

GUIDED READING

South Carolina the Beautiful Palmetto State

Chapter 1: This is Our Home

Section 1 What is Geography?

Directions: Use the information from pages 5 - 7 to complete the following.

1. _____ is a Greek word that literally means "earth description."
2. The geographer is also concerned with location, so a major tool is the _____.
3. _____ is the distance north or south of the equator, measured in _____.
4. _____ is the distance east or west of the _____ meridian.
5. These numbers [degrees] define South Carolina's _____ location (precise position by longitude and latitude).
6. The _____ location of South Carolina is where the state is located in relation to other places.
7. Our state is shaped like a _____, with its base the Atlantic Ocean and its _____ (uppermost point) the Blue Ridge Mountains in the very northwest corner.
8. Our state touches the _____ Ocean, which is an enormously important fact for its _____, history, and economy.
9. Geography helps us to understand our _____ (surroundings) and our relation to it.

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Section 2 The Geographic Regions of South Carolina

Directions: Use the information from pages 8 - 23 to complete the following.

1. The northwestern section of the state is known as the _____ region.
2. The _____ and soils of the Blue Ridge are not very well suited to _____. Most of the land is utilized for _____ and pastures.
3. The _____ (natural vegetation) is similar to that farther north because of the altitude.
4. The abundance of _____ (animal life) in the Blue Ridge region includes numerous songbirds, hawks, occasional peregrine falcons, and even bald eagles.
5. The Blue Ridge region, because of its _____ (height above sea level), is the coldest and wettest region of the state.
6. Its average _____ (rain, snow, sleet, and hail) per year ranges from 60 to 81 inches, compared to a statewide average of 49 inches.
7. The _____ makes up approximately one-third of South Carolina.
8. This region, whose name means "foot of the _____," borders the _____ chain from Pennsylvania south to Alabama.
9. Besides the forests and pastures, the most noticeable feature of the Piedmont is its _____.

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10. The rivers have many _____ (smaller creeks and streams that feed into the main rivers).
11. _____ is approximately the geographic center of the state.
12. It sits like a buckle on the belt of the _____ region. These are low, rolling hills composed of _____ and _____ washed down from the mountains and Piedmont during millions of years of _____.
13. Also along this belt is the _____ or Fall Zone, the places on the rivers where rocks and rapids make _____ impossible for a mile or two.
14. The _____ of the Sandhills are generally not very productive.
15. The Sandhills belt marks the _____, about a halfway point in the state.
16. For convenience, South Carolinians usually refer to the section of the state containing the Piedmont and Blue Ridge regions as the _____ or the Upstate.
17. From the Sandhills to the coast is referred to as the _____.
18. If you travel from North Augusta, Columbia, Camden, or Cheraw to the Atlantic Ocean, you will experience the hundred-mile-broad _____ – the largest _____ region in South Carolina.
19. Geologists divide the Plain into the _____ and _____ Coastal Plains.
20. The Inner Coastal Plain, with its gently rolling hills, appears somewhat _____ to the nearby Sandhills. The difference is that the _____ is much better.

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21. The Inner Coastal Plain is only a narrow band across the state, but it is the most productive _____ area of South Carolina.
22. One of the mysteries of nature is the existence of Carolina _____ on the Coastal Plain. _____ bays are oval-shaped depressions in the land. (They are not bays as in inlets or ports.)
23. The Coastal Plain lies on a geological _____ (a fracture in Earth's crust) that has caused serious _____, notably the Charleston Earthquake of 1886, whose _____ (the part of Earth's surface directly above the earthquake's focus) was actually a bit inland near Summerville.
24. The final landform region is the _____ region, the thin strip of land and water from the _____ - edge to a few miles inland.
25. From the North Carolina border for about sixty miles south is the _____, a gentle arc of coastline that is one beach, unbroken by rivers.
26. The second section of the Coastal Plain is the _____ Delta. It is the largest river _____ (a place where rivers flow into the sea leaving soil deposits behind) on the Atlantic coast.
27. The third section of the Coastal Zone, stretching over one hundred miles to the border of Georgia, is largely composed of the _____.
28. Some of these islands are separated from the mainland by sizable _____ (arms of the sea reaching around an island).
29. The outermost of these islands are called _____ islands. They form a _____ and _____ barrier that protects inward islands and the mainland from the sea and winds.

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Section 3

South Carolina's Waterways and Climate

Directions:

Use the information from pages 26 - 34 to complete the following.

1. South Carolina's magnificent system of rivers and lakes provides the state with adequate _____ supplies for its people and _____.
2. The waterway system also powers _____ generating plants and provides very attractive _____ opportunities.
3. The _____ River and its tributaries form South Carolina's border with the state of _____.
4. The most extensive system of rivers and lakes is the _____ system, which flows through the heart of the state and _____ about 40 percent of South Carolina's land.
5. The third major river system in South Carolina, the _____, is the least engineered by humans.
6. The _____ of South Carolina is _____, that is, not quite tropical, but quite hot and _____ in the summer and _____ in the winter.
7. _____, usually in the form of _____ but occasionally in _____ form especially in the higher elevations, averages about _____ inches per year.
8. South Carolina has _____ definite seasons, resulting from temperature changes.

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9. _____, though mild, can have a few below-freezing days and occasional snow - mostly in the mountains.
10. _____ is usually a season of warming, pleasant temperatures and gentle rains.
11. In _____ South Carolina's weather is influenced by the _____ high, a huge high-pressure air mass that often forms over the Atlantic.
12. In _____ the summer heat gradually lets up and the humidity declines.
13. Summer and fall is _____ season, with September being the most active month.
14. _____ are large low-pressure air masses that generate high winds whipping counterclockwise around a calm "_____".