

Unit 1 Flipped Video

The Geographic Regions of the US and NC

The Geography and 4 Regions of NC

Figure 1a. Physical Regions



Source: Adapted from E. Raisz, Landforms of the United States (Waltham; Blaisdell Publishing Co., 1940).



NC's coastline is known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic – in this map you can see today's Diamond Shoal Tower that warns ships of the danger of running aground. **Inlets** are small gaps between the Outer Banks islands that allow ships to sail into the **sounds**.

NC REGIONS	Geographic Features and Natural Resources	Climate
Tidewater	Hurricanes, shallow sounds, and the Barrier Islands' shoals + inlets. (dangerous) Atlantic currents meet off of Cape Hatteras (faster travel). Effect: challenges to the movement of people, goods, and ideas to North Carolina.	Humid Subtropical – hot and humid summers + mild winters; Fishing
Coastal Plain	<i>Rich</i> Loam soil flat elevation (0-500 feet above sea level) - includes the Tidewater	Same Climate Effect: opportunities for planting crops tobacco, cotton)
Piedmont	Clay soil presented challenges for planting Hardwood forests and mineral deposits Effect - provided opportunities that encouraged movement to the region.	Same Climate Individual farms, less emphasis on cotton and tobacco
Mountain	Rocky soil, raised elevation (1500-6600 feet) People adapted by using surrounding resources (ex. weather, terrain)	cooler climate

North Carolina's Regions

Figure 3.1. Physical Regions



Tidewater (Tarheel blue on the far right/eastern portion of the map)

The Tidewater stretches for 30-50 miles inland from the Atlantic coast. The tides in the sounds and on the rivers rise and fall with the Atlantic Ocean's tides. Wilmington is the largest port city and the sounds are rich fishing grounds for shrimp, clams, crabs, and much more.

The Coastal Plain has the state's richest soil, providing for excellent farm land. Many cash crops like tobacco and cotton are grown here. Livestock like hogs and chickens are raised here as well. Fayetteville is the region's largest city and is home to Fort Bragg, one of the largest US Military bases in the country. The Fall Line separates the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont and is a series of places along the rivers where ships cannot travel through. Rocky stretches or waterfalls were impossible for boats to cross.





NC's **Piedmont** had hardwood forests that needed to be cleared for family farming but also led to the rise of the furniture industry. Today, NC's major cities are located here including Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point, and Charlotte.



The **Mountain Region** has the following mountain ranges Appalachian, Blue Ridge, and the Great Smokey Mountains; the city of Asheville, and the Qualla Boundary Cherokee Reservation. Asheville is the largest city. Mining and lumber are two major industries.

