passed forcing them to dedicate a certain portion of efforts to growing food.

Not very clever. Colonists, even though they were somewhat dependent on Native Americans for food and peace, would deliberately antagonize them by kidnapping them and holding them hostage for exchange for information.

Careless. The explosion that sent John Smith back to England, with the ultimate consequence of the Starving Time, was due to a careless smoker. Also, once the entire village was burned down. This included even the colonists' clothing, and they had little protection from a very harsh winter.

Sometimes showed poor judgment in trading with the Indians. Foolishly, they traded away arms and work tools for a pittance of food, which was in part how they found themselves in the desperate time referred to as the Starving Time.

- Native Americans
  - Attacked settlers
  - Traded sons with colonists to act as interpreters.
  - Few periods of peace and trust
  - Tortured some (Ratcliff)
  - Poisoned by the colonists
- Weather
  - Bitterly cold winters
  - Drought
  - Hurricane slowed up fresh supplies

<p>Obstacle:</p> <p><b><i>Snow</i></b></p> <p>You have 30 seconds to tell how this was a help or a problem and why.</p>	<p>Obstacle:</p> <p><b><i>Indian Attacks</i></b></p> <p>You have 30 seconds to tell how this was a help or a problem and why.</p>
<p>Obstacle:</p> <p><b><i>Weather</i></b></p> <p>You have 30 seconds to tell how this was a help or a problem and why.</p>	<p>Obstacle:</p> <p><b><i>Colonists</i></b></p> <p>You have 30 seconds to tell how this was a help or a problem and why.</p>
<p>Obstacle:</p> <p><b><i>Leadership</i></b></p> <p>You have 30 seconds to tell how this was a help or a problem and why.</p>	<p>Obstacle:</p> <p><b><i>Food Supply</i></b></p> <p>You have 30 seconds to tell how this was a help or a problem and why.</p>
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