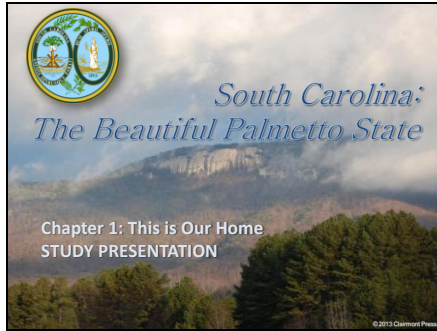


# South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

## Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 1



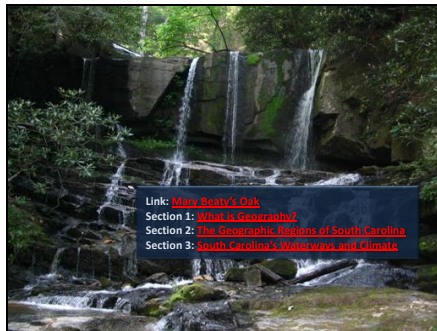
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Slide 2



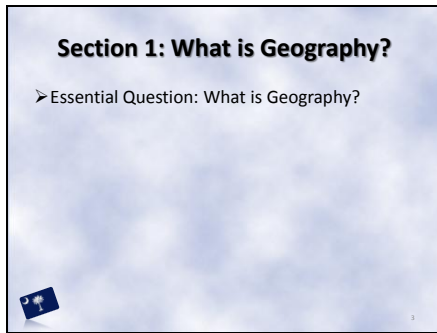
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Slide 3



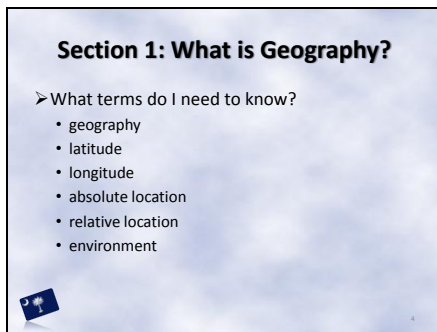
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Slide 4



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# South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

## Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 7

**Mapping South Carolina**

- Geography – Geo (earth) + graphy (description)
- Location terms
  - latitude: the distance north or south of the equator
  - longitude: distance east or west of the prime meridian
  - absolute location: precise position found using latitude and longitude
  - relative location: position in relation to some other place



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Slide 8

**South Carolina's Size and Shape**

- Triangle shape
- Size is 40<sup>th</sup> of 50 states
- Mostly covered by forests
- 185 miles of coastline



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Slide 9

**Understanding Our Environment**

- environment: surroundings
- Geography plays a major role in our lives and in the history of our state.



Lake Wylie (top); Hilton Head Island (below)



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Slide 10

**Section 2: The Geographic Regions of South Carolina**

- Essential Question
  - In what ways do South Carolina's geographic regions differ?



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# South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

## Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 11

**Section 2: The Geographic Regions of South Carolina**

- What terms do I need to know?
  - flora
  - fauna
  - elevation
  - precipitation
  - monadnock
  - kudzu
  - tributary
  - Fall Line
  - Carolina bays
  - fault
  - delta
  - sound
  - barrier island



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Slide 12

**The Blue Ridge Region**

- In Northwest S.C.
- Oldest landform in North America
- Part of the **Appalachian Mountain** chain
- Sassafras Mountain is highest (3,554 ft.)
- Covered with vegetation (plants)



View from Sassafras Mountain



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Slide 13

**The Blue Ridge Region**

- Soil and terrain not good for farming
- Plants are similar to those in the north due to altitude
- Many birds; some, like turkeys, are hunted
- Also bear, deer, squirrels, rabbits, and trout
- Cooler and wetter than the rest of the state



Raven Cliff Falls



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Slide 14

**The Piedmont Region**


- **Piedmont** – “foot of the mountain”
- Hilly region; covers 1/3 of South Carolina
- Monadnocks: granite outcroppings
- **Granite** is important resource and is the state’s official stone



Top: Carolina Thread Trail (Chester SC)



Bottom: Piedmont region farm



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## South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

### Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes


Slide 15

### The Piedmont Region

- Lands often cleared in 1800s to grow cotton or corn
- 20<sup>th</sup> century – much land used for pulp (timber)
- Grasses used for pasture and to hold soil
- **Kudzu** brought in to control erosion in 1930s
- Kudzu now considered a nuisance



1953 Forestry Commission Photo of pine seedling



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Slide 16

### The Piedmont Region

- Piedmont rivers are broad and banks gently sloping.
- Appear muddy due to soil washed into the river (silt)
- Humans use rivers for water, food, recreation, transportation, and **power**.



