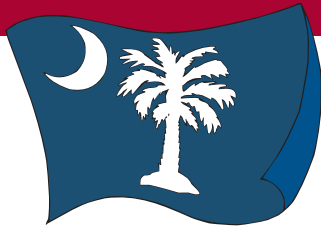


Established 1788
8th state



EXTREMES

Highest: Sassafras Mountain stands in the Blue Ridge Mountains at 3,559 feet (1,085 m).

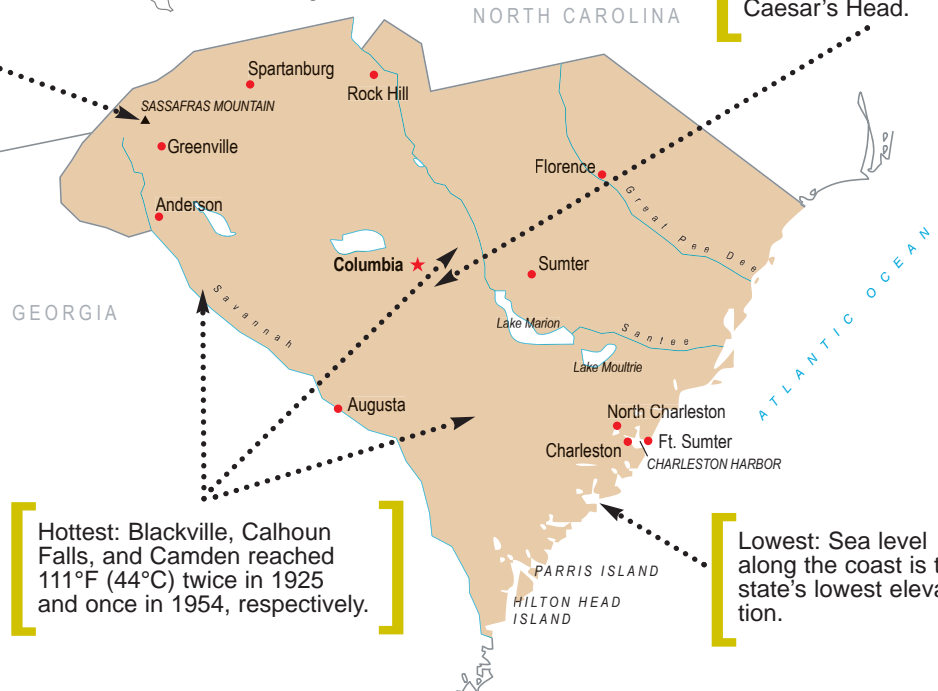
Coldest: 18 January 1977 dropped to -20°F (-29°C) at Caesar's Head.

Climate

South Carolina has a warm, humid climate. July's average temperature hovers around 80°F (27°C) but can feel much hotter with the heavy moisture in the air. January's average temperature is 45°F (7°C). Spring and summer see the most rain, usually in the form of afternoon thunderstorms. The mountains in the west and the coast-line receive the most moisture. Tornadoes and hurricanes can strike the state, often without warning. In 1989, Hurricane Hugo killed 18 citizens and caused billions of dollars in damage.

Geography

Although South Carolina is the 11th smallest state, its land is incredibly diverse. You can find sandy beaches, flat grasslands, waterfalls, snowy mountain peaks, and more. About two-thirds of the land is forested, and swampland covers more area than any other state except Louisiana. Elevation slopes downward from west to east, starting with a tiny section of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Rivers flow from west to east, too, following the lower land to the Atlantic Ocean. The hilly Piedmont Plateau, called *upcountry* by natives, comes next and occupies about one-third of the land. The rest of the land, called *lowcountry*, is part of the flat Atlantic Coastal Plain. Along the coast are beautiful beaches popular with the tourists. The animals that live in the



Hottest: Blackville, Calhoun Falls, and Camden reached 111°F (44°C) twice in 1925 and once in 1954, respectively.

Lowest: Sea level along the coast is the state's lowest elevation.

state are just as diverse as the land. Deer, bobcat, and beavers live in forested areas, and snakes, alligators, and turtles make their home in the swamps or along the coast.

Resources and Economy

Although some statistics say South Carolina is one of the poorer states, the economy is growing and improving. Agriculture used to provide the most income for South Carolinians. Today, it plays a lesser role in the economy. Tobacco, soybeans, and cotton are the largest crops, and more peaches are grown there than in any state except California and Georgia. Manufacturing has become the state's leading industry. The people produce chemicals (like medicine, dyes, and fertilizers) and heavy machinery. Cotton from local farms often is used to make fabric. The forests provide paper and wood products, and the streams are a source of hydroelectric power. Limestone, granite, and clay are some of the state's mineral resources.



