**1. The people of Roanoke simply left the settlement.**
**It is said that they have supposedly left Roanoke island and started settling in the Chesapeake Bay.  And that they built rafts or a boat of some sort using materials torn apart from their houses.  Close to twenty years had passed before John Smith and his group started the well-known settlement of Jamestown (where the popular story of Pocahontas takes place).  This settlement was near the Chesapeake Bay.  The evidence in this tale is that the ruler of the natives did indeed admit to killing the colonists.  They said that they had been in their land (Chesapeake Bay area) and were then annihilated to prevent more English settlers from stealing their land.**

**2. The whole population of Roanoke Island was killed by a disease.**
**It is true that the English had brought over some diseases.  However, note, there were no bodies found and the houses had disappeared.  Quite a ridiculous theory.**

**3.  The village was destroyed by a severe storm such as a hurricane.**
**A hurricane could have washed away the colonists and destroyed the houses, true.  But the huge problem with this theory is the fence was still standing.  It is not possible for a storm to do as much damage as clearing away the whole settlement when the fence remained untouched.**

**4.  The people of Roanoke decided to leave Roanoke Island to live with the Natives.**
**Croatoan, which was carved on the post, was the name of an island in the area.  It was also the name of the group of the kind natives that inhabited it.  It is possible that they colonists decided to live with the natives of Croatoan.  Though there has not been a descent amount of evidence to prove this theory, there also has been no evidence against it.**

**5.  The colonists were killed by the Native Americans**
**One important fact supports this theory.  As one may not know, the English men had before tried to start the colony of Roanoke before.  Twas a group of fifteen men.  A little over a year had passed since they first started the colony, before explorers decided to check up on their hopeful progress.  What these explorers found was one dead body.  It was verified that it was the work of the Natives.  From this past event we know that the Natives were capable of such atrocities and also capable of hiding the bodies.  What’s interesting is that the Natives pulled all of that off in between less than a two year period.  While the “lost colony” had been deprived of its leader for a number of three years.  The “Indians” had a sufficient amount of time to tear down the buildings too.  However there has still not been enough evidence to verify this theory.**

**6. You can come up with your own theory of what might have happened to the colonists.**

Your assignment is to choose two of the theories listed or name your own theory and explain in a paragraph of at least 7 sentences, why your theory is most probable. You need to attempt to argue that the theory you have chosen is most likely to be true.

Good Luck!

Theory: An idea based on facts that might be true.