

Episode: The First Lost Colony

EXPLORING NORTH CAROLINA



USEFUL VOCABULARY

archaeologist
Berry Site
Fort San Juan
philosophy
river basin

CHAPTER 2 (0:00–2:25)

1. Why do you think school textbooks devote so little space to Spanish exploration and colonization of the New World?
This country was successfully colonized by the English, not by the Spanish. We speak English, and many people today are descendants of the early English.
2. Research from the 1980s suggests that Hernando DeSoto and Captain Juan Pardo did not travel to the westernmost part of present-day North Carolina, but that the expeditions traveled from the Wateree river valley (in present-day South Carolina) into what western North Carolina river basin?
Catawba River Basin.

CHAPTER 3 (2:25–6:50)

3. Though researchers found no direct evidence of Spanish presence, they still made discoveries at the Berry Site in 1986. What did they learn?
Some possible answers: The town dated to the mid-16th century; it had earthen mounds, which suggested a powerful, well-defended town.
4. What is the significance of olive jars not being traded with natives, and what can archaeologists infer about the Spanish who owned the jars?
Because the jars were not traded with natives, the Spanish soldiers must have taken the jars with them. Any place these jars are found is associated with the Spanish because they alone had the jars. This knowledge allows archaeologists to pinpoint where the Spanish people traveled.

CHAPTER 4 (6:50–10:41)

5. What drove DeSoto to explore the southeastern United States in 1539?
He already knew silver and gold existed in Central America and South America, so he anticipated he'd also find them in the north.
6. What has led archaeologists to change their theories about the travels of DeSoto and Juan Pardo?
They have found additional archaeological information and better maps, allowing researchers to modify the route they think these explorers took and also to discover the former Fort San Juan in present-day Morganton, North Carolina.

CHAPTER 5 (10:41–14:35)

7. Reflect on David Moore’s statement about his work’s core philosophy: “This information that we learn deserves to be known by everybody.”

Accept any reasonable response.

8. What were the primary reasons for Juan Pardo’s expedition into the interior (of South Carolina and North Carolina)?

Some possible answers:

- *He wanted to take possession of the northern edge of the Spanish Colonial Empire in eastern America (in modern-day western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee).*
- *He had hungry soldiers in Santa Elena, where times were hard and supplies low. Moving to the interior, traveling from one native town to another, increased the chances of finding food.*
- *He wanted to construct a road connecting silver mines in northern Mexico with Santa Elena. By building a navigable land route, he could better protect these precious metals from raids by English pirates. (Unfortunately, he mistook the Southern Appalachians for the same mountain chain running north out of Mexico, erroneously believing that he was only a week and a half away from northern Mexico.)*

CHAPTER 6 (14:35–16:41)

9. Besides the renaming of Joara and other native towns after Spanish towns, what suggested permanent settlement by the Spanish?

Remains of lead shot used in Spanish firearms; nails used in typical Spanish construction.

10. What other artifacts provided insight into these early Spanish settlers?

Some possible answers: brass and glass beads, painted pottery and Mexican redware.

11. Of the five forts that Juan Pardo left in the interior, what makes Fort San Juan unique?

It is the only one that has been documented.

CHAPTER 7 (16:41–24:15)

12. How did Fort San Juan residents affect the lives of American Indians?

Some possible answers: They attempted to conquer the native people; they transmitted diseases such as chicken pox, measles and the common cold, to which the natives had no natural immunity.