History

The Early Years

Thousands of years ago, Native Americans fished and farmed in what is now South Carolina. A group called the Mound Builders built large heaps of earth, which they used for ceremonial purposes. In 1521, a Spanish explorer named Francisco Gordillo explored the area. A few years later, another Spanish explorer tried to settle the area but failed. The French also failed to start an establishment in 1562. The Spanish tried again in 1566, and that settlement lasted for about 20 years. Finally, about a hundred years later, the English built a settlement in South Carolina that lasted.

Growth and Freedom

In 1670, Charles Town was founded. Ten years later, the community picked up the town and moved across the river to better ground. Charles Town grew to a busy port town, and the people prospered. As the colonies grew discontent with British rule,



South Carolina tried to maintain ties with England. However, in 1776, the British army fired on Charles Town, and the citizens were forced to fight back. During the Revolutionary War, the British eventually took

Charles Town and most of South Carolina. By the end of the war, the citizens pushed the troops out and became the eighth state to ratify the Constitution.

The Civil War

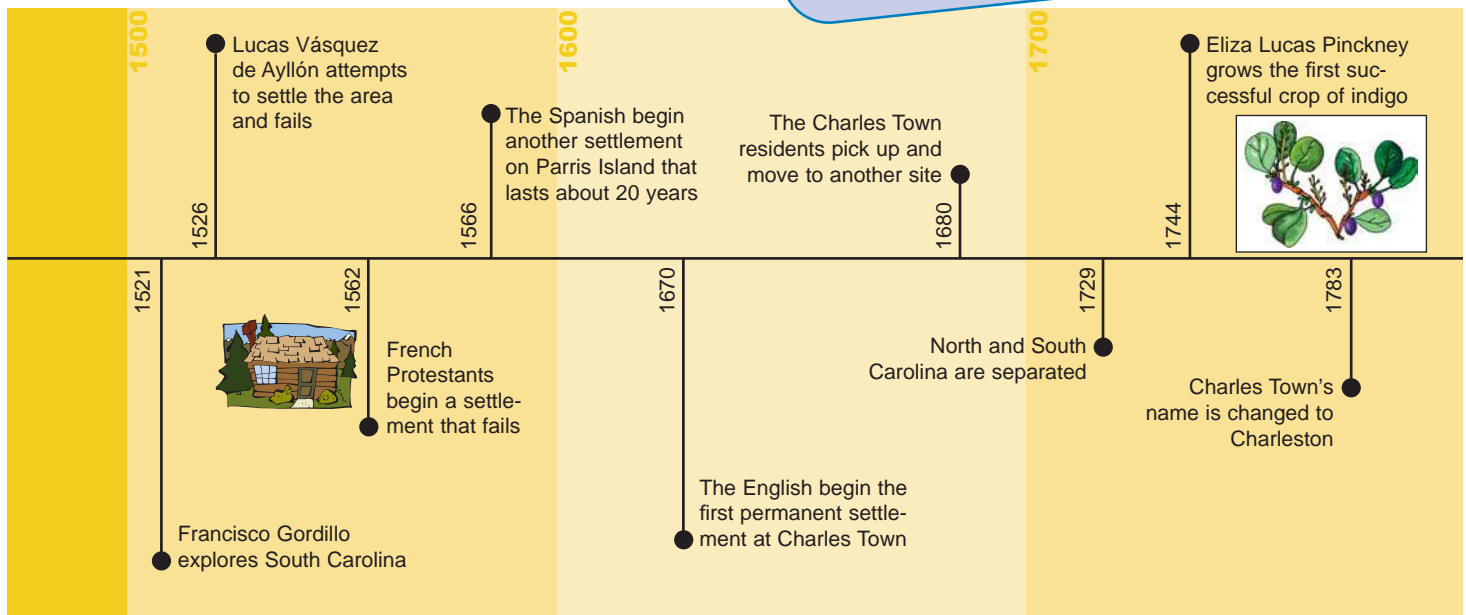
People started buying more cotton, so South Carolina needed more slaves to grow and harvest it. As the black population grew to outnumber whites, the North began to speak out more against slavery. Also, in the 1800s, a series of high taxes called *tariffs* outraged Southerners. They believed the tariffs favored the North. When Abraham Lincoln was elected, South Carolina seceded. Ten other states followed and formed the Confederate States of America. In 1861, South Carolinians fired on



Cultural Note

South Carolina's environment attracts many visitors each year. Large formal gardens add to the beauty of the state. Gardens might display different kinds of flowers or trees and statues. The smooth, manicured greens of golf courses bring others to the state. Hilton Head Island holds the

Heritage Golf Classic Tournament each year. The state's food is as noteworthy as the scenery. A multitude of seafood dishes are prepared and served along the coast, and upcountry boasts a variety of barbecues. Vertamae Grosvenor, from lowcountry, even has her own television cooking show.



