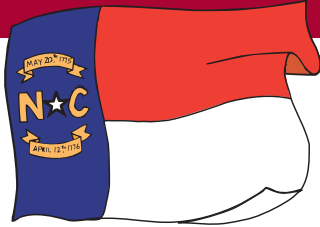


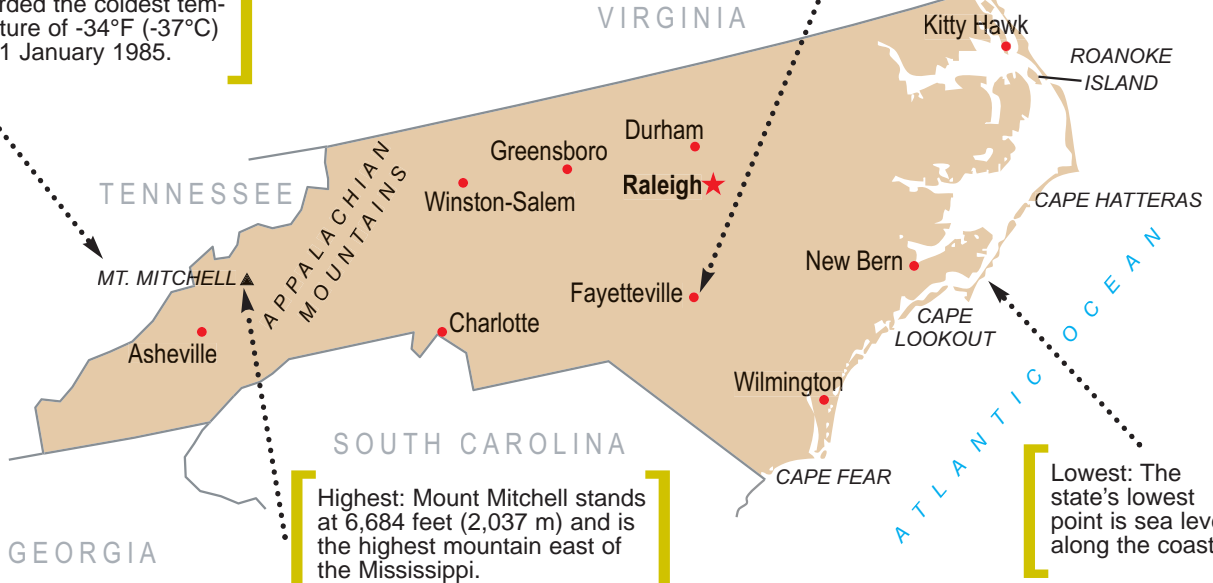
Established 1789
12th state



EXTREMES

Coldest: Mount Mitchell recorded the coldest temperature of -34°F (-37°C) on 21 January 1985.

Hottest: Fayetteville reached 110°F (43°C) on 21 August 1983.



Highest: Mount Mitchell stands at 6,684 feet (2,037 m) and is the highest mountain east of the Mississippi.

Lowest: The state's lowest point is sea level along the coast.

Climate

North Carolina has a humid, almost tropical climate. Temperatures remain well above freezing in the winter, and summer temperatures hover around 80°F (27°C). As you might expect, higher elevations are colder. The mountains in the west see heavy snowfalls in the winter. July and August are the rainiest months, but floods usually come in the spring. Summer and fall hurricanes, like Hurricane Fran in September 1996, also bring flooding. Dams along the river help control flood damage, but some floods just can't be avoided.

Geography

North Carolina is the 29th largest state, with 52,672 square miles (136,420 sq km). From east to west, the land slopes upward. In the very east are the Outer Banks, a thin string of islands that runs along the state's coastline. The Outer Banks protect the mainland from eroding but can be dangerous to sailors. Along the coast, you can find long stretches of sandy beaches, swamps, and even quiet lagoons. This eastern portion of the mainland is called the Coastal Plain. The Venus's-flytrap and about 10 other carnivorous

plants live in the southeast swamps. Traveling to the west of this large area, you would hit the Fall Line, where the land rises sharply. The abrupt rise causes beautiful waterfalls and rapids. To the west, the Piedmont rises about 250 to 1,250 feet (76–381 m) higher than the Coastal Plain. Red clay comes from this area, often coloring the lakes and rivers that pass through it. In the westernmost part of the state are the Appalachian Mountains, where the soil is rocky and thin.

