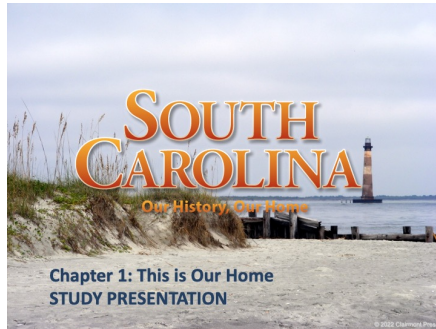


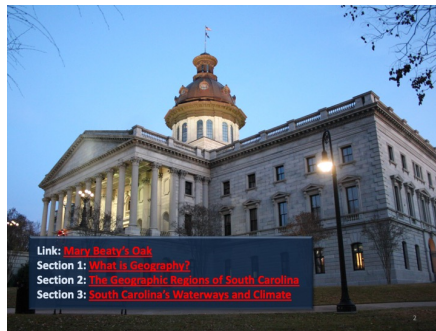
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Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

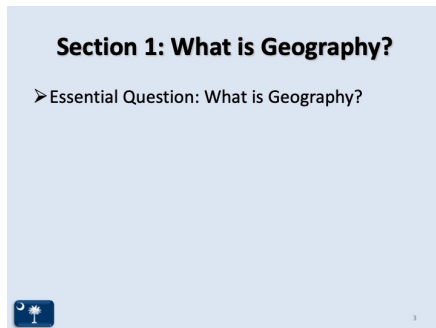
Slide 1



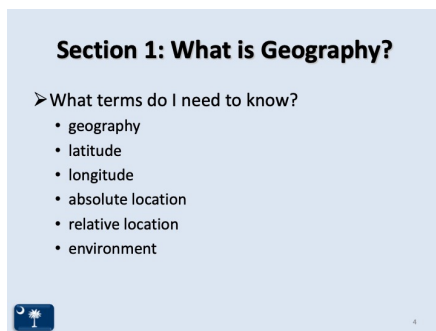
Slide 2



Slide 3



Slide 4




South Carolina: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 5

Where in the World is South Carolina?

- South Carolina is:
 - in the Western hemisphere
 - in the Northern hemisphere



Slide 6

Where in the World is South Carolina?

- South Carolina is:
 - in North America
 - in the southeastern United States
- bounded by:
 - Georgia
 - North Carolina
 - Atlantic Ocean




[Link to Internet map](#)

Slide 7

Mapping South Carolina's Location


- 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



Slide 8

South Carolina's Size and Shape

- Triangle shape
- Size is 40th of 50 states
- Over 19 million acres of land
- Mostly covered by forests
- 185 miles of coastline



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Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 9

Understanding Our Environment

- The term, “environment” means “surroundings.”
- Geography plays a major role in our lives and in the history of our state.



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

[Return to Main Menu](#)

Slide 10

Section 2: The Geographic Regions of South Carolina

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

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

Slide 12

The Blue Ridge Region

- Location: 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

South Carolina: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

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; few game birds (e.g. turkeys)
- Also bear, deer, squirrels, rabbits, and trout
- Cooler and wetter than the rest of the state



Raven Cliff Falls



13


Slide 14

The Piedmont Region

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



Top: Carolina Thread Hall (Chester SC)
Bottom: Piedmont region farm




14


Slide 15

The Piedmont Region

- Lands often cleared in 1800s to grow cotton or corn
- 20th 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



1951 Forestry Commission photo of pine seedling





15


Slide 16

The Piedmont Region

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



Saluda River (top) and Dreher Shoals Dam (bottom)



16


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Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes


Slide 17

The Piedmont Region

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



Wild turkey, the state game bird





17


Slide 18

The Sandhills Region

- Sandhills** are low, rolling hills made from the sand and clay that washes from the mountains in the Piedmont region.
- 50-60 million years ago, area was sand dunes
- Fall Line**: place on a river where rocks & rapids force boats to stop when traveling from the sea
- Towns formed near the Fall Line: North Augusta, Columbia, Camden, Cheraw
- Columbia Canal** built to move boats further up river around the falls



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





18


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)




19


Slide 20

The Coastal Plain Region

- Region is 100 miles across
- Inner Coastal Plain: very fertile land
- Outer Coastal Plain: areas nearest the ocean; very flat
- Known for huge pine forests, also oak, hickory, sweet gum, and cypress trees
- 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.



20


South Carolina: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

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**.
- Fish in Lakes Marion and Moultrie: bass, bream, & catfish




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

21

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.

22

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; includes 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.

23

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)

24

South Carolina: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

Slide 25

The Coastal Zone Region

- Animals include alligators, eagles, ospreys, gulls, pelicans, sandpipers, oysters, crabs, bottlenose dolphins, and the loggerhead sea turtle which 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.

 [Return to Main Menu](#) 25

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?

 26

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

 27

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

 28



South Carolina: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: This is Our Home – Quick Notes

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.

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, along with 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.

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 18th and 19th 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

Slide 32

Climate

- South Carolina's climate is subtropical (hot humid summers, mild winters).
- At the coast: ocean breezes keep it 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.)