Savannah River (top) and Decher Shoals Dam (bottom)



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Slide 17

### The Piedmont Region

- Wildlife (fauna) include deer, turkeys, bobcats, foxes, snakes and other reptiles
- Many birds including quail, wrens, osprey, eagles, and herons



Wild turkey, the state game bird



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Slide 18

### The Sandhills Region


- **Sandhills** are low, rolling hills
- Created from sands and clays washed from mountains and Piedmont
- 50-60 million years ago, area was ocean shore dunes
- Fall line: place on a river where rocks & rapids forced boats to stop when traveling from the sea
- Towns grew up at the fall line: North Augusta, Columbia, Camden, Cheraw
- **Columbia Canal** built to move boats further up river around the falls



Upcountry Lowcountry



The Sandhills were once the coastline of the ocean (top); rocks and rapids such as these blocked boats traveling upstream (bottom)



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**South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State**  
*Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes*

Slide 19

**The Sandhills Region**

- Soils not very productive due to sand
- Pine trees and scrub oaks common
- Longleaf pines were cut for timber causing red-cockaded woodpecker to be endangered
- Other birds are warblers, nuthatches, bluebirds, owls and wood ducks
- Foxes, bobcats, rabbits, and squirrels are some of the mammals
- Cockroaches (palmetto bug) are common insects

Red-cockaded woodpecker (top); the wood duck is the official duck of South Carolina (bottom)

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Slide 20

**The Coastal Plain Region**

- Region is 100 miles across
- Inner Coastal Plain: very productive farm soils
- Outer Coastal Plain: areas nearest the ocean; very flat
- Known for huge pine forests, also oak, hickory, sweet gum, and cypress
- **Carolina bays**: oval shaped depressions in the land; can be a lake, swamp, or dry land
- Not known how Carolina bays were formed



Many crops grow well on the coastal plain's flat fertile lands.

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Slide 21

**The Coastal Plain Region**

- Rivers spread and move slowly on the plain; large floodplains and swamps
- Varied and abundant wildlife, especially in swamps
- **Congaree**: only National Park in SC; known for old growth forest and **champion trees**.
- Fishing in Lakes Marion and Moultrie: bass, bream, & catfish

Waccamaw River (top); the Palmetto Trail crosses forests in the coastal plain (bottom)

[Click for Congaree Slide Show](#)

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Slide 22

**The Coastal Plain Region**

- **Geological Fault**: fracture in the Earth's crust – source of earthquakes
- 1886 Charleston earthquake killed 83 people, major damage to city, felt hundreds of miles away



Men cleaning a damaged warehouse after the 1886 Charleston earthquake.

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# South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

## Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 23

### The Coastal Zone Region

- Region from ocean's edge to a few miles inland
- Beautiful, high population, tourism business
- Grand Strand: 60 miles of unbroken, wide, sandy beach; Myrtle Beach and over 100 golf courses
- **Santee Delta**: largest river delta on Atlantic Coast; a marshy, muddy coastline



High-rise condominiums and hotels along Myrtle Beach, SC.

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Slide 24

### The Coastal Zone Region

- Sea Islands: over 100 miles of river mouths, inlets, sounds, marshlands, and islands
- **Barrier Islands** protect mainland from sea and winds (Isle of Palms, Folly, Sullivan's, Kiawah, Hunting, and Fripp)
- Many hotels, condominiums and private homes
- Beach erosion caused by wind and sea are a major problem
- Preserved islands are protected from human construction; examples are Bulls, Capers, North and South Islands
- Tom Yawkey, owner of Boston Red Sox, donated North and South Islands to the state



The Isle of Palms is a popular ocean resort (top); forest on Bull's Island (bottom).