Resources and Economy

The economy used to rely almost completely on agriculture. Although it's not as important today, farming and raising turkeys and hogs still provide jobs and money. Off the coast, tons of fish, shrimp, and blue crabs can be found. Today, the economy is based on manufacturing chemicals, textiles, furniture, and cigarettes. North Carolina is one of the most industrialized states in the Union. The state doesn't have many mineral resources, but valuable forests provide lumber. Each year, tourism brings in more revenue as people discover the beauties of North Carolina.

History

Precolonial

Thousands of years ago, many Native American tribes occupied what is now North Carolina. The area's hundreds of animal and plant species provided the people with food, shelter, and medicine. The Cherokee became one of the strongest tribes. They lived in sturdy log *hogans*, which are wood buildings coated with clay. When Europeans first came in contact with Native Americans, they found organized towns and governments. This contact proved disastrous for the tribes. Even if they weren't fighting the settlers, their immune systems were helpless against the strange European diseases. Despite the hardships, some survived and have strong communities today.

The Lost Colony

In 1585, Sir Walter Raleigh sent settlers to start a colony on Roanoke Island. Later, they sailed back to England to get more supplies, leaving 18 men behind. When the colonists returned, the 18 men were nowhere to be found. Later, the colony's governor again returned to England for more supplies. He returned in three years and found not one person on the island. To this day, no one knows what happened to the settlers, which is why that early settlement is called the Lost Colony.

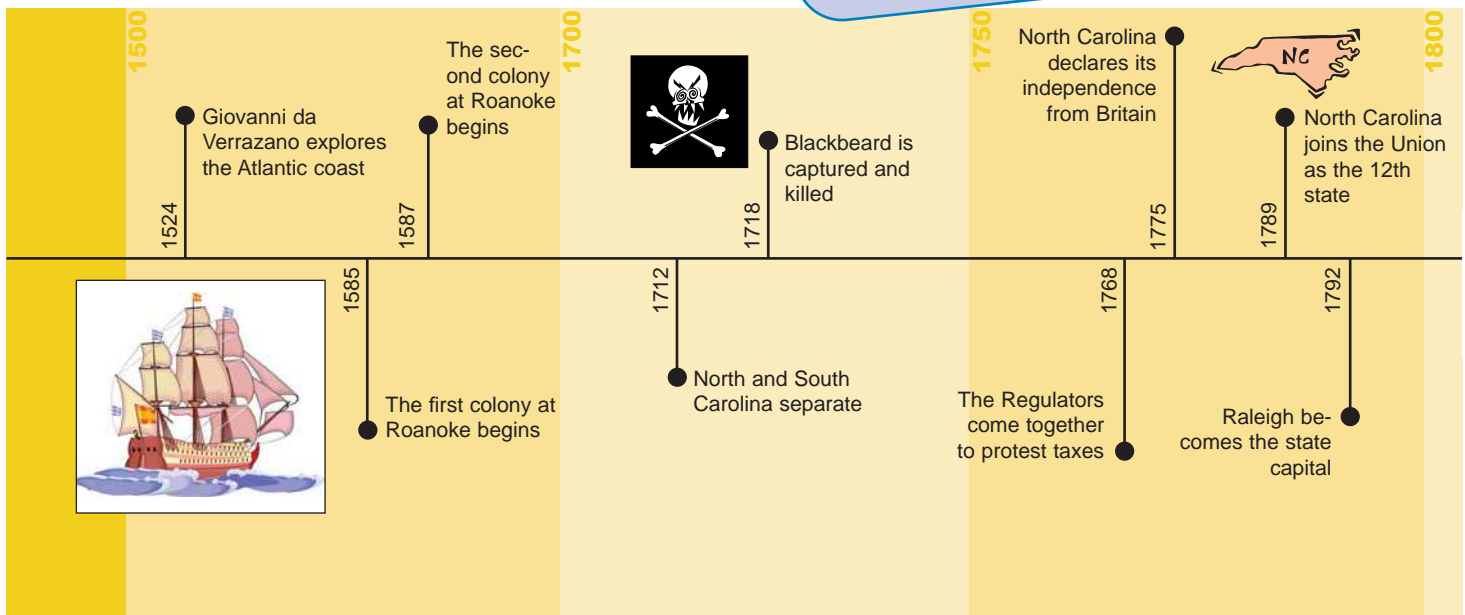
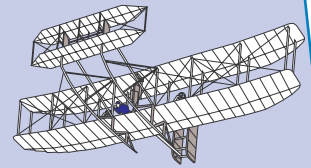
Pirates!

Blackbeard, the last of the infamous pirates, struck fear into the hearts of sailors up and down the Atlantic coast. Legends say he braided pieces of burning rope into his hair to terrify his enemies.



