

NORTH CAROLINA

HISTORY

North Carolina has been home to Native nations, English colonists, soldiers, mill workers and scientists. Each of them helped build the state.

The First Peoples

People have lived in North Carolina for more than 12,000 years. By the 1500s, many Native nations lived here. The Cherokee lived in the mountains. The Catawba lived in the hills of the Piedmont. The Tuscarora lived on the Coastal Plain, and smaller nations lived along the coast. They grew corn, beans and squash.

English Colonists

In 1585, English settlers built a fort on Roanoke Island. It did not last. A second group came in 1587 and became the Lost Colony. In 1663, the king of England gave the land called Carolina to eight men who had helped him. Bath, the oldest town, began in 1705. In 1712, North Carolina became a separate **colony** from South Carolina.

The Tuscarora War

Settlers kept moving onto Tuscarora land, and traders sold some Tuscarora people as slaves. In 1711, Tuscarora warriors attacked farms along the Neuse and Pamlico rivers and killed more than 100 settlers. Soldiers from South Carolina and their Native allies fought back. They captured the Tuscarora fort of Neoheroke in 1713. Many Tuscarora then moved north to New York.

The Revolution

In April 1776, North Carolina's leaders met at Halifax. They told their men in Congress to vote for

independence from Britain. No colony had done that before. **Patriots** had already beaten a force loyal to the king at Moores Creek Bridge. In 1781, a British army won the Battle of Guilford Courthouse but lost about a quarter of its soldiers. North Carolina became the 12th state in 1789.

A Growing State

Raleigh was laid out as the capital in 1792. The University of North Carolina opened in 1795. It was one of the country's first public universities. About 330,000 people were enslaved in North Carolina by 1860, and many worked in tobacco and cotton fields. In 1838, United States soldiers moved most of the Cherokee west to what is now Oklahoma. Some stayed in the mountains. The Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Lumbee and other tribes live in North Carolina today.



War and New Work

In 1861, North Carolina left the United States and joined the **Confederacy**. In January 1865, Union forces captured Fort Fisher, which guarded the port of Wilmington. In April, a Confederate army surrendered at a farmhouse near Durham. Slavery ended that year. After the war, people built railroads and factories. Mills in Piedmont towns spun cotton into cloth. In 1959, the state opened Research Triangle Park, where scientists work on medicine and computers.

NORTH CAROLINA THROUGH TIME

1585	1663	1711	1776	1789	1795	1838	1865	1959
English fort on Roanoke Island	The king gives away Carolina	The Tuscarora War begins	Leaders meet at Halifax	North Carolina is the 12th state	The state university opens	Cherokee are moved west	Surrender near Durham	Research Triangle Park opens

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Virginia Dare	Born on Roanoke Island in 1587 to English parents.
Junaluska	Cherokee leader. He came back from the West.
Dolley Madison	First Lady born in Guilford County.
James K. Polk	The 11th president. Born near Charlotte.
Michael Jordan	Basketball star who grew up in Wilmington.

WORDS TO KNOW

colony	land ruled by a faraway country
independence	freedom from another country's rule
Patriot	a colonist who fought to be free of Britain
Confederacy	11 states that left the Union