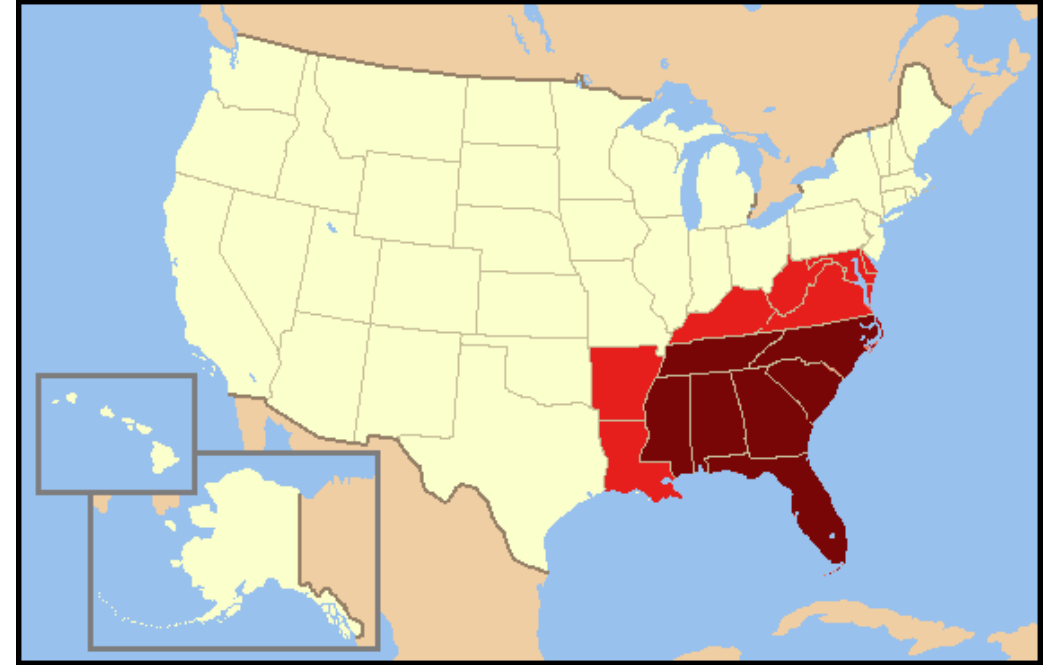




The United States has 5 geographic regions

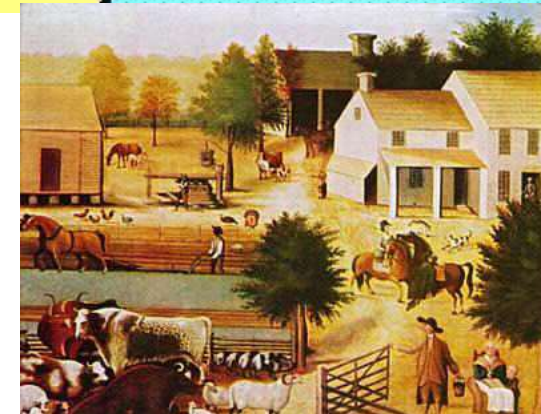
Southeast/South

- **This** area is also called the Sun Belt which stretches across the southern part of the U.S. and includes many types of climates from desert to tropical.
- The mild weather and plentiful rainfall create growing conditions for crops such as tobacco, cotton, and peanuts in most of the region while Florida's sandy beaches supports tourism.
- Frost-free days and rich soil encouraged the farming of cash crops and the extensive use of slave labor to grow them.



Northeast Region:

- The climate varies by season--winters are extremely cold while the summers are generally warm and humid.
- The region's economy varies (factories, fishing, services, tourism) as the residents had to adapt to the region's seasons
- Rocky soil and forests led to a focus on fishing, shipping, and ship building in New England while Pennsylvania, NJ, and NY developed farming and livestock.



- ***Midwest Region:***
- Known as America's Heartland because of its vast lands of farmland and its in the middle of the Rocky and Appalachian Mountains.
- There are no oceans in this region which causes an extreme fluctuation of temperatures (past 100 degrees to bone-chilling).
- Residents have adapted to this region as they have farmed wheat, oats, and corn and thus, the region is named as the "Breadbasket of America."
- Major cities include Chicago on the Great Lakes, St. Louis on the Mississippi River, Detroit, Cleveland, and Kansas City.



Southwest Region:

- A wide-open area of mostly deserts, mountains, plateaus, and plains as well as the semi-arid (dry/lack of rainfall/precipitation) to arid climate presents a variety of challenges to the development of the area.
- The area offered raising cattle, mining, oil exploration, as well as East Texas cotton.
- Major cities include Dallas, Houston, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, and Phoenix.



- ***Northwest Region:***

- This region is the wettest and driest of all regions. The terrain brings several challenges and opportunities such as mountains (Rockies), deserts (Death Valley), and the Great Plains semi-arid grasslands.
- In early days, settlers took advantage of the vast gold reserves during the Gold Rush Era in California which brought settlers from Asia and the East Coast.
- Today, the region thrives on tourism, the entertainment industry, and coastal fishing.
- Major Cities include the ports of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, as well as Denver and Las Vegas.