Cultural Note

North Carolina was the first to start many state-supported programs, such as a symphony, art museum, and school for the performing arts. The North Carolina School of the Arts is one of the best of its kind in the entire world. An outdoor play called *The Lost Colony* has been performed every summer at Roanoke Island since 1937. On another island, the Wright brothers tested their flying inventions. They visited the area each year from 1900 to 1903 until they finally saw success. For the first time in history, Orville Wright flew for 12 seconds in the plane he and his brother Wilber built. Another famous man who "flew" grew up in North Carolina: Michael Jordan. Although he didn't make the varsity team at first, he eventually led his high school, university, and professional teams to many wins.



Revolution: Run 'Em Out of Town

After removing the threat of pirates, North Carolinians were free to worry about another issue: British rule. Although the state was doing well, the people were troubled. England restricted shipping, so the people didn't always get the best prices for their goods. Also, the British governor imposed heavy taxes to pay for things they weren't even involved in, like England's wars. To protest, North Carolinians formed groups like the Regulators and the Sons of Liberty. In May 1775, the people chased their British governor out of town. They joined the other colonies in fighting for independence and, in 1789, became the 12th state.

The Civil War

Slavery became a hot issue since most farmers in North Carolina relied on slave labor to plant and harvest their crops. The state had many slaves (about one-third of the total population), but North Carolina was reluctant to go to war over them. Instead, they wanted to compromise. However, when Lincoln asked them to fight against their fellow Southerners, they had no choice but to secede. North Carolina made a powerful addition to the Confederacy, contributing more soldiers than any other Southern state. After the war, North Carolina was anxious to begin the reunification process.



The Long Road to Equality

After the war, the people ratified the amendment that allowed all men to vote. However, Black Codes prevented African-Americans from doing so. A development called *sharecropping* often left former slaves in financial bondage to plantation owners. Laws were made to segregate the races, but blacks' facilities were usually in poor condition. In 1954, when the Supreme Court said schools had to desegregate, white supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan resisted, often violently. By the 1980s, most schools and universities were desegregated. Although North Carolina still struggles with race issues, open-minded men and women of all races have made great efforts to bring equality to all.

