

ROANOKE: 1590

Have you heard of the lost Roanoke colony? This group of settlers came from England to North America in 1587. By 1590, they had disappeared without a trace! No one knows what happened to them, but we can explore some theories.

Some say that they were dragged into the sea by ghost pirates. This theory is supported by the fact that the settlers were living on an island. There were about 120 colonists. If the ghost pirates could break in and carry off 8 settlers per night, how long would it take for all of the colonists to be dragged off to Davey Jones's Locker?

Others claim that the settlers were carried off into the inky darkness of space by Byakhees. This seems feasible. A flock of these hideous creatures could easily have ripped the roofs off the settlers' houses and carried them off. It would take about 2 Byakhees to rip the roof off a house and another 4 to carry off the 4 people inside. How big would the flock need to be to haul off all the settlers in a single night?

There are those who say that the settlers starved. This seems unlikely. They would have been devoured by the Dark Young of the Woods long before they ran out of food. These tentacled horrors are known to live in deep woods, and there were certainly trees around! If 20 settlers took the boats and fled to the relative safety of the nearby Indian tribes, and the rest were eaten by a group of 5 Dark Young, how many settlers would each monster get to snack on?

One final theory is that the settlers were carried off by Space Aliens. We know that there is a solar system around the star Upsilon Andromedae, 44 light years from Earth. A flying saucer could haul 2 settlers at a time to a planet orbiting that star. How many round trips would Space Aliens need to make in order to relocate all the settlers? What would be the total distance traveled by the Aliens in carrying out this chore?

