

Worksheet: Teacher's guide

1. This article is part of a larger work. Look carefully at the source information directly under the section title. The article you are going to read was combined with other sources about early voyages into a book. What was the name of the book?
2. Who was the editor of this book?
3. When was it compiled?
4. Now think about the shorter article that you will be reading. What is the name of the full work that it came from? (Clue: this is not the book that you listed as number 1.)
5. Who do you think was the author of the shorter article?

This is another example of a primary source document. Remember, when reading and analyzing primary sources materials you must consider several questions: under what circumstances was it written, why was it written, who was the author and what did he/she do, who was his/her audience, are there any examples of bias, exaggeration, or assumptions that were made by the author, did the time the author was living in have an impact on the contents, and how reliable is this source? Also, in this particular source, it's important to consider when the document was written, which has an impact on the reliability of the material.

1. By looking at title of the primary source, when would you imagine that it might have been written?

Look at this excerpt from the same source. (From the [American Journeys](#) website):

To the Worshipful and my very friend Master Richard Hakluyt, much happiness in the Lord.

Sir, as well for the satisfying of your earnest request, as the performance of my promise made unto at my last being with you in England, I have sent you (although in homely stile, especially for the contentation of a delicate eare) the true discourse of my last voyage into the

West Indies, and partes of America called Virginia, taken in hand about the end of Februarie, in the year of our redemption 1590...

...Thus committing the reliefe of my discomfortable company the planters in Virginia, to the merciful help of the Almighty, whom I most humbly beseech to helpe and comfort them, according to his most holy will and their good desire, I take my leave: from my house at Newtowne in Kylmore the 4 of February, 1593.

Your most welwishing friend,

John White

After reading this introduction to the description of his trip:

1. What were the circumstances under which it was written?
2. Why was it written?
3. Who was the audience for this work?
4. When was the article actually written?
5. Think about when this was written. Now, think about the events it describes. When did they take place? Why is this important to consider when analyzing the document?

Now begin to read the excerpt. Read the first two paragraphs. (“The next morning...” and “By that time...”)

1. Two smaller boats left the ships to go to Roanoke Island. Why did they not leave at the same time?
2. What happened to the first boat?
3. What happened to the second boat?

The group was persuaded to continue. Read the next two paragraphs.(“This mischance did...” and “Our boates and...”)

1. Why did the boats miss the correct landing place?
2. What made the group think that the colonists were nearby?
3. How did they try to attract the attention of the colonists?

Read the next paragraph. (“From thence we...”)

1. White explains that he had asked his colonists to leave a particular sign if they left Roanoke. What was the information he asked them to leave?
2. What were the colonists supposed to do to the sign if they were in danger?
3. What sign did White find?
4. Curiously, White wrote that his planters had actually planned to do what after he left to go back to England for supplies in 1587?

Read the next two paragraphs. (“And having well...” and “Presently Captaine Cooke...”)

1. What other sign did White find?
2. What was the condition of the village where White had left his colonists? What was found in the village?
3. What had happened to John White’s personal objects that he had left?
4. What made White joyful in the midst of the destruction that he and the sailors found?

Read the next paragraph. (“When we had...”)

1. They left the island very quickly. Why?

2. One of the boats left its “caske” on the island? Why did they do this?
3. Why was that important enough for White to mention it?

Read the last paragraph. (“The next morning...”)

1. What was the plan that White and the Captain made next?
2. Why were they not able to follow the plan?

Read the “Notes” in the right sidebar.

1. How do you think he felt during his search?
2. Do you see any way that his feelings might have affected his judgment? For example, he concludes in his report that the colonists were chased off by local Indians but went safely to Croatoan. Do you think that is a reasonable conclusion, or was he being overly optimistic? Explain your answer.
3. Was he right to want to continue the search despite the problems of weather and navigation? Why do you think so?

After reading and analyzing this source:

1. Do you think this is a reliable source in describing the search for the colonists? Why or why not?

Extra thinking. Look at the map.

1. Why do you think John White drew this map with west at the top?