

NORTH CAROLINA COLONY Reading Comprehension

North Carolina was first settled in 1587. 121 settlers led by John White landed on present-day Roanoke Island on July 22, 1587. It was the first English settlement in the New World. On August 18, 1587, White's daughter gave birth to Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the New World. By 1590, however, all of the colonists on the island had disappeared. To this day, no one knows what happened to them, though some believe they integrated with and were absorbed by one of the local tribes. Today, the colony is referred to as the "Lost Colony."

The first permanent English settlement in North Carolina occurred in 1655 when Nathaniel Batts, a Virginia farmer, migrated to an area just south of Virginia with the hopes of finding suitable farmland.

In 1663, King Charles II awarded eight noblemen, called the Lords Proprietors, the Province of Carolina (named after the king) in appreciation of their efforts in helping him regain the throne of England. At the time, the Province of Carolina included both present-day North and South Carolina.

In 1665, Sir John Yeamans established a second permanent colony in North Carolina on the Cape Fear River near present-day Wilmington. In 1670, a settlement near present-day Charleston, South Carolina (Charles Town), was established. This settlement grew quickly because it had a natural harbor that allowed easy access to trade with the West Indies. Charles Town soon became the principal seat of government for the entire region. Because of the distance between Charles Town and points in the northern part of the colony, the terms "North Carolina" and "South Carolina" came into use.

In 1729, the Lords Proprietors sold their interests in the Carolina colony back to the English Crown, and North and South Carolina became separate royal colonies.

1.) The colony at Roanoke Island was...

- a.) the first English settlement in the New World.
- b.) washed away by a hurricane.
- c.) the last English settlement in the New World.
- d.) permanent.

2.) What definitely happened at Roanoke Island?

- a.) The first English child in the New World was born.
- b.) They were killed by a hurricane.
- c.) Everyone had disappeared by 1587.
- d.) The settlers integrated with a local tribe.

3.) Why did King Charles II award the Lords Proprietors the Province of Carolina?

- a.) He was grateful to them.
- b.) He was afraid of them.
- c.) He wanted to take over the New World.
- d.) He was interested in making a lot of money.

4.) Who was the first person to establish a permanent settlement in North Carolina?

- a.) John White
- b.) Nathaniel Batts
- c.) The Lords Proprietors
- d.) John Yeamans

5.) What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- a.) Who was John White?
- b.) How successful was Nathaniel Batts?
- c.) Why did Nathaniel Batts migrate to North Carolina?
- d.) Why was Nathaniel Batts a farmer?

6.) Where was North Carolina's second permanent settlement?

- a.) the Lost Colony
- b.) Charles Town
- c.) Roanoke Island
- d.) on the Cape Fear River

7.) Why did Charles Town grow quickly?

- a.) Its harbor was close to the West Indies.
- b.) Its harbor was close to inland river ports.
- c.) People were given large land grants.
- d.) It was warm and sunny.

8.) What does the word “principal” mean in the following sentence?

Charles Town soon became the principal seat of government for the entire region.

- a.) main
- b.) strong
- c.) large
- d.) federal

9.) Which of the following do you KNOW about Sir John Yeamans from the passage?

- a.) The location of his birth
- b.) The location of his residence before founding the settlement
- c.) The date in which he left the settlement he founded
- d.) The location of the settlement he founded

10.) The EFFECT of the establishment of Charles Town was...

- a.) the terms “North Carolina” and “South Carolina” came into use
- b.) it had a great natural harbor.
- c.) the Lords Proprietors sold Carolina back to the king.
- d.) it was close to the West Indies.