

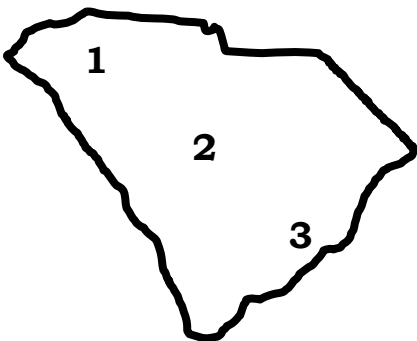
Chapter 1: The Land

Understanding the Geography of South Carolina

Objective: To become familiar with the different geographical regions of South Carolina.

Standard: Geography is not included in the 8th grade South Carolina standards; however, it provides important background information for *Standard 8-1—Early Settlements*

Mapping Activity



Review the map on the left. Ask your students to imagine a family living at each of the numbered areas. Area number 1 is in the northwestern part of the state (*near Greenville*), area number 2 is in the center of the state (*near Columbia*), while area number 3 is along the eastern coastline (*near Charleston*).

Discuss how the living environment is different in each location. Consider the climate, geography (*rivers, lakes, oceans, mountains, etc.*), and overall setting. Ask your students to tell you which family would have an easier time getting to the beach—the one living in Greenville, or the one living on the east coast in Charleston? Which family could easily go camping in the mountains?

Language Arts Integration

Ask your students to prepare a **Table of Contents** for a book entitled, *The Geography of South Carolina*. They should come up with 4 or 5 chapters that they feel are appropriate for a book of this title. For example, sample chapters might to discuss the rivers, beaches, the Atlantic Ocean, or the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ask your students to tell you why it wouldn't be necessary to have a chapter on South Carolina volcanoes.

Discussion Exercise

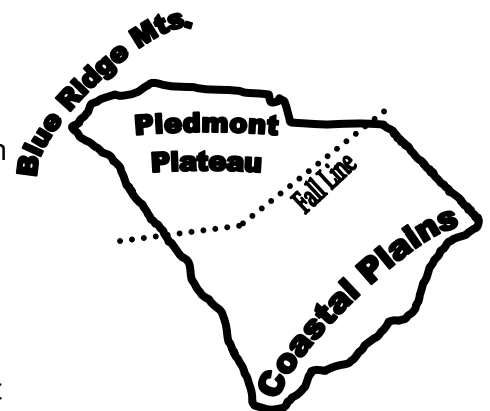
Discuss the major geographic landmarks that currently exist in the area near your school (*such as rivers, lakes, mountains, roads, etc.*). Did these exist 500 years ago? If so, how did they have an impact on the lives of Native Americans living at that time?

Learning Terminology

Review the map on the right, which gives a broad overview of South Carolina's geographic regions.

Give your students a copy of this map, and ask them to try to break it down into the six specific geographic regions (*Coastal Zone, Outer Coastal Plain, Inner Coastal Plain, Sand Hills, Piedmont, and the Blue Ridge Mountains*). Discuss how each different region received its name.

Notice that the Coastal Region is actually broken into three different parts (*Coastal Zone, Outer Coastal Plain, and Inner Coastal Plain*). Why is it necessary to divide the Coastal Region into smaller parts? (**answer:** *the geography changes very quickly as you move inland from the ocean. For example, if you are directly on the beach—or the Coastal Zone—there is nothing but sand, while a few miles inland—the Coastal Plain—is covered with forest.*)



Map of Geographic Regions