



North Carolina: People, Places, & Progress

Chapter 1: The Land Where We Live

Section 1: The Tidewater Region

Focused Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. This narrow strip of land extends along the _____ Ocean. In the southern part of the state's coast, the Tidewater is no more than _____ miles wide, but in the north, where inland _____ of water are large, it goes back more than fifty miles in places.
2. _____ are inland bodies of mixed water found throughout much of the Tidewater.
3. The _____ off the North Carolina coast form much of the beach for much of the Tidewater.
4. Most are part of a long chain of sand spits called _____, the most famous of which are called the _____.
5. A _____ is a large portion of land extending into an ocean or other large body of water.
6. The barrier islands are really just a very long ridge of _____, spread along the ocean floor, always shifting in the tides and storms that come off the _____ Ocean.
7. Where the sand has low places, _____ allow the seawater to come in and out with the tides.
8. The only true break in the barrier island along the state's shoreline is _____, where the Cape Fear River flows directly into the ocean.

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9. North Carolina has _____ major sounds. Almost half of the Tidewater area is made up of these mixed bodies of water that are just behind the _____.
10. Some of the oldest towns in North Carolina are located near the mouths of these _____. These towns were _____ centers where goods could be transferred from river flatboats onto the schooners that would take goods by sea to other parts of the world.
11. _____ (the depositing of clay or silt or gravel) through time has kept the sounds from being deep enough for large oceangoing vessels.
12. A large portion of the Tidewater is _____ most of the year, meaning that the soil is soaked or flooded with water.
13. These mucky _____ (places where fresh water and salt water meet) serve as incubators for a variety of sea life, such as shrimp.
14. The most common type of wetland away from the estuaries is the _____.
15. Another Tidewater habitat is the _____, where tall grass mixes with scattered longleaf and other types of pine. Parts of the _____, the most extensive wetland at the southern end of the Tidewater, become savannas in the drier times of the year.
16. Most of the natural _____ in North Carolina are in the Tidewater.
17. Through time, the _____ has been one of the least populated portions of the state. Many of the early families either _____ or supplied goods to the fishing trade.

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Chapter 1: The Land Where We Live

Section 2: The Coastal Plain Region

Focused Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. The _____ has some of North Carolina's richest soil and takes up about a _____ of the area of our state.
2. The Plain has two central characteristics: its _____ and its _____ — both of which contribute to its role as the chief farming region of the state.
3. Great stretches of the Coastal Plain seem to go on forever, because in many areas large fields, sometimes several _____ across, have been cleared for _____.
4. _____ dot the region. Often they have had a store or two, or a _____ or church, that provide goods and services to the nearby farmers, who have neither the time nor the money to go to _____ frequently.
5. _____ have been a part of the Coastal Plain since it was first settled in colonial days.
6. Everyone from _____ to farm equipment _____ scheduled their business around the tobacco _____.
7. The traditional _____, a tall, thin square of logs or planks, was once seen everywhere on the Coastal Plain.
8. Before there were tobacco fields, the _____ was the most common sight on the Coastal Plain.
9. Because of its historical importance to North Carolina, the pine is the _____.

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10. In the southern part of the Coastal Plain are hundreds of elongated depressions in the ground called _____.
11. Some, like _____ or Singletary Lake, are filled with _____. Others resemble the surface of _____ — mucky part of the year, dry the other.
12. To the northwest of the Carolina bays are the _____. These concentrations of rolling sand ridges are left over from an ancient change in the _____ of the Atlantic Ocean.
13. They were put to two good uses during the twentieth century: 1) _____ in places like Pinehurst, where the World Golf Hall of Fame was founded, and 2) _____, the huge military installation near Fayetteville, originally designed to be a training ground for _____.
14. The most distinctive people of the Coastal Plain are the _____ of Robeson County. They form the largest population of _____ in the state.



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Chapter 1: The Land Where We Live

Section 3: The Piedmont Region

Focused Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. North Carolina's _____ region is a place almost anyone can recognize immediately, for it has an unforgettable feature— its _____.
2. To control the erosion, state officials planted millions of _____ plants in the 1930s, hoping the fast-growing vine would save the soil. Instead, the big-leafed kudzu— a native plant of _____—turned out to be the monster that almost ate North Carolina.
3. Technically, most of the Piedmont— which means “foot of the mountains”— is a _____, a step up from the Coastal Plain, a step below the _____.
4. In fact, the line that divides the _____ from the Coastal Plain is called the _____.
5. The two principal rivers of the Piedmont region are the _____ and the _____.
6. One of the key reasons _____ (intense concern for local interests and customs) developed in the state was the lack of _____ between the rivers of the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain.
7. More than half the Piedmont is covered in _____.
8. _____ has been as much a tradition in the Piedmont as the Coastal Plain.

