



The First Visit

British interaction with the Algonquin people

In 1584, Walter Raleigh funded his first voyage to the New World after being granted the patent from Queen Elizabeth I and quickly set about seeking a location for his future colony. His explorers not only located Roanoke Island quickly, but had their first important interaction with the Native Algonquians in the area.

Objective

Students will:

- Gain an understanding of England's first glimpse of the New World.
- Explain the interaction between the Native Algonquians in the area and the Englishmen.
- Examine the benefits of the location of Roanoke.

Student Reading

In 1583 some of the greatest minds in England came together to discuss the advantages of placing a settlement in the New World (what is now the United States). Walter Raleigh, who would not gain his title of "Sir" until 1585, met with men like Thomas Hariot, John White, Arthur Barlowe, the Hakluyt cousins (both named Richard), Philip Amadas, and Simon Fernandes.

Together they would use the latest information and technology to determine not only the best route to the New World, but the best possible location for a settlement.

It was ultimately decided that the best location would be the mid-Atlantic seaboard. The reasons were simple. First, it was just far enough away from Spain that they could still conduct privateering raids. Secondly, Simon Fernandes was familiar with the area and knew the coast well.

With the destination decided and grant (permission from the queen) in hand, Walter Raleigh wasted no time getting his first voyage together and in April 1584 they set sail with three goals in mind;

- find the best route to the New World
- reconnoiter the region
- make contact with local Indians.

Grade Level: Fourth Grade

Grade Subjects: History, Geography

Duration: 45 minutes

Group Size: Up to 36

Standards:

National Standard for History:

Topic 2: Standard 3

Topic 3: Standard 5

North Carolina Standard for History

4.H.1, 4.H.1.1, 4.H.1.2, 4.H.1.3

4.H.2.1

Further Lesson Plans/Activities:

<http://www.nps.gov/fora/forteachers/>

After an uneventful voyage sailing south to the West Indies, then the Canaries, then the Caribbean before heading north up the coast, they finally made it off the coast of the Outer Banks in July, 1584.

The English immediately set about exploring the area of what is now Cape Hatteras. They found many things that made them happy, like cedar trees, pines, and wild game.

They were there three days before making contact with the local Native Algonquians in the area, meeting first with their chief Granganimeo. At this time the relationship between the two groups went very well. They realized trade would be mutually beneficial with the Indians getting metal good and the English getting furs and information. The Indians even told the explorers of rumors of silver and gold mines located further in the interior .

The English recorded the lifestyles of the Indians, learning how they dressed, hunted, lived, and eventually even their language. Relations went so well between the groups that when it was decided that it was time for the English to sail back home, they took two Algonquians back with them; Manteo, a member of the Croatoan tribe, and Wanchese of the Secotan tribe. Thomas Hariot worked with them to help break the language barrier, which he ultimately did successfully.

This first voyage would prove vital, giving the English a taste of what the New World had to offer; bountiful land and Natives that were as "mannerly and civil as any of Europe." With the help of Wanchese and Manteo, it was not long before the Queen was convinced that a settlement in in the New World would be most beneficial.

Activity

Instructors should emphasize that when England came to the New World it was with the hopes of finding treasure, and that is basically what they found, with the help of the Native Americas.

This map is not the standard "'X' marks the spot" treasure map, but it is a map of treasures. Teachers can have the students work in groups or alone to use the map to answer the following questions.



DeBry's depiction of the map of Roanoke Island, (NPS)
For Higher Resolution Image, visit
<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jmack/algonqin/lakfig23.jpg>

1. Locate the following things on the map and draw a circle around them:
 - a) Deer
 - b) Three different types of trees
 - c) Grape Vines
 - d) People fishing
 - e) Corn Crops
 - f) People hunting
 - g) A ship wreck
2. How many different Indian villages are depicted on the map? What are they named?
3. Pick three items that were circled in question one and explain why they would be valuable resources or why they are important.
4. What else could we learn by looking at this map?