Fort Sumter and began the Civil War. About 60,000 soldiers from the state went to fight, and almost one-fourth never returned.

Reconstruction

After the South lost the war, Reconstruction began. Northern troops occupied the state to make sure it was obeying the law. In order to rejoin the Union, the state had to free all slaves and give them the right to vote. For a few years, Northern politicians ruled the state. When Southerners got the chance, they took over government and created new laws that kept blacks from voting and segregated them from whites. These laws lasted well into the next century.

The Twentieth Century

South Carolina relied heavily on cotton. Textile mills that used the cotton grew. However, prices for cotton dropped after World War I. To make matters worse, a type of beetle called the *boll weevil* destroyed half the crop in 1922. When the Great Depression hit in 1929, everything crashed. Many workers either lost



their jobs or were paid less for the work they did. South Carolinians flooded out of the state in search of work. The economy didn't pick up again until after World War II.

Civil Rights Struggle

As the economy worsened in the 1920s and '30s, so did racial tensions. Racist groups like the Ku Klux Klan terrorized African-Americans, causing many to move out of the state. After World War II, African-Americans became more vocal about the discrimination they had to endure. For instance, the segregated schools and facilities were much worse for blacks than whites. In 1954, a Supreme Court decision said schools must desegregate. South Carolina resisted fiercely. In 1970, federal courts ordered the state to desegregate, so action was finally taken to comply.



