

Roanoke

A drawing by one of the English colonists in the ill-fated Roanoke expedition of 1585 was the subject for the engraving below done by Theodore DeBry. It was published in England in 1590. A small European ship carrying settlers approaches the island of Roanoke, on the left. The wreckage of several larger vessels farther out to sea and the presence of Indian settlements on the mainland and on Roanoke itself suggest some of the other perils the settlers encountered.



Recruiting for the Colonies, 1609

This was the title page for a pamphlet that described the attractions of settlement in the New World. Most accounts of the “excellent fruites” of life in Virginia were, like this one, written by people who had never seen America but shared the excitement that the colonies inspired among early-seventeenth-century English people.