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Focused Reading

9. As farms declined, the building of _____ increased as people made a living processing and manufacturing raw _____ produced elsewhere in the state.
10. _____ (woven or knit fabrics), _____, and _____ were regarded as the three principal industries in the state in the twentieth century.
11. Many of the workers in these factories lived on the edges of town in clusters of housing called _____, like the Proximity neighborhood in Greensboro.
12. All three principal industries went into decline in the 1990s due to _____.
13. Over the past two decades, Charlotte has become a world leader in _____.
14. _____ is an acronym (an abbreviation that itself seems to be a word) meaning National Association of Stock Car Automobile Racing. _____ is the home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.
15. _____ University in Winston-Salem and _____ University in Durham both have world-class medical schools that staff regional hospitals.
16. The most distinctive natural feature of the Piedmont is something called the _____. This hard-to-pronounce word refers to a geological condition where a point of land stands out because all of the land around it has been _____.
17. The most famous monadnock is _____ north of Winston-Salem.

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18. One important cluster of _____ is often overlooked by North Carolinians, but its location influenced the shaping of the state almost as much as did the _____. The _____ Mountains are located south of Greensboro and east of Salisbury.
19. Because of their _____ and because of the _____ found in their soils, the Uwharries were not as thickly settled as other areas in the Piedmont.

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Section 4: The Mountains Region

Focused Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. The _____ region begins at the Blue Ridge, which sometimes towers more than 1,000 feet over the nearby Piedmont hills.
2. The _____ forms the eastern boundary of the Appalachian Mountains, some of the oldest mountains in the world.
3. The Blue Ridge gets its name from the fact that, at a distance, the _____ evaporating off its slopes shimmers an aqua blue.
4. Like the _____, the Blue Ridge is really just one long _____, with peaks of various height and gaps that, like inlets, both allowed and discouraged travel back and forth.
5. Until the building of _____ in the late 1800s, travel over the Blue Ridge was expensive and laborious.
6. The _____ range runs from New York to Alabama but spreads out the most and has its _____ peaks in North Carolina.
7. The highest _____ (height above sea level) east of the Rocky Mountains is Mt. _____ at 6,684 feet, although a half dozen other peaks are just about as tall.
8. There are more than a _____ different mountain ranges with the Appalachians of North Carolina. Among the more notable are the _____, located just to the west of the Blue Ridge.
9. Even more notable are the world-famous _____. They get their name from the _____.

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- _____ of resin-filled dew off the needles of spruce and fir trees.
10. More varieties of plants are found in the _____ than almost anywhere else on earth.
 11. The Great Smokey Mountain National Park is the most _____ national park in the United States.
 12. _____ are places, usually above 6,000 feet in elevation, where few trees ever grow.
 13. The tributaries of the _____ River, in particular the Little Tennessee and the _____, form a river system that flows all the way to the _____ River.
 14. More than _____ lakes are to be found in the Mountains, but almost all of them are _____.
 15. The Mountains region historically was never as _____ or _____ as the other regions of the state. The first settlers generally lived in _____ (valleys where streams cut out swaths wide enough for farming).
 16. Because the mountains had a variety of _____, mountain families made money selling “_____, barks, berries, and _____,” plants with medicinal properties.



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Chapter 1: The Land Where We Live

Section 5: North Carolina's Weather and Climate

Focused Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Scientists refer to short-term atmospheric conditions as _____ and to long-term conditions as _____. In general, everywhere in North Carolina has a _____ climate, which means there are no extremes in _____ and precipitation.
2. North Carolina's _____ run about the same from Jockey's Ridge to the Blue Ridge.
3. These _____ bring warmer air in the _____ and cooler air in the _____.
4. Fayetteville and the surrounding _____ tend to have more days with a temperature above _____ degrees than any other place in the state.
5. _____ is a measure of the amount of moisture in the air. In most places of the state, the humidity is often above _____ percent.
6. The rate of _____ (rain, sleet, snow, hail) varies considerably from place to place across the state.
7. The highest levels of rain occur in the southwest _____, because the westerlies bring summer storms from the Great Plains. Because there is so much precipitation in the mountains, the _____ is the driest part of the state.
8. Anywhere in North Carolina can get snow, but the _____ get the bulk of it.

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9. Some of the worst weather in the state occurs when the _____ is just around freezing, and the rain turns to _____. These ice storms happen most often in the _____.
10. The whole state experiences _____ during the summer.
11. Sometimes _____ come with the storm fronts. Tornadoes are funnel-shaped storms whose _____ winds can reach over 200 miles per hour.
12. When tornadoes do occur, they tend to hit the _____ and certain counties in the southern half of the _____.
13. _____ are tropical storms that bring high winds and heavy rains. North Carolina's hurricanes most often develop over the _____, where they pick up enough moisture to create a huge _____ (rotation) of water high in the atmosphere.
14. First, the wind and rain create a " _____ " that brings a huge _____ onto the beach, wiping out the _____, plants, and man-made structures in its path.
15. Second, the _____ can do great damage.
16. Third, hurricanes usually slow up and weaken over _____, because they can no longer suck up water from the _____. They end up dumping their _____ onto the state, causing widespread _____.