

North Carolina

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND PROGRESS



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Dr. Gary Freeze

**Clairmont Press**

Atlanta, Georgia

About the Author



Dr. Gary R. Freeze has been teaching North Carolinians about themselves for more than thirty years, first at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC State University, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, and, since 1994, at Catawba College. In addition to teaching and writing about state history, he has been active in many organizations that promote it, including the North Caroliniana Society, the Historical Society of North Carolina, and the Junior Tar Heel Historians Association. His other books include an award-winning trilogy on the history of Catawba County. He has also appeared on television in both the United States and Great Britain to talk about the state. Dr. Freeze's dedication to his craft has earned him membership in the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the highest honors given state residents. The Statesville native earned all his college degrees at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead-Cain Scholar. He swears that he eats both kinds of barbecue.

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Editor: Anna Welles

Design: John Clavijo, Dori Nicholson, Whitney Williams

Picture Research & Photography: Reggie Lankford

Maps: Spacial Graphics

Printer: RR Donnelley Print Solutions, Willard, Ohio

Printed: October 2016; First Printing

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1-56733-275-7

Printed in the U.S.A.

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To the Students

Why study a state's history? Given today's emphasis on learning about the whole world, it may not be apparent why you should be interested about something as small as North Carolina. The answer, however, is simple: Everything global has a local basis, and your locality at the moment is North Carolina. Americans today are connected closely to the whole world, but they still live in fifty different units of government called states, and states matter in their lives.

Why? States provide physical, educational, social, and occupational needs. They enforce law and order, help the unfortunate, reward the worthy, and set up many of the rules that give their citizens opportunities for a productive life. States also give people a special identity, something to call themselves—in our case, Carolinians or Tar Heels—and feel proud when they do it. Your state gives you a place that can be your home, no matter if you are a native or a newcomer, no matter whether you live here your whole life or leave next year and come back later.

Each state is more than just the land within its boundaries, or its particular approach to government, or its location within the nation. A state has a story that mixes history, culture, literature, folklore, nature, and a wide range of weird and wonderful subjects. In our case, North Carolina's particular mix of geography, heritage, and habit makes us distinctive among Americans. Although North Carolinians have shared the general history of our country, we have done so in our own way, sometimes at a different pace, often in a different direction, as I show in this book. I have done my best to help you learn how and why we have taken certain paths, made one decision instead of another, and struggled to better ourselves. My hope is that the state's story will become part of your story.

—Dr. Gary R. Freeze



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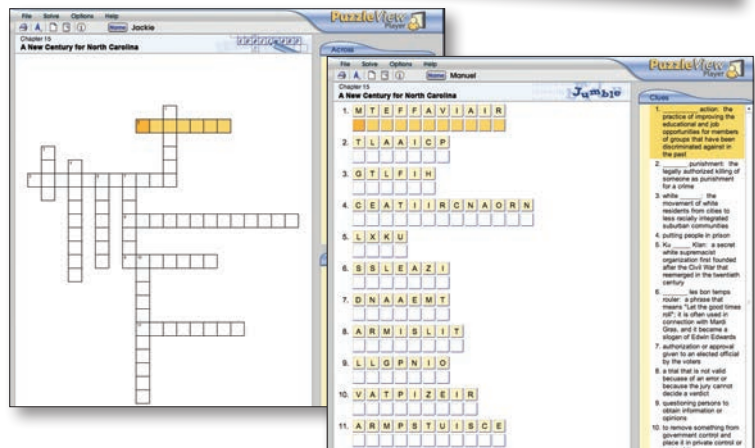
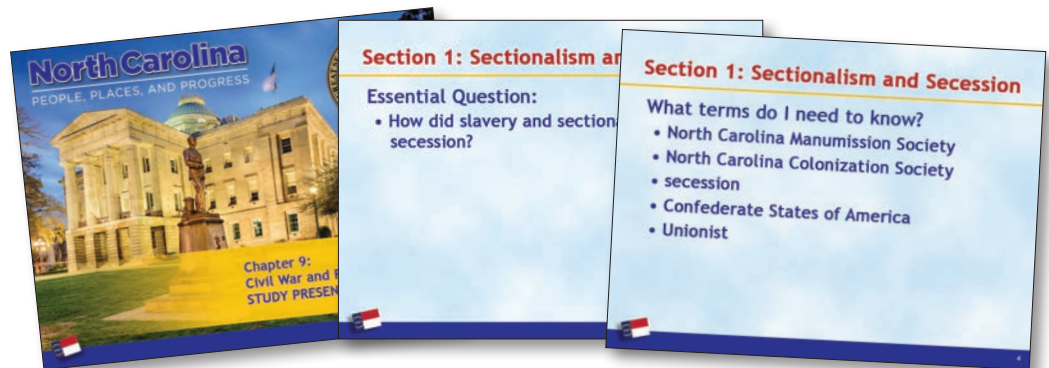
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Your study of North Carolina is not just about learning the past. It is about understanding life today and about getting the education you need to be an informed citizen of our state for the future. Before long, you will have the opportunity to vote. Exercising your right to vote brings the responsibility to be informed about issues and candidates so that together we can build a better state.

Using the resources in this program, you can learn more and achieve at higher levels as you consider the complex history of North Carolina. Learning about government and citizenship is another important part of your education. Geography and economics play a role in our lives, too, and we will have many challenges ahead managing both our natural and human resources in ways that make our state the best it can be.

Studying this textbook and taking advantage of the features listed here will increase your knowledge. This knowledge will help you become a better student. More importantly, it will help you become a better citizen! Perhaps, one day, your name will be in a book like this one. Students in 22nd-century North Carolina may read about your contributions to improving our great state!

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