Gillespie



Gibson



Jackson

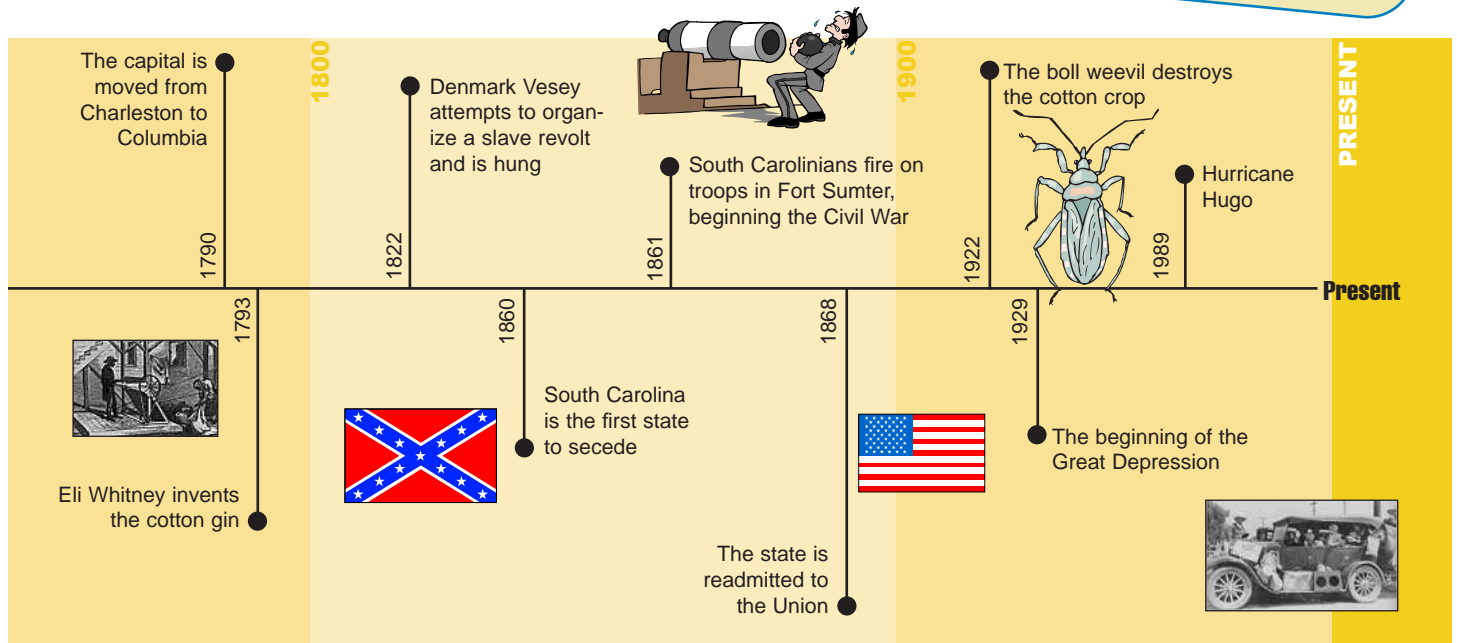


Jackson



Famous People

- John C. Calhoun: Statesman
- Althea Gibson: Tennis player
- Dizzy Gillespie: Jazz musician
- Andrew Jackson: Seventh U.S. president
- Jesse Jackson: Civil rights activist
- Vanna White: Game show hostess
- Jasper Johns: Artist
- Charlotta Spears Bass: Civil rights leader
- Robert Mills: Architect
- William (the Refrigerator) Perry: Football player



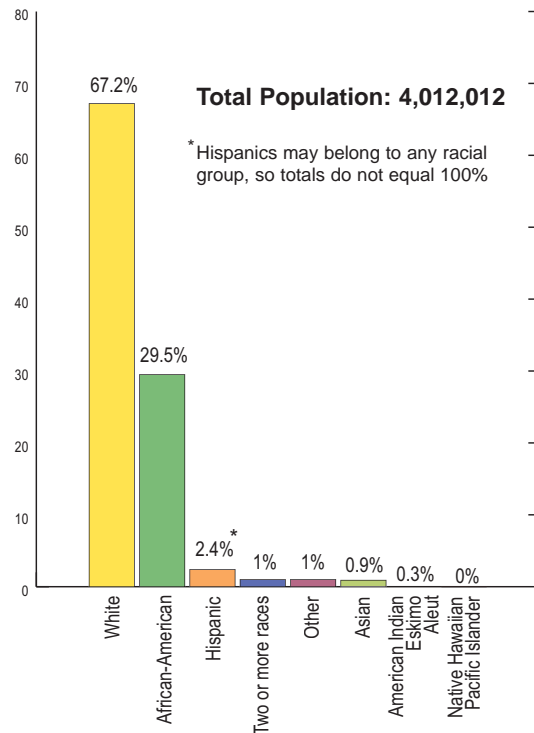
Did You Know?

- A museum in Pendleton exhibits the first boll weevil found in South Carolina. Pendleton also has the oldest continuously used farmers' hall in America.
- Sumter claims to be the only place with every species of swan as well as the world's largest ginkgo farm.
- At one point, South Carolina had on their license plates "The Iodine Products State."
- Joel Roberts Poinsett, a native South Carolinian, brought back from Mexico a lovely tropical plant that was eventually named after him: the poinsettia.
- The oldest landscaped gardens in America are at the Gardens at Middleton Place.
- South Carolina boasts more than three hundred golf courses. Also, Myrtle Beach has more miniature golf courses than any other area in America.
- The walls of the fort on Sullivan Island were built out of palmetto wood, which is very spongy. When the fort was under attack, cannonballs practically bounced off the walls, protecting those inside!

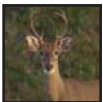


Population

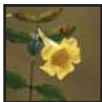
At different times in the state's history, people have left in great numbers. However, today more and more people are moving back into the state as they discover the "smiling faces" and "beautiful places," as claimed on the license plate. Also, citizens find the state a better place to live since the government has made great improvements in education and the economy. Columbia, Charleston, and Greenville are the largest cities.



State Symbols



State Animal
Whitetail deer—
Each year, hunters hope to sight these deer.



State Flower
Yellow jessamine—This spring flower blooms throughout the state.



State Tree
Palmetto—
Featured on the flag, state seal, and some license plates, the palmetto is also part of the state's nickname.



State Bird
Carolina wren—
This bird's song sounds like "tea kettle" repeated over and over.

Government

Capital: Columbia

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 6

Counties: 46

- Senator Strom Thurmond has the record for being the oldest representative, has served more terms as a senator than anyone else, was the first senator elected by a write-in ballot, and set the record for Congress's longest speech, which lasted for more than 24 hours!

State Motto: *Animis Opibusque Parati*—In English, this motto means "Prepared in Mind and Resources."

For more information: See www.state.sc.us or contact the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, 1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 106, Columbia, SC 29201; phone (803) 734-1700; Web site www.travelsc.com.

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