



# North Carolina: People, Places, & Progress

## Chapter 1: The Land Where We Live

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

#### Focused Reading

**Instructions:** Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Scientists refer to short-term atmospheric conditions as \_\_\_\_\_ and to long-term conditions as \_\_\_\_\_. In general, everywhere in North Carolina has a \_\_\_\_\_ climate, which means there are no extremes in \_\_\_\_\_ and precipitation.
2. North Carolina's \_\_\_\_\_ run about the same from Jockey's Ridge to the Blue Ridge.
3. These \_\_\_\_\_ bring warmer air in the \_\_\_\_\_ and cooler air in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Fayetteville and the surrounding \_\_\_\_\_ tend to have more days with a temperature above \_\_\_\_\_ degrees than any other place in the state.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a measure of the amount of moisture in the air. In most places of the state, the humidity is often above \_\_\_\_\_ percent.
6. The rate of \_\_\_\_\_ (rain, sleet, snow, hail) varies considerably from place to place across the state.
7. The highest levels of rain occur in the southwest \_\_\_\_\_, because the westerlies bring summer storms from the Great Plains. Because there is so much precipitation in the mountains, the \_\_\_\_\_ is the driest part of the state.
8. Anywhere in North Carolina can get snow, but the \_\_\_\_\_ get the bulk of it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Some of the worst weather in the state occurs when the \_\_\_\_\_ is just around freezing, and the rain turns to \_\_\_\_\_. These ice storms happen most often in the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The whole state experiences \_\_\_\_\_ during the summer.
11. Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ come with the storm fronts. Tornadoes are funnel-shaped storms whose \_\_\_\_\_ winds can reach over 200 miles per hour.
12. When tornadoes do occur, they tend to hit the \_\_\_\_\_ and certain counties in the southern half of the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ are tropical storms that bring high winds and heavy rains. North Carolina's hurricanes most often develop over the \_\_\_\_\_, where they pick up enough moisture to create a huge \_\_\_\_\_ (rotation) of water high in the atmosphere.
14. First, the wind and rain create a " \_\_\_\_\_ " that brings a huge \_\_\_\_\_ onto the beach, wiping out the \_\_\_\_\_, plants, and man-made structures in its path.
15. Second, the \_\_\_\_\_ can do great damage.
16. Third, hurricanes usually slow up and weaken over \_\_\_\_\_, because they can no longer suck up water from the \_\_\_\_\_. They end up dumping their \_\_\_\_\_ onto the state, causing widespread \_\_\_\_\_.