Dole



Jackson



W. Wright

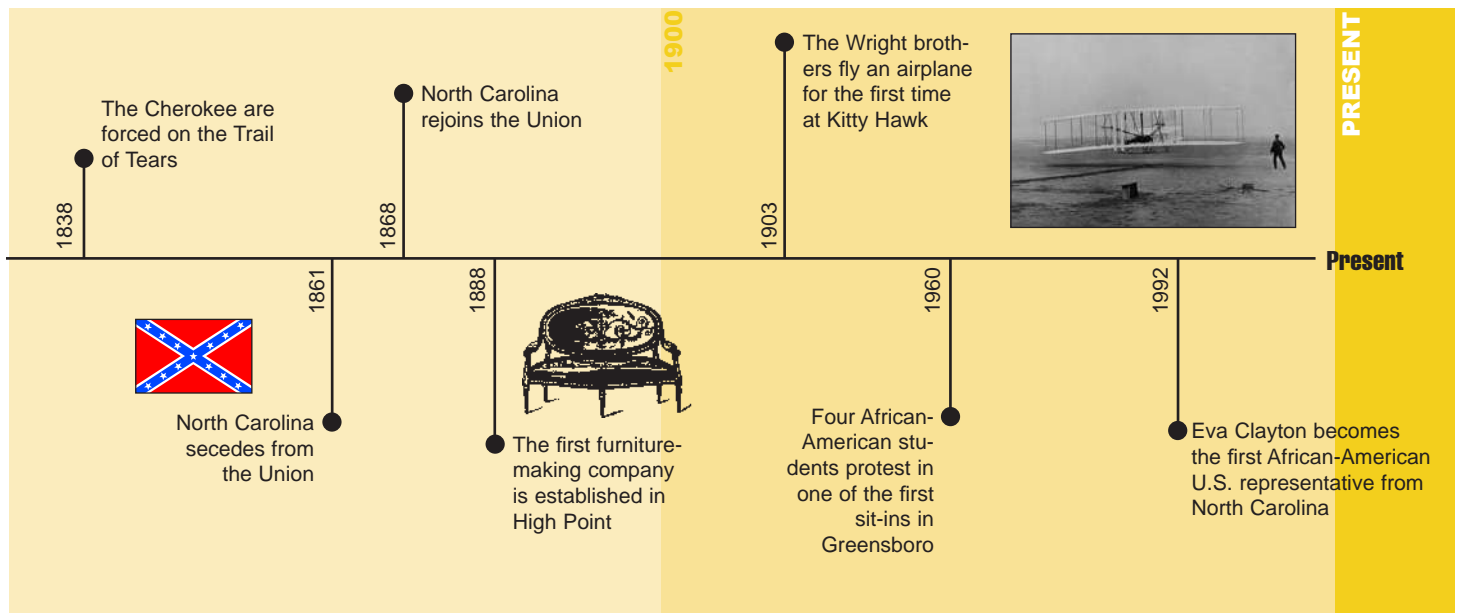


Jackson



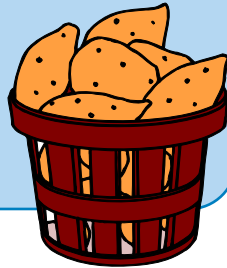
Famous People

Andrew Jackson: Seventh U.S. president
O. Henry: Short story writer
Elizabeth Dole: Public official
Jesse Jackson: Reverend and civil rights activist
Sugar Ray Leonard: Boxer
Michael Jordan: Basketball player
Dale Earnhardt: Racecar driver
Doc and Merle Watson: Bluegrass musicians
Orville and Wilber Wright: Inventors of the first working airplane



Did You Know?

- The Diamond Shoals, off the coast of Cape Hatteras, are nicknamed the Graveyard of the Atlantic because of the hundreds of shipwrecks in that area.
- Pepsi was first created and served in New Bern.
- The Cape Hatteras lighthouse, the tallest lighthouse in the United States, was actually picked up and moved because the shore was creeping too close.
- With 250 rooms, Biltmore Estate in Asheville is the largest home in the United States.
- Legends say that Nags Head got its name from colonists who would hang a lantern from a horse's neck and walk it up and down the shore to attract ships, which would then wreck on the reefs.
- In Fayetteville, Babe Ruth hit his first home run as a professional baseball player.
- North Carolina produces more sweet potatoes than any other state.
- Cape Lookout and Cape Fear got their names from more than two thousand ships that wrecked in the shallow waters.



State Symbols



State Animal
Gray squirrel—In the summer these squirrels eat nuts and bugs; in the winter they survive off of the trees themselves.



State Flower
Dogwood—The state flower is actually a blossom of the tree.



State Tree
Pine—Not only is this tree common, it also has helped support the state economically.



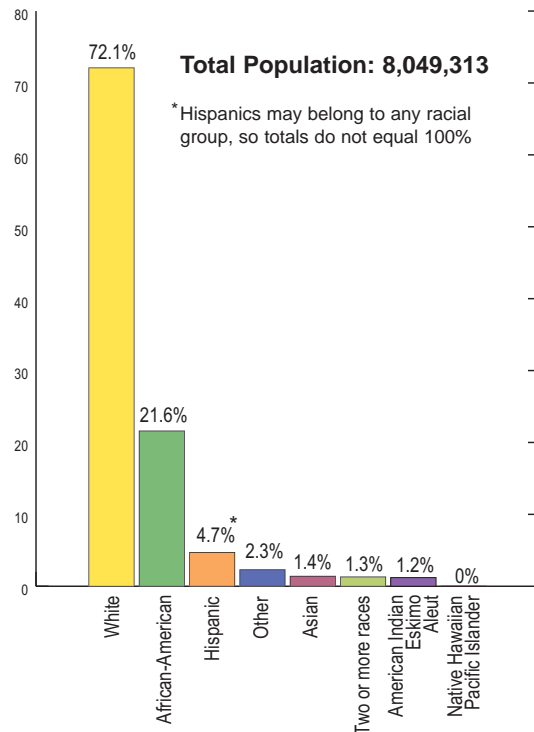
State Bird
Cardinal—This bird can be seen year-round in yards and fields.

State Motto: *Esse Quam Videri*—This Latin phrase means “To Be Rather Than To Seem.”

For more information: See www.state.nc.us or contact the North Carolina Division of Tourism, 301 North Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27699-4324; phone (800) VISIT-NC; Web site www.visitnc.com.

Population

North Carolina is ranked the 10th most populated state. The largest city is Charlotte, and the next largest is the capital, Raleigh. The population is split: half the people live in cities and half live in rural areas. The number of people who live in the countryside is odd for such an industrialized state. One reason for this is because many people prefer to live outside the city and commute to work. Another reason is that some industries have made their homes in small towns.



Government

Capital: Raleigh
U.S. Senators: 2
U.S. Representatives: 13
Counties: 100

- In the first constitution, the governor served only a one-year term and couldn't veto any bills. In 1996, the law changed and gave the governor the veto.
- One of the most influential U.S. senators is Jesse Helms.

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