



North Carolina State History ~ In a Nutshell ~

Written & designed by
Cyndi Kinney & Judy Trout



NS_SNC

North Carolina State History In a Nutshell
by Cyndi Kinney & Judy Trout
Copyright © 2012 Knowledge Box Central
www.KnowledgeBoxCentral.com

ISBN

Ebook: 978-1-61625-778-1

Publisher: Knowledge Box Central
<http://www.knowledgeboxcentral.com>

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher, except as provided by USA copyright law.

This electronic product is intended to be used ONLY by the purchaser. It is not to be transferred, sold, or duplicated.

This state history information can also be found in the Lapbook and Lapbook Journal for this specific state, as published by Knowledge Box Central. Please see publisher's website for information on these other products.

All information and graphics within this product are originals or have been used with permission from its owners, and credit has been given when appropriate. These include, but are not limited to the following: www.iclipart.com, and Art Explosion Clipart. Additional credits are given at the end of this ebook.

What is the "In a Nutshell" series?

This is a series of concise, easy to understand information on many popular topics. You will find that many of products in this series can also be found as part of larger publications and/or curriculum on the publisher's website. At the end of each book, you will find a list of questions that may be used to help you review the material.

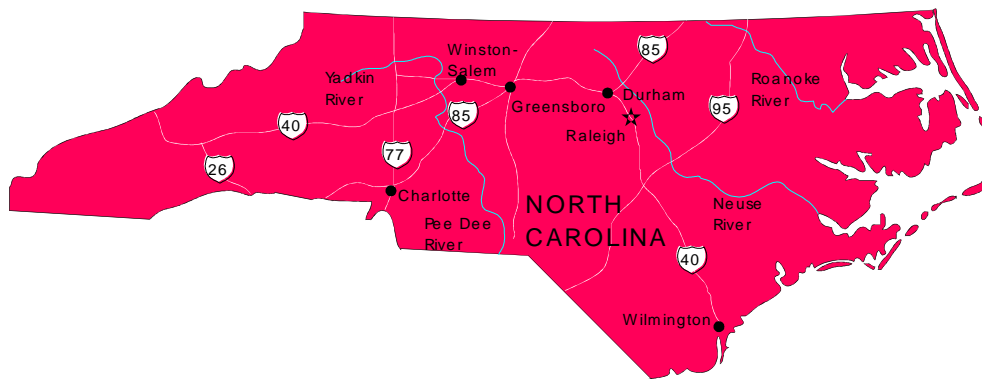
North Carolina State History Lapbook Journal Study Guide



The Great Seal of North Carolina

North and South Carolina were one colony until 1729. Carolina was named to honor Charles IX of France and then Charles I and Charles II of England. Carolina is rooted in Latin and comes from the word *Caroliinus*. This word is derived from the name *Carolus*, translated as "Charles."

People who live in North Carolina or who come from North Carolina are called North Carolinians.



Map of North Carolina – Capital, Major Lakes and Rivers

STATEHOOD

North Carolina was admitted to the Union as the 12th state on November 21, 1789.

STATE CONSTITUTION

Through its history, North Carolina has had three Constitutions: the Constitution of 1776, the Constitution 1868, and the Constitution of 1971.

PREAMBLE: We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain security thereof and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Executive Branch of government is the branch that enforces laws. The head of this branch is the governor, who is elected every four years. Along with the Governor, the Executive Branch also includes the Lieutenant Governor and many state agencies

The legislative arm of the state is the North Carolina General Assembly. They enact general and local laws that promote the best interests of the state, and establish rules and regulations governing the conduct of the people. Like the federal government and almost all the other states (Nebraska being the only exception), North Carolina has a bicameral legislature, consisting of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The legislature meets annually; the so-called "Long Session" occurs in odd numbered years, while the "Short Session" occurs in even numbered years. Occasionally, in the case of a special need, the Governor may call a Special Session of the General Assembly after they have adjourned for the year.

Senate: The Senate has 50 members. Elections for all 50 seats are held every two years. The Lieutenant Governor is the President of the Senate; however, his/her main duty is to cast a deciding vote in the case of a tie. At the beginning of each biennium, the Senate chooses a President pro Tempore, who presides in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. The most important duty of the President pro Tempore is to appoint the members to the various standing committees in the Senate.

House of Representatives: The House of Representatives has 120 members. Elections for all 120 seats are held every 2 years. At the beginning of each session, the members of the House choose a Speaker, who presides over the business of the House. In extraordinary cases, such as in the 2003-04 biennium, when the house was evenly divided between the two political parties, co-Speakers may be chosen. As in the Senate, the most important duty of the Speaker is to appoint the members to the various standing committees.

