

Mount Airy Museum of Regional History

Pre Visit Activities

Lay of the Land

1. Label the major geographic regions on this map of North Carolina.



2. Why were the mountains of North Carolina difficult for people to settle?

Answers may vary, but they should include some variation of the following: Mountains were difficult to settle because they were far from the coast of the state where most settlers were, difficult to travel to from either the coast or the other colonies because of no existing roads, etc.

Growing Up Native American

3. Define the terms wigwam and teepee. How are these two structures different?



Wigwam: a domed room dwelling used by Native Americans used in the Southeast, Southwest and the West. Made of bark, rushes, or skins spread over arched poles latched together.

Teepee: a Native American tent usually of conical shape; usually found in the Great Plains

The significant differences between a wigwam and a teepee are their architectural shape and the fact that teepees are portable and wigwams are usually permanent dwellings.

4. How did the native peoples help the settlers?

Native Americans helped the settlers grow regional crops such as corn and grapes. Native Americans also helped the settlers learn the lay of the land so that farming and hunting could prosper.

5. What happened to Native Americans once more settlers moved into their land?
Settlement by European Americans pushed Native Americans off their land. Also, Native Americans contracted European diseases they did not have defenses against, killing many of them.
6. How did children play a role in village life for Native Americans?

Answers will vary, but may include: Native American children identified with their mother's family, so they would learn all of the traditions of the tribe from the matriarch of the family, the grandmother. Girls learned from their mothers, grandmothers, and aunts from their mother's brothers. Essentially their role in the village was to learn the customs of the tribe or clan.

Movin' Along

7. Define these key terms and people: Great Wagon Road, the Scots-Irish, the Germans and the Moravians.

Great Wagon Road: path the settlers followed down the valley of the Shenandoah River; 731 mile trail gradually widened; brought settlers in from the North including the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The Scots-Irish: some of the first people to settle the backcountry; the Scots-Irish in North Carolina mostly migrated from Pennsylvania

The Germans: some of the first people who settled the backcountry, came to be called "Dutch" even though none of them were from Holland

The Moravians: close-knit German speaking community; arrived in 1752; first came from Pennsylvania

8. Why was trade important to the early settlers?

Since most settlers couldn't grow or make everything they needed to survive in the backcountry, they had to trade—barter—with their neighbors. If a settler had a surplus of crops or other goods, they could trade with locals for other essential items.



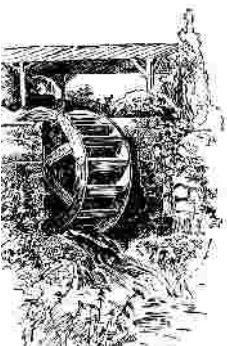
9. What year did settlers begin to move from the Coastal Plain to the Mountain region of North Carolina?

Around 1730 settlers began to move from the Coastal Plain to the Mountain region of the state. By the 1750s enough settlers had moved into the backcountry towns could be created.

Life on the Frontier

10. Why was water so important to settlers? Be sure to define the term grist mill in your answer.

Grist mill: place to grind grain into flour



Every small community had a grist mill in order to make flour and meal for its citizens, but for the mill to operate a water source had to be nearby. Water was also used for drinking and washing clothes as well as watering crops and livestock.

- 11 What was daily life like on the North Carolina frontier? Answers will vary, but may include: families built their homes out of local wood, settlers grew their own vegetables, spun their own thread and yarn to make their own clothing, and nourished their own livestock.
- 12 Why do you think settlers began to move from other areas to North Carolina's mountains? Answers will vary, but may include: freedom—landowners could be their own bosses; draw upon their land in good times and bad for food and shelter; plentiful land for farming

Railroad's Comin' Round the Bend

- 13 Define these key terms: plank road, Rip Van Winkle state.

Plank road: road made out of planks laid out like a deck across the road bed; one of the largest plank roads in North Carolina ran from Fayetteville to the town of Salem (now known as Winston-Salem)

Rip Van Winkle state: North Carolina's nickname in the early 1800s because the state supposedly fell asleep and made little social and economic progress.

- 14 What type of transportation did most settlers use to travel long distances before railroads?

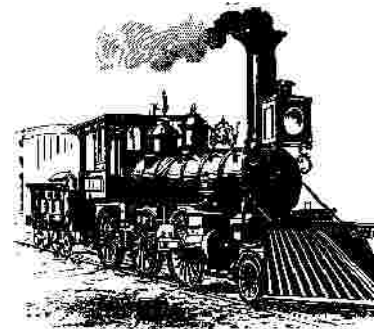
Most settlers would either have to ride horse back or on another live stock animal. If they were lucky, they might have a wagon to use to travel long distances while carrying materials such as crops or hand-made products like baskets.

- 15 How did railroads improve trade throughout the state?

Railroads made trade much easier throughout the state because it made transportation of goods quicker and cheaper.

- 16 How did railroads help the expansion of the backcountry?

More settlers learned about the backcountry because of the railroads. Railroads helped the backcountry grow because more towns sprang up around depots and they became central places of trade in their communities.



Keeping the Factory Hot

- 17 Define these key terms: bright leaf tobacco, Tobacco Road, railroad towns.

Bright leaf tobacco: flue-cured tobacco; tobacco cured by controlled heat, which turns the leaves yellow

Tobacco Road: area between Wilson and Durham, North Carolina became known as Tobacco Road because so much tobacco was shipped to the factories; me internationally famous for tobacco in 1900s

Railroad towns: towns that sprang up around railroad depots; became key trading spots in communities

18 How did the growth of industry affect new towns?

New towns, that grew up around new railroad depots, became essential places of trade and as industries boomed the towns expanded as well.

