

Unit 1 - North Carolina Geography Vocabulary

1. **fall line** – an imaginary line that extends from near Roanoke Rapids southwest past Raleigh and Fayetteville
2. **climate** – long-term atmospheric conditions
3. **weather** – short-term atmospheric conditions
4. **Gulf Stream** – the ocean current that runs northward along the North Carolina coast; it carries warm water from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic
5. **region** – a specific area where the lay of the land and the habits of the people are much the same
6. **sound** – an inland body of mixed water found through much of the Tidewater region
7. **barrier island** – a long chain of islands or sand spits along the state coastline
8. **inlet** – a break in the barrier islands that allows sea water to come in and out with the tides
9. **wetland** – soil that is soaked or flooded with water most of the year
10. **estuary** – that part of a river where it meets the sea; where fresh water and salt water mix
11. **savanna** – a flat grassland with some scattered trees
12. **Carolina bays** – elongated depressions in the ground found in the Coastal Plain
13. **headwaters** – the source or spring from which a river first flows
14. **monadnock** – a geological condition where a point of land stands out because all around it the land has been eroded
15. **elevation** – the height above sea level
16. **bald** – a mountain area usually above 6,000 feet in elevation where few trees grow
17. **cove** – a valley where streams cut out swathes wide enough for farming
18. **westerlies** – winds from the west that bring warmer air in the winter and cooler air in the summer
19. **sandhills** – concentrations of rolling sand ridges left over from an ancient change in the shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean
20. **loam** – a rich soil containing a relatively equal mixture of sand and silt and a smaller proportion of clay

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4. **Gulf Stream** – the ocean current that _____ along the North Carolina coast; it carries _____ from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic
5. **region** – a specific area where _____ people are much the same
6. **sound** – an inland body of _____ found through much of the _____
7. **barrier island** – a long chain of _____ along the state coastline
8. **inlet** – a break in the barrier islands that _____
9. **wetland** – soil that is _____ with water most of the year.
10. **estuary** – that part of a river where _____; where _____ water and _____ water mix.
11. **savanna** – a _____ with some scattered trees.
12. **Carolina bays** – elongated depressions in the ground _____.
13. **headwaters** – the source or spring from which _____.
14. **monadnock** – a geological condition where a point of land stands out because _____.
15. **elevation** – the height _____
16. **bald** – a mountain area usually above _____ in elevation where _____
17. **cove** – a valley where streams cut out swathes _____.
18. **westerlies** – _____ that bring _____ in the winter and _____ in the summer.
19. **sandhills** – concentrations of rolling sand ridges left over from _____.

20. **loam** – a _____ containing a relatively equal mixture of _____ and _____ and a smaller proportion of _____.