The Judicial Branch interprets the laws and makes decisions about the laws and those who break them. It is made up of several courts, the highest of which is the state Supreme Court.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The legislative branch of the United States government makes laws for our nation and raises and distributes money to run the United States government. The most evident part of the legislative branch is the United States Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, called houses. The two parts are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is referred to as a bicameral body because it is made up of two houses. The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms. Members of the Senate are called Senators and

members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Senators and representatives serving in these two bodies are sometimes referred to as congressmen, or women, and sometimes as legislators because their business is to legislate or make laws. The role of the legislative branch is defined in the United States Constitution.

Each state elects people to represent them in the United States Congress in Washington, DC. The citizens of each state elect two senators to represent them in the Senate. They also elect representatives to represent them in the House of Representatives. The number of representatives each state sends to the House of Representatives is not a specific number like the Senate, but is based on the population of the state. The people, that are elected to represent the state's citizens in the United States Congress, are referred to as the congressional delegation.

There are 100 senators in the U.S. Senate. Each is elected to a term, in the Senate, of six years. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each is elected to a term, in the "House," of two years.

The citizens of North Carolina elect two people, like every other state, to represent them in the Senate and 13 people, based on North Carolina's Population, to represent them in the House of Representatives.

STATE SEAL



The Great Seal of North Carolina

In 1971, North Carolina's General Assembly resolved to standardize the design of the state's seal. Prior to this resolution, the seal took on many different design variations. The ship which appears in the background of the present seal, for example, had totally disappeared from some previous seals. Mottos and dates came and went, and the images changed with the artists and office holders. So, the General Assembly passed this resolution in 1971:

"The Governor shall procure of the State a Seal, which shall be called the great seal of the State of North Carolina, and shall be two and one-quarter inches in diameter, and its design shall be a representation of the figures of Liberty and Plenty, looking toward each other, but not more than half-fronting each other and other-wise disposed as follows: Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her left hand and a scroll with the word "Constitution" inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended toward Liberty, three heads of grain in her right hand, and in her left, the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of the horn rolling out.

The background on the seal shall contain a depiction of mountains running from left to right to the middle of the seal. A side view of a three-masted ship shall be located on the ocean and to the right of Plenty. The date "May 20, 1775" shall appear within the seal and across the top of the seal and the words "esse quam videri" shall appear at the bottom around the perimeter. No other words, figures or other embellishments shall appear on the seal."

It shall be the duty of the Governor to file in the office of the Secretary of State an impression of the great seal, certified to under his hand and attested to by the Secretary of State, which

impression so certified the Secretary of State shall carefully preserve among the records of this Office.

But even this standard was not the final word on the subject. In 1983, the state ratified another change that had been proposed by former Senator Jullian R. Allsbrook. Since the state flag carried the date of the adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Allsbrook felt that the State Seal should do likewise to serve as a reminder of the state's commitment to liberty. Thus, the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina was modified to show the date of the Resolves, April 12, 1776.

STATE CAPITAL (Raleigh, North Carolina)

The North Carolina State Capitol, completed in 1840, is one of the finest and best preserved examples of a major civic building in the Greek Revival architecture style.



The Capitol is the second building on this site. In 1792, Raleigh was established as North Carolina's permanent seat of government. A simple, two-story brick State House was built on Union Square between 1792 and 1796.

Between 1820 and 1824, the State House was enlarged by State Architect William Nichols. A third floor and eastern and western wings were added to the building, and a domed rotunda constructed at its center to house Antonio Canova's statue of President George Washington, acquired by the state in 1821. Sadly, when the State House burned in 1831, the statue of George Washington was damaged beyond repair.

The General Assembly of 1832-1833 ordered that a new Capitol be built as an enlarged version of the old State House--that is, a cross-shaped building featuring a central, domed rotunda. The Commissioners for Rebuilding the Capitol first employed William Nichols, Jr. to help prepare building plans. In August 1833, Nichols was replaced by the distinguished New York architectural firm of Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis. Its principals modified and greatly improved the earlier design, essentially giving the Capitol its present appearance and plan.

David Paton (1801-1882), an Edinburgh-born architect who had worked for noted Scottish architect William Playfair and English architect Sir John Sloan, was hired in September 1834 to supervise the Capitol's construction. Paton replaced Town and Davis as the Commissioners' architect in early 1835. Except for the exterior stone walls, which were largely in place when he arrived in Raleigh, the Capitol was completed entirely under Paton's watch. He made several modifications to Town and Davis' plans for the interior. He is responsible for the cantilevered or overhanging gallery on the second floor of the rotunda, the groined masonry vaulting of the first floor offices and corridor ceilings (making the first floor virtually fireproof), and the interior arrangements of the east and west wings.

