

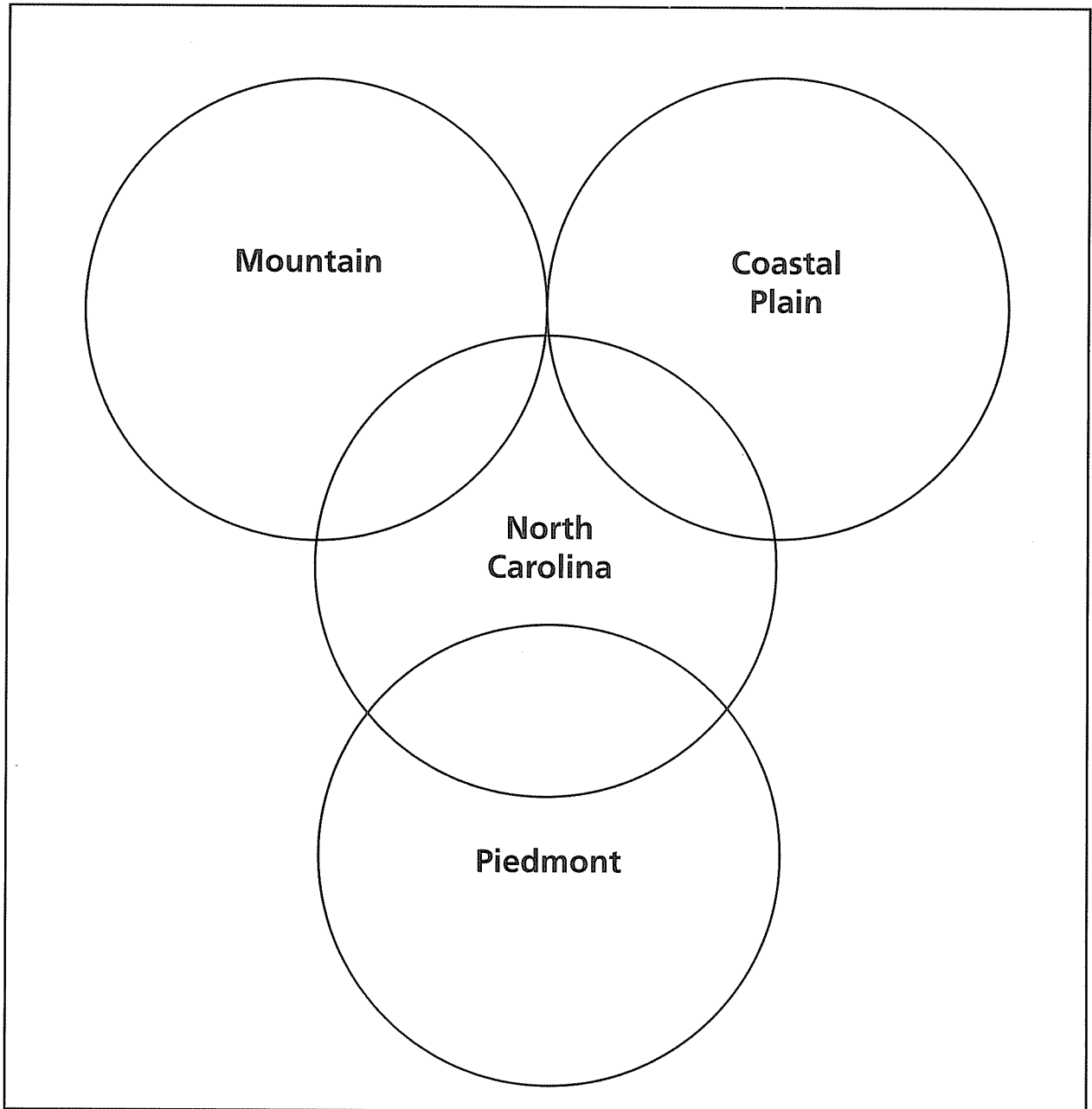
CHAPTER
1

UNIT 1

A Land of Diversity

Use the following diagram to examine what the geographic regions of North Carolina have in common and how they differ.

- a. In the circles for each region, list words or phrases indicating aspects of their geography that make them unique. Consider such items as elevation, landforms, and natural resources.
- b. In the spaces where the circles overlap, list the geographic features all parts of the state share.





A Land of Diversity

- North Carolina has three main geographic regions: Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountains.
- The Outer Banks, a long chain of barrier islands along the coast, and the Tidewater, are parts of the Coastal Plain.
- Moving east to west across the state, the land rises from sea level to rolling hills to the highest peaks in the Appalachian Mountain range.
- North Carolina's mild climate comes from its position in relation to the equator and from its nearness to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Appalachian Mountains affect climate by contributing to cooler temperatures in the mountains and by acting as a barrier to cold air moving east across the continent.
- All parts of the state receive roughly the same amount of precipitation throughout the year.
- Coastal winds are constantly reshaping the state's coastline.
- The soil in North Carolina varies from region to region with the thickest, most fertile soil in the Coastal Plain and the thinnest, rockiest soil in the Appalachian Mountains.
- North Carolina's rich natural resources include rocks and minerals, a wide variety of plants and animals, and vast saltwater and freshwater resources.



A Land of Diversity

topography
loam
Piedmont
Sun Belt

geographic region
Coastal Plain
fall line
environment

Outer Banks
Tidewater
climate
natural resource

A. Completion

Select the term or name that best completes the sentence.

1. The _____ of North Carolina is generally moderate year-round.
2. Stretching inland from the ocean is a flat region called the _____.
3. Water is one example of a valuable _____.
4. North Carolina's _____ is divided into three distinct regions.
5. The _____ is an area of rocky rapids and low waterfalls.

