



North Carolina Regions

8th Grade Social Studies



The Regions of North Carolina

There are three regions of North Carolina:

- Mountains
- Piedmont
- Coastal Plain

The Coastal Plain is divided into TWO regions:

- Outer Coastal Plain also known as the Tidewater
- Inner Coastal Plain

The Mountain Region

Geographic Location: Between the Piedmont and Tennessee; part of Appalachian Mtn. range

Percent of State's Total Land Area: appx. 10%

Elevation Range: covers 1500 ft - 6,684 ft above sea level

Soil Type: rocky, thin soils

Natural Resources: minerals/gemstones

Rivers & Lakes: French Broad, Nantahala River, New River, Pigeon River, Lake Lure

The Mountain Region

Major Cities: Asheville

Economy: Tourism - outdoors activities, Agriculture: Christmas trees, apples, animal crops; mining

Characteristics:

- **Eastern Continental Divide** - runs along ridgeline, or crest, of the Blue Ridge Mtns.; rivers originating east of the Divide flow to Atlantic Ocean; rivers that begin west of the Divide flow into the Gulf of Mexico.
- Rapidly changing elevations
- Average temperature drops 5-6 degrees per 1,000ft of elevation
- Lots of rain and snow; cold winters, moderate summer

The Mountain Region

Climate:

Precipitation: 44 - 52+ inches per year

Freeze:

9/18 to 11/2 and 4/11-5/11

Winter Temps: average 40 -36 degrees or less

Summer Temps: average is below 76 degrees Fahrenheit

The Mountain Region

Geographic Features: Mountain Ranges - The Appalachian Mountain Range covers the mountain region of NC and contains these ranges: Blue Ridge Mountains (northwest corner), Great Smoky Mountains (southwest - shares with Tennessee), Black Mountain Range - contains Mt. Mitchell - elevation 6,684 ft. and is the tallest peak in NC and east of the Mississippi River. Mountains often shields Piedmont from weather fronts.

Historic Sites: Biltmore House, Blue Ridge Parkway, Blowing Rock, Chimney Rock, Grandfather Mountain

Other Important Facts: Home to Cherokee Indian Reservation

The Piedmont

Piedmont is a French word that means “at the foot of the mountains”

Geographic Location: between the Inner Coastal Plain (Fall Line) & Mountains

Percent of State’s Land Area: covers about 45% of state

Elevation Range: covers 300-1500 ft. above sea level

Soil Type: rich red clay; not well suited for large cash crop farming

Rivers & Lakes: Catawba, Yadkin-Pee Dee; Neuse, Cape Fear

The Piedmont

Major Cities: Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Raleigh (state capital)

Economy: manufacturing - textiles, furniture, tobacco; banking, technology (Research Triangle Park), medicine - Wake Forest Baptist, Duke, UNC Health Care, Atrium (Carolina's Healthcare); colleges & universities (UNC, NC State, Duke, Wake Forest)

Characteristics: foothills of the mountains, rolling hills, swift streams and rivers, hardwood forests,

Geographic Features: Fall Line: drop in elevation resulting in waterfalls and widening and slowing of rivers flowing to the Atlantic Ocean. At fall line, soil transitions from clay to more sandy and rich. Monadnock Mtns. - elevation 300-1500 ft.

Climate: Precipitation - 44 -48 inches/year; Freeze: Oct. 18 to Nov. 2 and March 27-April 11; Winter Temps: 36-44 degrees average; SUMmer Temps: average 76-80 degrees.

The Piedmont

Natural Resources: lumber, animal crops, rivers

Climate: Temperature warmer than mountains, cooler than coast; drier than mountains and coast

Historic Sites: State Capital & Museums - Raleigh; NC Zoo - Asheboro; Old Salem - Winston-Salem; Charlotte Motor Speedway

Other Important Facts: Most populated and urbanized area region; Great Wagon Road - colonial road that brought settlers into the Carolinas: Salem and Bathabera area = Moravian settlement;

Coastal Plain

Regions: Outer (Tidewater) & Inner Coastal Plain

Geographic Location: Atlantic Ocean (east) to Fall Line/Piedmont (west)

Percent of State's Total Land Area: 45%

Elevation Range: 0 to 300 ft. above sea level

Soil Type: rich & loamy (sandy)

Coastal Plain

Rivers & Lakes: Neuse, Cape Fear; Tar Rivers

Major Cities: Wilmington

Economy: Agriculture - crop & animal; fishing/seafood industry; tourism

Climate: moderate temperatures; relatively humid; hot summers, warm spring and fall, cool winters; experiences hurricanes and nor'easters (winter).

Precipitation: average 48-52+ inches/year; Freeze: Nov 02-Dec 17 and Feb.

25-March 27; Winter Temps: average 40-44 degrees; Summer Temps: average 78-80+ degrees.

Coastal Plain

Geographic Features: land is flat; **Sandhills** - areas of ancient sand dunes left behind from changing coastline; **Outer Banks** - chain of sand barrier islands along coast; **Sounds** - large bodies of water located between the mainland and outer banks that rivers empty into while flowing to the Atlantic Ocean. **Swamps, Lakes, Rivers, Estuaries.**

Historic Sites: Roanoke Island, Fort Macon, Fort Fisher, Lighthouses - Cape Hatteras, Cape Lookout, Ocracoke, Bodie Island, Corolla

Other Important Facts: wild horse herds on OBX; Ocracoke Island was home base to the pirate Blackbeard; Military Bases - Seymour Johnson AFB (Goldsboro), Cherry Point Marine Air Corps Station (Havelock); Fort Bragg (Army - Fayetteville)

Tidewater - Outer Coastal Plain

- Extends from the Atlantic Ocean to 20 to 30 miles inland;
- Elevation: Sea level (0) to 20 feet
- Water! Water - everywhere!
- Land is influenced by ocean tides
- Sounds: where inland bodies of water mix with salt water
- Barrier Islands - chain of sand islands that protect mainland from ocean tides and storms
- Swamps - pocosin; Great Dismal Swamp
- Lakes - Lake Mattamuskeet; wildlife refuge
- Wetlands and Estuaries - 2nd largest estuary system in U.S. - Pamlico Sound
- Rivers: Cape Fear and Neuse