Most of the architectural details--mouldings, ornamental plasterwork, and the honeysuckle crown atop the dome--were carefully patterned after features of ancient Greek temples. The exterior columns are Doric style and modeled after those of the Parthenon. The House of Representatives chamber follows the semi-circular plan of a Greek theater and its architectural ornament is in the

Corinthian style of the Tower of Winds. The Senate chamber is decorated in the Ionic style of the Erechtheum. The only nonclassical areas in the building are two third floor rooms and their vestibules, which were finished in the Gothic style.

The ornamental ironwork, chandeliers, hardware, and marble mantels of the Capitol came from Philadelphia, as did the men who created all the ornamental plasterwork. The desks and chairs were made by Raleigh cabinetmaker William Thompson.

In plan, the Capitol is a cross shape, centering on a domed rotunda where the wings join. It is 160 feet from north to south, 140 feet from east to west (including the porticoes), and stands 97-1/2 feet from the rotunda floor to the crown atop the dome. The exterior walls are built of gneiss, a form of granite. The stone was quarried in southeastern Raleigh and hauled to the site on the horse-drawn Experimental Railroad, North Carolina's first railway. The interior walls are of stone and brick. The massive, original wooden truss system still bears the weight of the roof.

Completed in 1840 at a total cost of \$532,682.34, the Capitol cost more than three times the yearly general income of the state at that time.

The Capitol housed all of North Carolina's state government until 1888. The Supreme Court and State Library moved into a separate building in 1888, and the General Assembly moved into the State Legislative Building in 1963. Today the governor and lieutenant governor, and their immediate staff, occupy offices on the first floor of the Capitol.

STATE MOTTO

In 1893 the North Carolina General Assembly adopted the Latin words "**Esse Quam Videri**" as the state motto and directed that these words be placed with the state's Coat of Arms and the date "20 May, 1775" upon the great seal. Until the act of 1893 North Carolina had no motto, one of the few states without one (and the only one of the original thirteen).

The motto is a literal translation of a phrase from a sentence in Cicero's "On Friendship" (De Amicitia, chapter 26). The complete sentence in Latin is: "Virtute enim ipsa non tam multi praediti esse quam videri volunt ."

Translations (from North Carolina State Library:

"Fewer possess virtue, than those who wish us to believe that they possess it."

"The fact is that fewer people are endowed with virtue than wish to be thought to be so."

"Not nearly so many people want actually to be possessed of virtue as want to appear to be possessed of it."

"The Numbers of the really virtuous are not so great, as they appear to be."

STATE SLOGAN

"A Better Place to Be"

STATE FLAG

On May 20, 1861, the day that the secession resolution was adopted by the state of North Carolina, an ordinance to adopt a state flag was presented by Colonel John D. Whitford. A committee of seven was formed with Colonel Whitford appointed chairman. The original ordinance stated that "...the flag of this State shall be a blue field with a white V thereon, and a star, encircling which shall be the words, "Sirgit astrum, May 20, 1775."



The design intended by this original description for the flag was never to be. Colonel Whitford and his committee consulted an artist from Raleigh, William Jarl Browne, for advice. Mr. Browne prepared a model for a state flag and submitted it to the committee for approval. The "Browne" flag was not at all like that described in the original proposal but was, nevertheless, approved by the North Carolina Convention on June 22, 1861.

The design provided by William Jarl Browne and adopted by the Convention was described as having a red field with two bars making up the fly; the top one blue and the bottom bar white. Centered on the red field was a white five pointed star. Above the star, in a semi-circular mold, was the date May 20, 1775 representing the much questioned "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence." Below the star was the date, May 20, 1861 representing the date of North Carolina's secession from the union.

This flag was carried by the North Carolina Regiments, along with the Confederate colors, throughout the Civil War.

After the war, North Carolina, like other secession states, adopted a revised design for their state flag. In March of 1885, a bill introduced by General Johnstone Jones was passed and the design of the North Carolina State Flag changed for the last time.

The flag's field was changed from red to blue. The top bar of the fly was changed from blue to red. The gilt letters "N" and "C" were placed on either side of the white star and gilt scrolls were added above and below the star. The scroll above still displays the date of the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence" but the date displayed in black letters on the lower scroll displays April 12, 1776, the date of the "Halifax Resolves" instead of May 20, 1861, the date of secession.

SALUTE TO FLAG

"I salute the flag of North Carolina and pledge to the Old North State love, loyalty, and faith."