B. Matching

Match the definition in the second column with the word in the first column. Write the appropriate letter next to the word.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Outer Banks | a. all the living and nonliving things in a region |
| _____ 2. Piedmont | b. a strip of warm-weather states |
| _____ 3. climate | c. a mixture of clay, sand, and decaying plants |
| _____ 4. geographic region | d. a hilly region east of the Appalachians |
| _____ 5. environment | e. a low-lying area of swamps, lakes, and rivers |
| _____ 6. Sun Belt | f. a long chain of sandy islands |
| _____ 7. Tidewater | g. a part of nature that people use in some way |
| _____ 8. primary source | h. a large area of land with similar features |
| _____ 9. loam | i. a firsthand account |
| _____ 10. natural resource | j. the main kind of weather in a region |

C. Writing

Imagine that you are a travel writer. Use each of the following terms in a short article about the geography of North Carolina. Underline each term you use.

Piedmont Tidewater Outer Banks fall line Coastal Plain



North Carolina's Land Regions

A. Taking Notes

As you read this section, use the following chart to note the main features of the three regions of North Carolina.

Region	Features
Coastal Plain	
Piedmont	
Mountains	

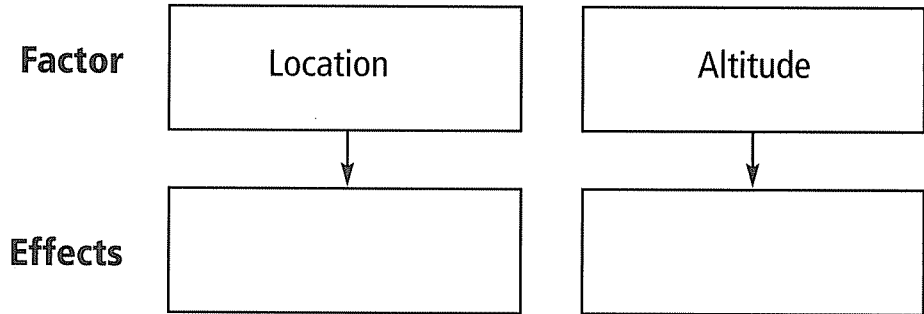
B. Finding Main Ideas

In the space below, describe the types of bodies of water that form part of the state's physical geography.

North Carolina's Climate and Weather

A. Recognizing Effects

Use the information on pages 6–7 to fill out the chart below, explaining the influence of location and altitude on North Carolina's climate.



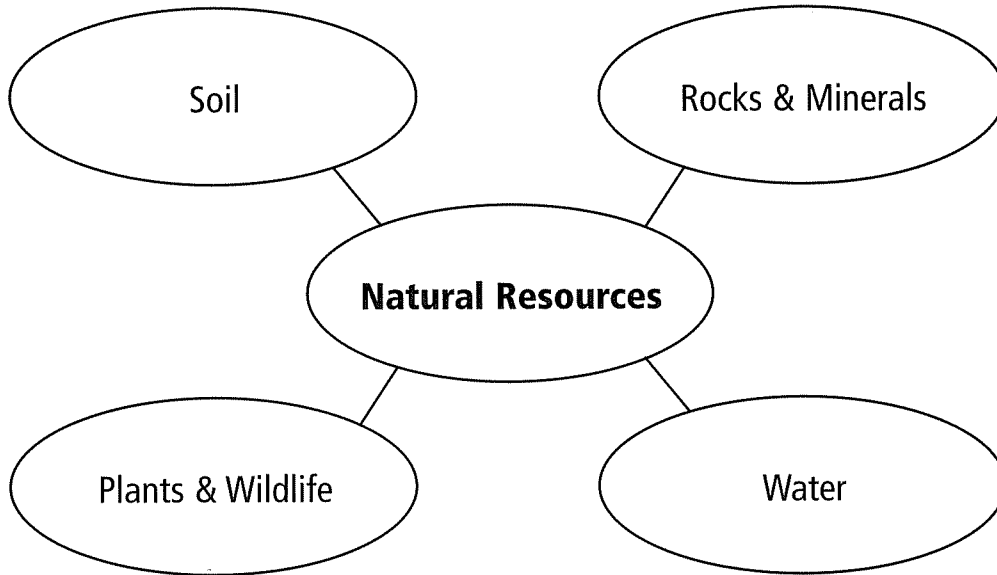
B. Making Generalizations

In the space below, describe the positive and negative impact of wind on North Carolina.

North Carolina's Natural Resources

A. Categorizing

As you read this section, fill out the web below with information about North Carolina's natural resources.



B. Finding Main Ideas

In the space below, define the following terms and explain their importance to human life.

environment

natural resources



A Land of Diversity

Evaluating

Read the statements below about North Carolina geography. In the blank before each item, write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if it is false.

- _____ 1. The Piedmont is a hilly region lying between the Outer Banks and the Coastal Plain.
- _____ 2. The Appalachians form a mountain backbone that stretches down much of the eastern coast of North America.
- _____ 3. North Carolina is not part of the Sun Belt.
- _____ 4. Hurricanes are an important feature of North Carolina's weather.
- _____ 5. Wind erosion is a serious problem on the Outer Banks.
- _____ 6. Despite its abundant coal reserves, North Carolina has a limited range of rocks and minerals.
- _____ 7. Water resources are plentiful in North Carolina, both along the coast and in inland areas.
- _____ 8. The state's wealth of trees has allowed it to become a major producer of wooden furniture.
- _____ 9. Loam, the richest soil in North Carolina, is found mainly in the mountains.
- _____ 10. Altitude and location have little influence on North Carolina's moderate climate.