**NC Geography**

**Basic Facts**

* Located in the **southeastern** United States
* Bounded
  + on the **north** by Virginia
  + on the west by **Tennessee**
  + on the **south** by **Georgia** and South Carolina
  + on the **east** by Atlantic Ocean
* its **longest** east-west point is about **500 miles**
* its **widest** north-south point is about **180** miles
* covers **about 53,000** **square** **miles**
* is about the size of **England**
* is known as one of the **South Atlantic** states

**Regions**

**TIDEWATER**

* from the **ocean** to about **20-30** miles inland
* contains a series of **barrier islands** that border the ocean known as the **Outer Banks**
* **Capes**: (parts of the islands that **jut** far out into ocean): Cape **Fear**, Cape **Lookout**, Cape **Hatteras** (**“Graveyard of the Atlantic”)**. In 1800’s **lighthouses** were built to help warn ships **away** from dangerous waters.
* **Sounds:** (**tide less** body of water between barrier islands and mainland).

Major sounds are: **Albemarle** and P**amlico** (**Lake** **Mattamuskeet** is located between Pamlico & Albemarle Sounds)

* Major Tidewater coastal towns -**Morehead City** & **Wilmington**

**COASTAL PLAIN**

* located between **Atlantic** Ocean and the **fall line**
* covers nearly **45**% of state’s **landmass**
* elevations range from **sea level** to **4**00-**5**00 ft. at the **fall** line
* stretches **70**-100 miles from Tidewater to **fall line**
* contains **sandy soil**—prime **agricultural** region
* Main crops - **tobacco**, **cotton**, corn, wheat.
* Beef & dairy cattle, hogs, & **poultry**- common livestock.
* **Sandhills** named because of **deep sandy soil**—noted for its **golf** courses
* Major Coastal Plain towns: **Fayetteville** & **Southern Pines**

**PIEDMONT**

* located between the fall line and the **Blue Ridge Mts**.
* stretches approximately **200** miles
* covers nearly **39**% of state’s landmass
* **elevations** from **5**00-**1,500** ft. (moving **east** to **west**)
* Center of the state’s **urban population**
* Major cities include: Raleigh (capital), Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Durham
* Center of state’s **manufacturing**: **textiles, tobacco, furniture**
* Before **1849**, NC was the country’s leading **gold** producing state

(In Charlotte the **federal** government once **minted gold** coins)

* **Red clay** soil--variety of **products**
* Center of **higher** education (UNC, Duke, NC State)
* Center of **cultural** activities (Museums, NC Zoo, Sports, etc)

**MOUNTAINS**

* located between **Piedmont** and **Tennessee**
* covers **6,000** square miles
* elevations from **1,500**(**east**) to **6,684** ft.
* **Mount Mitchell**--highest peak in NC and **eastern** U.S.
* about **200 miles** long and **15-50** miles wide
* part of **Appalachian** chain (runs **southwest** to **northeast**--from **Georgia** to **Quebec**)
* **Blue Ridge** Mountains--at **northeastern** edge
* Great **Smokey** Mountains --at **southwestern** edge
* **Asheville**--largest **city** in region

Contains the state’s largest **national forests** (**Pisgah** and **Nantahala**