

## **North Carolina: An Introduction**

### **Vocabulary**

**geographic region:** a large area of land with similar features

**Outer Banks:** a chain of sand barrier islands and peninsulas along North Carolina's coast.

**coastal plain:** the broad, flat region in NC that extends 100-150 miles inland

**Tidewater:** is the area along the coast close to sea level. The mouths of the major streams and rivers empty into sounds or the ocean. There are seven sounds in the Tidewater region: Pamlico, Albemarle, Currituck, Croatan, Roanoke, Core, and Bogue Sounds. This region has many low-lying areas called wetlands, where water covers the land. The Tidewater is the only area in the world where the Venus Flytrap plant grows naturally.

**Piedmont:** French word meaning "foot of the mountains"; the middle area of the state that lies between the coastal plain and the mountains.

**Mountains:** the western part of the state. The elevation in the region reaches more than a mile high. It contains the Blue Ridge Mountains and other ranges include the Bald, Balsam, Black, Brushy, Great Smoky, Iron, Pisgah, Stone, and Unaka. All of these ranges are part of the larger Appalachian Mountains, possibly the oldest mountains in the United States. Mount Mitchell, in the Black Mountain range is 6684 ft. tall and is the highest peak in North Carolina and east of the Mississippi River.

**Climate:** refers to the particular weather in a given region and can include temperature, air pressure, humidity, precipitation, sunshine, cloudiness, wind throughout the year.

**Sun Belt:** the Southern and Southwestern region of the United States characterized by a warm climate and lots of sunshine, rapid population and economic growth in the past two decades.

**Natural Resources:** materials or substances such as minerals, forests, water, and fertile land that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain.

**Topography:** refers to the surface features of an area of land and includes features like, hills, mountains, rivers, lakes, and other lumps and bumps on the land.

**Fall Line:** the boundary between the coastal plain and the piedmont. Along this are, rivers flow from the older, harder rocks of the Piedmont to the softer rocks of the coastal Plain. Along the fall line, rivers form shoals, low waterfalls, and rapids. Below the fall line, streams are usually sluggish and smooth-flowing. Above the fall line, the streams are rocky and shallow, making boating difficult.

**Environment:** the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives and operates.