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## Lay of the Land: Guided Reading Notes

Directions: Read pages 6-41 in the North Carolina: Land of Contrasts book and fill-in the blanks as you read.

### Section 1: Tidewater Region

1. In the southern part of the coast, the Tidewater is no more than 30 miles wide.
2. The land is influenced by the daily movement of the ocean's tides.
3. The most famous barrier islands along the coast are called the Outer Banks.
4. The ocean current running by Cape Hatteras is the Gulf Stream.
5. Cape Hatteras has been called the "graveyard of the Atlantic" because of the dangers just offshore.
6. Throughout the state's history, the Tidewater has been one of the least populated regions.

### Section 2: Coastal Plains Region

1. The Coastal Plain takes up about a third of the area of North Carolina.
2. Two central characteristics of the Coastal Plain are its flatness and its soil.
3. The rivers of the Coastal Plain generally flow in a southeasterly direction.
4. Coastal Plain residents have generally lived in rural crossroads hamlets and small tobacco towns.
5. Before tobacco fields, the longleaf pine was the most common sight on the Coastal Plain.
6. The Coastal Plain has long attracted people of different ethnic backgrounds who came to take advantage of its dark soil and other resources.

### Section 3: Piedmont Region

1. The Piedmont region's unforgettable feature is its red clay.
2. In Latin, Piedmont means "foot of the mountains."
3. One of the key reasons sectionalism developed in the state was the lack of connection between the rivers of the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain.
4. Textiles, tobacco, and furniture were regarded as the three principal industries in the state for a large part of its history. All three industries went into a decline in the 1990s because of foreign competition.

5. Since the 1960s, Research Triangle Park located between Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, has been a leader in technology innovation.
6. Because of their slopes and slate in the soil, the Uwharries were not as thickly settled as other Piedmont areas.

#### Section 4: Mountain Region

1. The Blue Ridge forms the eastern boundary of the Appalachian Mountains, some of the oldest in the world.
2. The Blue Ridge divides the Piedmont Divide from the Mountains region. The Continental Divide runs along the Blue Ridge.
3. Until the building of the railroads in the late 1800s, travel over the Blue Ridge was expensive and laborious.
4. The highest elevation east of the Rocky Mountains is Mt. Mitchell, at 6,684 feet.
5. The Great Smoky Mountains have one of the greatest variety of plants found anywhere in the world outside of the rain forest.
6. In recent times, tourism has become the largest part of the Mountains economy. The most distinctive recent economic development has been the Christmas tree industry.

#### Section 5: North Carolina's Weather and Climate

1. North Carolina has a temperate climate, which means there are no extremes in temperature and precipitation.
2. Westerlies bring warmer air in the winter and cooler air in the summer.
3. In most places of the state, the humidity is often above 50 percent.
4. The rate of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, hail) varies considerably from place to place across the state. Most of the rain in the Piedmont mountains comes from clouds that first have to cross the mountains, where they drop most of their moisture.
5. Compared to the Great Plains states, North Carolina does not have frequent tornados. When tornados do occur, they tend to hit the sandhills Coastal Plain and certain counties in the southern half of the Coastal Plain.
6. Hurricanes bring wind and rain that create a "Storm surge" that brings a huge tide onto the beach, wiping out the sand, plants, and manmade structures in its path.