Senate Bill No. 258 was signed by Governor Mike Easley, designating an official salute to the North Carolina Flag, on May 4, 2007. (Session Law 2007-36)

STATE NICKNAMES

The Tarheel State

In North Carolina's early years, tar was one of the state's major products. Tar is a dark brown or black sticky liquid created by the decay of organic material such as wood, coal or peat. There are two contradictory stories about the origin of this nickname. Both stories concern Civil War battles in which North Carolina troops were involved.

John S. Farmer's *Americanisms - Old and New*, published in 1889, tells of a battle involving Mississippi and North Carolina soldiers. The story goes that, during a battle, a brigade of North Carolinians failed to hold their position. The Mississippians taunted the North Carolinians with failure to tar their heels that morning. They meant by this that, if the North Carolinians had tarred their heels, they would have been able to "stick" to or hold their position.

North Carolina soldiers come out of a story by Walter Clark looking a little more heroic. In Mr. Clark's story, the North Carolinians had to fight it out alone after their supporting column failed to hold their position. The story goes that the derelict outfit (It's implied that they were from the Army of Northern Virginia.) later asked "Any more tar down in the Old North State, boys?" The North Carolinians responded "No; not a bit old Jeff's bought it all up." "Is that so; what is he going to do with it?" the derelicts asked. The reply; "He's going to put it on you'ns heels to make you stick better in the next fight." "Old Jeff" is a reference to the President of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis.

The Land of the Sky

Derived from a book, *The Land of the Sky* (1876), by Frances Fisher Tieran who wrote under the name Christian Reid, this nickname references the Blue Ridge and the Great Smokey Mountains of western North Carolina. This nickname, along with "The Old North State" below, can also be found in a line from the official state toast,

"Where soars Mount Mitchell's summit great, In the "Land of the Sky," in the Old North State!"

The city of Asheville, North Carolina has also adopted "Land of the Sky" as its nickname.

The Old North State

In 1710, Carolina was divided into northern and southern sections. The southern section was called South Carolina and the northern section was called North Carolina. "The Old North State" is a reference to the northern section.

The Turpentine State

The principal products of North Carolina in its early history were tar, pitch and turpentine. It is from the latter that this nickname is derived. Large quantities of turpentine were produced from North Carolina pine forests.

The Rip Van Winkle State

This nickname was mentioned in C.J. Thomas's *Manual of Useful Information* but no explanation for it was given. We could speculate that northern visitors may have compared the mountains of North Carolina to the Catskill mountains of New York where the Rip Van Winkle legend was publicized by Washington Irving.

STATE BIRD

The cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) was adopted as the official state bird of North Carolina on March 4, 1943



STATE FLOWER



Prior to official legislative action, the daisy and the goldenrod were often thought of as state flowers of North Carolina.

National Geographic Magazine listed the daisy as North Carolina's state flower in April 1917. Indeed, the daisy was a popular flower in the state. Though the July 1936 issue of *Flower Grower Magazine* cited the oxeye daisy as North Carolina's state flower, a bill sponsoring the daisy as the official state flower was defeated. The goldenrod was also popularly thought of as the state flower by many in North Carolina but, like the daisy, its abundance throughout the state and its support from garden clubs were not enough to make it official. By the end of the 1930s, a movement had gained steam to adopt an official state flower in North Carolina. The daisy, the goldenrod, the dogwood, the flame azalea, the Venus flytrap (Adopted as North Carolina's official carnivorous plant in 2005) and even the pinecone were among those considered for the honor.

Because of its abundance throughout the state, the dogwood was able to fend off its most competitive opponent, the flame azalea, at the last minute. On March 15, 1941, the North Carolina Legislature approved the dogwood as the state's official flower.

Though not specified in the legislation, *Cornus florida*, commonly referred to as the flowering dogwood, is accepted as the species intended as the official flower of North Carolina.

Below, you will find 15 general questions to help review what you have learned. Use the following page(s) for documenting your answers. Older students may choose to write a State Report as well.

Review Questions:

1. List the states and/or bodies of water that border this state.
2. What was the date of statehood?
3. What is the state capital?
4. What is the state motto?
5. Name at least one state nickname.
6. Describe the state flag.
7. What is the state bird?
8. What is the state flower?
9. List at least 5 other state symbols.
10. Describe this state's government.
11. Name the major imports and exports for this state.
12. Describe the weather and climate in this state.
13. List at least 5 famous people from this state.
14. Describe at least 5 significant events in this state's history.
15. What other interesting information have you learned about this state?

Answers to Review Questions:

