

Our State Geography in a Snap: Three Regions Overview ^[1]

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The three landforms of North Carolina make up the three major geographic regions of the state: the **Coastal Plain** ^[3], the **Piedmont** ^[4], and the **Mountains** ^[5]. The Coastal Plain Region is usually divided into two sub regions: the Outer Coastal Plain, commonly referred to as the Tidewater; and the Inner Coastal, which is less impacted by the effects of the ocean as it is located further inland.

North Carolina regions by county



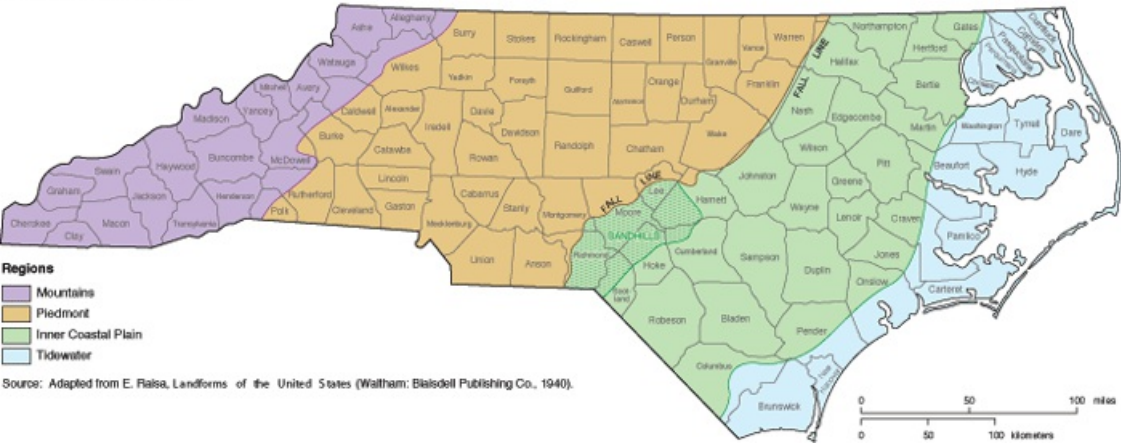
[Click to see a large version](#)

^[6]

[View the list of North Carolina counties.](#) ^[7]

North Carolina physical regions

Figure 1a. Physical Regions

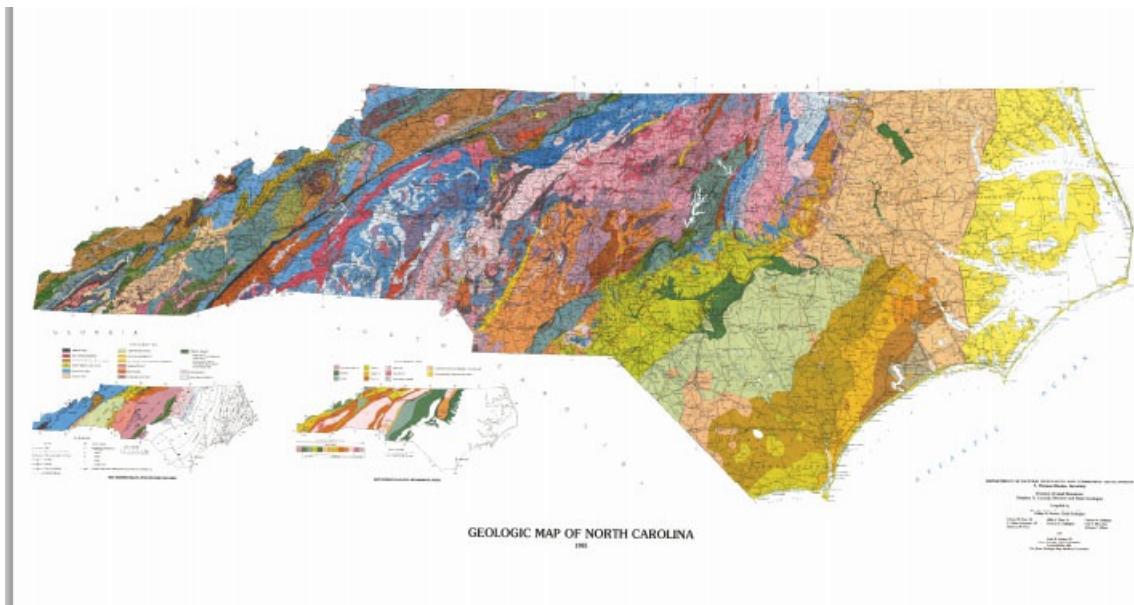


Source: Adapted from E. Raisz, *Landforms of the United States* (Waltham: Blaisdell Publishing Co., 1940).

Physical boundaries that divide the regions

^[8]

^[3]



Link to 1985 Geologic Map of North Carolina. From North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

[9]

Sources:

"Geography of North Carolina," *North Carolina Department of Public Instruction*, <https://www.dpi.nc.gov> [10] (accessed March 26, 2012).

Raisa, E. 1940. *Landforms of the United States* Reprinted in *The North Carolina Atlas Revisited*.

NCDENR. 1985 Geologic Map of North Carolina (links to a number of maps) <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/1985-state-geologic-map> [9] (accessed September 2, 2015).

Additional Resources:

North Carolina One Map. North Carolina Imagery Portal. <https://www.nconemap.gov/pages/imagery> [11] (accessed September 2, 2015).

Image Credits:

North Carolina Geological Survey. *Geologic map of North Carolina: North Carolina Geological Survey, General Geologic Map*. 1985. <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/1985-state-geologic-map> [9] (accessed September 2, 2015).

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