

Reading Amadas & Barlowe Worksheet

1. This article is part of a larger work. What is that larger piece?
2. Who wrote this article?
3. When was it written?

This is an example of a primary source document. It was written at a certain time by an eyewitness. BUT, there are certain things we must ask as we read through this document: under what circumstances was it written, why was it written, who was the author (his job) and who was his audience, are there any examples of bias, exaggeration, or assumptions that were made by the author, did the time the author was living in have an impact on the contents, how reliable is this source?

You will notice that many of words in this article are not spelled the same way we spell them. Spelling was not standardized until after this was written. If you are not sure of a word, try saying it aloud pronouncing the letters phonetically in a couple of different ways.

As you read this primary source, be sure to read the highlighted comments and underlined definitions if you are reading it online.

Read the first and second paragraphs. (“The second of July...” and “We passed...”)

4. What was Barlowe writing about in that first paragraph?
5. Why do you think he spent so much time describing the physical features, animals, and plant life of the area?

Read the third paragraph. (“This island”...)

6. In this section, the Englishmen met a Native American. What was the reaction of the Englishmen to this meeting?

7. What was the reaction of the Native American to the meeting?
8. Why do you think Barlowe thought this was significant?

Read the notes on the right sidebar of the web page. Read the next four paragraphs about Barlowe's observations about the Native Americans.(“The next day...”, “The King...”, “After we...”, and “After that these women...”)

9. Describe the first meeting between Granganimeo, the “King's brother,” and the Englishmen.
10. Why did “King Wingina” not meet with the English?
11. Describe some of the Indian clothing and adornments.
12. Why was this significant to Barlowe?
13. What assumptions did Barlowe make about the Indians?
14. Why might he be seeing the Indians as he did?
15. Do you think those assumptions were reasonable? Why or why not?
16. How might they have led to misunderstandings that created problems later on? For example, what were the risks of thinking of the Indians as innocent, like Adam and Eve?
17. What were the risks of misunderstanding their social and political organization?
18. How do you imagine the Indians interpreted these same events?

Read the next two paragraphs about the boats and pearls. (“Their boates...” and “The Kings brother...”)

19. List several interesting aspects of these two stories.

Read the last three paragraphs. (“He was very...”, “The soile...”, and “After we had...”)

20. What two topics seem to dominate this section?

Why do you think Barlowe wrote so much about these two topics?

21. Barlowe and the other Englishmen chose not to stay in the Indian village. Why do you think they did not? What might that mean?

Now go back and think about the questions that were listed at the beginning. The exact answers may not be given. You may need to infer (make an educated guess) on some.

23. Under what circumstances was it written?

24. Why was it written?

25. Who was the author? (What was his job?)

26. Who was his audience?

27. Are there any examples of bias, exaggeration, or assumptions that were made by the author? If so, list several and the reasons you think they were made.

28. Did the time the author was living in have an impact on the contents? If so, how?

29. What conclusions did Barlowe appear to make about the land and its inhabitants?
How reliable is this source in describing the event? Why do you think this?

Go to “[Fort Raleigh and the Lost Colony](#)” and read the section called “Hopeful Explorations,” or ask your teacher for a copy of it.

31. Who produced the majority of this article?

32. Would you imagine it to be reliable? Why or why not?

33. Does the information in this section help to clarify some of your answers to the above questions?
In what way(s)?