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Slide 25

### The Coastal Zone Region

- Animals include alligators, eagles, ospreys, gulls, pelicans, sandpipers, oysters, crabs, and bottlenose dolphins.
- The loggerhead sea turtle can weigh 300 pounds.
- Laws protect this turtle and its habitat; nesting areas are marked to keep people away.



Loggerhead turtles are an endangered species.

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Slide 26

### Section 3: South Carolina's Waterways and Climate

- Essential Question
  - How do rivers affect life in different parts of the state?
  - How does climate affect life in different parts of the state?

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## South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State


### Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 27

**Section 3: South Carolina's Waterways and Climate**

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- black river
- weather
- climate
- tornado
- Bermuda high
- hurricane
- storm surge



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Slide 28

**Section 3: South Carolina's Waterways and Climate**

➤ Three main river systems – flow from northwest to southeast

➤ Rivers provide:

- drinking water
- water for industry
- electrical power
- recreation
- home for wildlife



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Slide 29

**Waterways**


➤ Savannah river system forms border with Georgia; navigable for large ships

➤ Santee system is the largest; drains about 40% of the state

➤ Broad and Saluda Rivers form from streams in North Carolina.

➤ Other rivers are the Pacolet, Tyger, Enoree, Reedy, Catawba, and Congaree.

➤ Waterwheels were used to power **grist mills**; power companies built hydroelectric dams for electricity.



The Savannah (top) and Santee (bottom) river systems drain most of South Carolina.

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Slide 30


**Waterways**

➤ The **Santee Cooper** project (1934) was a large scale project to bring electricity to the state.

➤ Lakes Marion and Moultrie were formed.

➤ Many jobs and low-cost electricity were created.

➤ Changes in water flow have encouraged beach erosion and filled Charleston harbor with silt.



Satellite image of Lakes Marion and Moultrie. Click the image to see a larger view.

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# South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

## Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 31

### Waterways

- The Pee Dee System begins in North Carolina.
  - Rivers include: Little Pee Dee, Great Pee Dee, Black, Lynches, and Waccamaw.
  - Slow-moving and clear
  - Called black rivers due to dark color (tannic acid)
  - Area of rice culture in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- The Ashley and Cooper Rivers flow into Charleston Harbor.
- ACE rivers (Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto): known for timber and hunting preserves



The Pee Dee River System

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Slide 32

### Climate

- South Carolina's climate is subtropical (hot humid summers, mild winters).
- At the coast, ocean breezes cool in summer; the Gulf Stream helps keep the area warmer in winter.
- Mountain areas tend to be cooler than lowcountry.
- Precipitation is about 49 inches per year – a bit more rain in summer than other seasons.
- Winters are mild with few days of below-freezing temperatures.
- Spring is marked by many blooming trees and shrubs (dogwood, azaleas, rhododendron, etc.)

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Slide 33

### Climate

- Tornadoes are funnel shaped clouds with wind speeds 65 to over 200 miles per hour.
- SC averages 10 tornadoes per year.
- The Fujita Scale is used to rate wind speed and damage by a tornado.
- Lightning and hail may accompany tornadoes.
- March 1984 tornado killed 21 people and injured 448.
- Radar is used to warn South Carolinians of tornadoes.



A tornado rips through a neighborhood in 2005.

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Slide 34

### Climate

- Summer weather is affected by the Bermuda High, a huge high pressure system that forms in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Bermuda High brings warm moist wind causing thunderstorms and wet summers.
- It can cause draught (a period of little or no precipitation).
- Fall is marked by the changes in leaf color and temperatures that approach freezing.

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## South Carolina: The Beautiful Palmetto State

### Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 35

**Climate**

- In summer and fall, tropical storms and hurricanes may hit South Carolina with damage from wind and floods.
- Hurricanes are large storms of low pressure that rotate around a central "eye."
- Storms begin in warm waters of the tropical Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean Sea.
- Tropical storm: winds of 39-73 mph
- Hurricane: winds of 74 or greater
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is used to rate hurricanes' wind speed and damage.



Hurricane Hugo (top) heads toward the Carolina coast in this satellite image from 1989. Below, buildings in Charleston in ruins after the storm.

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