

## READING: Natural Diversity

1. Describe the three factors responsible for the diversity of ecosystems found in North Carolina.
2. Describe the four “provinces”, or regions, that make up North Carolina. Be sure to include information the landforms, soil types, and plant and animal communities.
3. Describe the differences between North Carolina’s east-west boundaries versus it’s north-south boundaries. Be sure to include in your answer the natural features associated with the boundaries.
4. What is North Carolina’s easternmost region. Describe it. How much of the state’s overall land area does it include?
5. Describe the “fall line”; be sure to include an explanation of how the fall line got its name. How was the fall line important to inland trade at the time of colonization?
6. What are barrier islands? Explain how they are constantly changing.
7. What are wetlands? Geologically speaking, why are the wetlands common in the coastal plain region?
8. What is another name for the “outer” coastal plain - the area closest to the ocean? How far does this area extend inland?
9. Describe the “inner” coastal plain? Why is this are important to North Carolina’s economy?
10. Describe the sand hills. How were they formed?
11. What does the word “Piedmont” mean? Describe this region of the state. Why was this area important during the time of early settlement?
12. What are some of the natural resources found in the Piedmont that have had an impact on our state’s economy?
13. What are the monadnock mountains? List the five monadnock ranges found in NC. What do these “lonely ranges” provide?
14. In what part of the state are the Blue Ridge Mountains found? At what elevation do they begin? What mountain chain are they a part of?

15. What is North Carolina's tallest mountain? What is its elevation?
16. Describe how temperature declines as elevation increases in the mountains. How does this impact plant and animal diversity in this part of the state?
17. What is the name of North Carolina's rare temperate rainforest? Where is it located?
18. What natural feature links all parts of North Carolina? Describe this link or connection.
19. What is a river basin? Where do North Carolina's river basins flow?
20. What is the Eastern Continental Divide?
21. Which North Carolina river empties directly into the Atlantic Ocean?
22. What are sounds and why are they important? Name three of North Carolina's sounds. Describe the water found in these sounds and tell why they are important, ecologically speaking.
23. When did humans first settle in North Carolina? Describe how geography shaped their lives. What human actions impacted North Carolina's environment?