
MILES TO GO BEFORE WE SLEEP!

Directions: Based on the excerpt (below) from the original travel narrative from Governor John White of his 1587 Voyage to Roanoke Island*, draw a map of the ships' routes and, using an actual current map, calculate the greatest possible speed that they could have traveled. Be ready to answer the following questions:

- 1) What seems to be the fastest speed that the ships ever actually traveled?

- 2) Between what locations would that speed have been reached?

- 3) What seems to be the slowest speed that the ships actually traveled?

- 4) What hypotheses (educated guesses) would you make about why there is such a difference in the speeds that the ships traveled?

*The Colonists of this voyage became known as the "lost colonists."

TRAVELS OF JOHN WHITE'S 1587 VOYAGE ROANOKE ISLAND – An Excerpt

from Governor John White's Narrative of His 1587 Voyage
(With modification to the original language.)

In the year of our Lord 1587, Sir Walter Raleigh, intending to persevere in the pl

of his country of Virginia, prepared a new colony... to be sent there under the charge of John White, whom he appointed Governor. He also appointed twelve assistants to him, gave them a charter, and incorporated them by the name of Governor and Assistants of the City of Raleigh in Virginia.

April 26, 1587 - Our fleet being in number three sail - the flagship (the *Lion*) a 120 tuns [barrels it could hold], a flyboat, and a pinnace – departed the twenty-sixth of April from Portsmouth [England]. The same day we came to anchor at Cowes on the Isle of Wight, where we stayed eight days.

May 5, 1587 – At nine o'clock at night, we came to Plymouth, where we remained five days.

May 8, 1587 – We weighed anchor at Plymouth and departed for Virginia.

May 16, 1587 – Simon *Fernandez* (master of the *Lion*) lewdly forsook our flyboat, leaving her distressed in the Bay of Portugal.

June 19, 1587 – We fell with *Dominica*, and the same evening sailed between it and *Guadalupe*.

June 21, 1587 – The flyboat also fell with *Dominica*.

June 22, 1587 – We came to anchor at an island called *Santa Cruz* (St. Croix), where all the planters were set on land. We stayed there until the twenty-fifth of the month. At our first landing, some of our women and men, by eating a small fruit of green apples, were fearfully troubled with a sudden burning in their mouths and swelling of their tongues so big that some of them could not speak. After twenty-four hours, it wore away of itself.

June 23, 1587 - The second day of our abode there, we sent three of our men on shore and two another to search the island for fresh water. We had found no watering place but a standing pond, the water of which was so evil that many of our company forbore from drinking it. Those that did but wash their faces with that water in the morning before the sun had drawn away the corruption, did so burn and swell that their eyes

were shut up. They could not see for five or six days, or longer.

June 25, 1587 – We weighed anchor and departed for *Santa Cruz*.

June 27, 1587 – We came to anchor at *Cotesa* (off the south coast of Puerto Rico).

June 28, 1587 – We weighed anchor at *Cotesa* and presently came to anchor at St. John's in *Mosquito Bay* (*Tallaboa Bay*).

July 1, 1587 – We weighed anchor at Mosquito Bay bearing along the coast of St. John's until evening, at which time we fell with *Rojo Bay*.

July 2, 1587 – The next day, sailing along the west end of St. John's, the Governor determined to go on land in St. German's Bay to gather young plants of oranges, pineapples, marneas, and plantains to plant in Virginia.

July 3, 1587 – We saw Hispaniola, and bore with the coast all that day.

July 4, 1587 – All that day and until the next day at noon, we sailed along the coast of Hispaniola, but saw no preparation for staying there.

July 5, 1587 – We left sight of Hispaniola and haled off for Virginia about four o'clock in the afternoon.

July 6, 1587 – We came to the island *Caicos*. On this island, while *Fernandez* sailed himself ashore, others spent the latter part of that day in other parts of the island, some seeking salt ponds, some fowling, and some hunting swans, whereof we caught many.

July 7, 1587 – Early in the morning, we weighed anchor, leaving *Caicos* with good hope that the first land we saw next would be Virginia.

About July 16, 1587 – We fell with the mainland of Virginia, which Simon *Fernandez* took to be the island of *Croatoan* where we anchored. We rode there two or three days and then weighed anchor and bore along the coast. In the night, had not Captain Stafford been more careful in looking out than our Simon *Fernandez*, we would

been cast away upon the breach called the Cape of Fear. We were come within cables-length upon it – such was the carelessness and ignorance of our master.

July 22, 1587 – We arrived safely at *Hatarask*, where our ship and pinnace anchored. The Governor went aboard the pinnace – accompanied with forty of his best men, intending to pass up to *Roanoke* Island. There he hoped to find those 15 Englishmen whom Sir Richard Grenville had left the year before; and meant to have conferred with them concerning the state of the country and savages. But we found none of them, nor any sign that they had been there – saving only we found the bones of those fifteen, whom the savages had slain long before.

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