

At a Glance: The Landform Regions of South Carolina and their Counties

Overview

This lesson is designed to help students become more familiar with the landform regions of South Carolina, those areas of South Carolina with similar economic activities, life styles, and who share similar landscapes. The lesson is also designed to help students become more familiar with the location of counties within the landform regions.

Connection to the Curriculum

Geography, history, science and language arts.

South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards

None

Social Studies Literacy Elements

F. Ask geographic questions: Where is it located? Why is it there? What is significant about its location? How is its location related to that of other people, places, and environments?

G. Make and record observations about the physical and human characteristics of places

I. Use maps to observe and interpret geographic information and relationships

Time

One fifty-minute class period.

Materials

South Carolina: An Atlas

South Carolina Interactive Geography (SCIG) CD-ROM

Computer

Fact sheet on the six landform regions of South Carolina

Overhead projector

Overhead projector markers

Objectives

1. Identify the landform regions of South Carolina.
2. Identify counties that are in the same landform regions of South Carolina.

Suggested Procedures

1. The teacher should make a transparency of the Landform Regions map of South Carolina, which is found on page 6 of *South Carolina: An Atlas*.
2. The teacher should put the map transparency on the overhead projector and point out the various landform regions to the students.
3. The teacher will divide the class into six groups and assign a landform region to each group.
4. The teacher will distribute *South Carolina: An Atlas* and the Fact sheets to each group.

5. Each group will need to come up with a creative approach to teach the class about the characteristics of their assigned landform region. The SCIG CD-ROM should be used as a resource for this activity. Landform regions are discussed in SCIG in the Physical Systems module under Physical Processes and also in the Places and Regions module under regions.
6. The group members will also identify the counties in their assigned landform regions by writing the names of the counties in the appropriate places on a transparency that shows the South Carolina counties.
Note: There will be some overlap of counties between landform regions.

Lesson Extensions

1. Students can create a floor map of the South Carolina landform regions.
2. More in-depth study can be done on each region to discover what industries and other businesses are located there, what is the main source of revenue, what are the main tourist attractions.

Suggested Evaluation

1. Student participation in cooperative activity.
2. Accuracy and creativity of presentations.
3. Accuracy of map labeling for group presentation.

Resources

Kovacik, Charles F. and John J. Winberry. *South Carolina: The Making of a Landscape*.
University of South Carolina Press: Columbia, SC, 1987.

South Carolina: An Atlas and South Carolina Interactive Geography (SCIG) CD-ROM
Produced and distributed by the South Carolina Geographic Alliance
1-888-895-2023
www.cas.sc.edu/cege

Fact Sheet

Landform Regions of South Carolina

I. BLUE RIDGE

1. A small portion of the Appalachian Mountain system.
2. Located in the extreme northern parts of Oconee, Pickens, and Greenville counties.
3. Cover 600 square miles of rugged terrain. This makes up only about 2% of the state's surface area.
4. Elevations from 1,400 feet to over 3,500 feet. Highest peaks include Sassafras Mountain (3,554 feet) and Pinnacle Mountain (3,425 feet).
5. Formed from metamorphic rock, the mountains are very resistant to erosion. The Blue Ridge formed more than 350 million years ago.

II. PIEDMONT

1. Piedmont means "foot of the mountains" in French.
2. 100 mile-wide belt between the Blue Ridge and the Sandhills.
3. Covers 10,500 square miles within South Carolina. That equals about one-third of the state's total area.
4. Elevations from 300 feet at the Sandhills margin to 1,200 feet toward the northwest near the Blue Ridge.
5. Land varies from gently rolling in the southeastern part to extremely hilly toward the northwest.
6. Piedmont rivers are long, have many tributaries, and carry large amounts of sediment.
7. Metamorphic rock.
8. Monadnocks found in this region. Examples: Paris Mountain and Glass Mountain near Greenville, King's Mountain near Blacksburg, and Table Rock near Pickens.

III. SANDHILLS

1. Rounded hills, gentle slopes. Highest elevation around 200 feet.
2. Counties: Aiken, Lexington, Richland, Kershaw, Sumter, and Chesterfield.
3. Generally define the Midlands.
4. Sand and clay soils.
5. Fall line, or Fall Zone, runs through the Sandhills and separates the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain.
6. Location of an ancient shoreline. Old beach ridges can still be seen in the Sandhills today.

IV. COASTAL PLAIN

1. Largest landform region in South Carolina. Extends from 120 to 150 miles from the Sandhills to the Atlantic Ocean. It covers nearly 20,000 square miles, or about two-thirds of the state's total area.
2. Topography varies from nearly flat and featureless to a rolling surface similar to the lower Piedmont.
3. Sedimentary rock made up of mud, silt, sand, and other substances of marine origin.

A. INNER COASTAL PLAIN

1. Also called the Upper Pine Belt.
2. Elevation ranges from 130 feet to 300 feet. Can be described as rolling and hilly.
3. Many bottomland swamps and rich farmland located in this region. In fact, this region is sometimes referred to as the agricultural heartland of South Carolina.

B. OUTER COASTAL PLAIN

1. Also called the Lower Pine Belt.
2. Ranges from 30 miles to 50 miles wide.
3. Elevation ranges from sea level to about 130 feet. Can be described as flat.
4. In the lower parts of this region, rivers rise and fall with the tides. For this reason, many rice and indigo plantations were once located here.

V. COASTAL ZONE

1. An area of considerable diversity. May be divided into three sub-regions:
 - a. The Grand Strand = focus of the state's major recreational developments. Includes large motels, hotels, and resorts.
 - b. The Santee Delta = 20 miles wide. Largest delta on the east coast.
 - c. The Sea Islands = begins south of the Santee Delta and extends for more than 100 miles to the Savannah River and into Georgia. Some islands have been developed, such as Kiawah, Fripp, and Hilton Head. Others remain in a more pristine state, such as Bull, Hunting, and Daufuskie.
2. From Georgetown to Beaufort:
 - a. Many plantation houses.
 - b. Early churches.
- c. Old homes which preserve South Carolina's colonial and antebellum architectural traditions.
3. Coastline 185 miles long.
4. Coastal Zone extends about 10 miles into the interior of the state. Equals about 1.2 million acres of land and water.
5. Erosion does occur along the beaches. This endangers hotels and other structures along the beach. Storms also cause erosion. Often beach renourishment programs are implemented which truck sand from inland dunes to replenish the beaches.