LESSON PLAN

MYSTERY THEORIES

Series: Unsolved Mysteries

Objective
To help students practice taking notes on a text using a provided list of questions and using those notes to write a short paragraph in which they state an opinion and support it with evidence.

Supplies
- One or more books in the Unsolved Mysteries series
- Mystery Theories worksheet (attached)
- Whiteboard
- Pencils

Before the Activity
Print a copy of the Mystery Theories worksheet for each student. Write the definition of the word "theory" on the whiteboard, using the definition from the glossary of the *Roanoke Colony* book:
- theory: a guess about how or why something happened

Activity
Invite students to choose a book in the Unsolved Mysteries series to read. Explain that each book describes an unusual event from the past that people are still working to understand. Part of each book describes the different ideas people have about what might have happened and why. Explain that these ideas are called "theories," and read the definition of this word on the whiteboard. Then pass out the Mystery Theories worksheets. Students should answer the questions on this worksheet as they read through the book. To find all the answers, students will need to read all sections of the book, such as fact boxes and sidebars, not just the main text. For the final question, students should write a few sentences explaining what they think happened. They should support their opinion with at least one fact or reason from the book.

Evaluation
Collect the worksheets at the end of the activity. Were students able to find the information to answer each question? Could they say what they thought happened and support that claim with at least one piece of evidence?

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MYSTERY THEORIES

Book Title: _____

1. What unusual event does this book describe? Where and when did this event happen?

_____

_____

_____

2. What evidence, clues, or information have people found about it?

_____

_____

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3. What information do people still not know?

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4. What are some of the theories or reasons people have come up with to explain the event?

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5. What explanation do you think is most likely? Write a few sentences explaining your answer, using at least one fact or reason from the book to support your opinion.

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