3. **Piedmont Region**

**Piedmont**: at the foot of the mountain.

- Located between the fall line and NC mountains.
- Middle of the state.
- Red Clay is the major soil characteristic.
- All of NC’s largest cities are found here.
The Piedmont Region is the center of the states urban population and headquarters for business, manufacturing, and technology industries.

**Urban: city**

Largest cities in the state are located here:

- Charlotte (the largest)
- Raleigh
- Greensboro
- Durham
- Winston-Salem

Railroads helped these cities grow.
NC was once one of the world's leading producers of the following:
- textiles
- tobacco
- furniture

With many of our industry jobs going over seas, this region is having to change its focus of manufacturing to banking, technical & biotechnical fields.

NC was once the leading gold producing state before the California Gold Rush. Gold was even minted in Charlotte.

Did You Know?
Kudzu was originally brought to NC to help control the erosion of the piedmont soil. Kudzu is a native plant of Asia and can grow up to several feet in one day.
Evolution of the Piedmont

- Traditional farming soon gave way to the blue collar factory jobs of the piedmont.

  Textiles, Tobacco, and now Technology have all impacted the way people in the piedmont work and live.

  * Much of our area still contain Mill Village houses

**Mill Villages:** Clusters of homes and communities surrounding a textile mill.

With the moving of textile jobs overseas and to Mexico, the piedmont has moved to white collar professional jobs. This change has made Charlotte one of our nations most important cities.

  *Charlotte is considered the center for international banking (Bank of America’s Headquarters)

  *NASCAR also calls Charlotte NC home. NASCAR’S Hall of Fame is here!

The Piedmont also is the home to such companies as Food Lion (NC’s Largest private employer) and many other large corporations.
The Piedmont is considered the center of higher education for our state.

Old Salem, Asheboro Zoo, Universities, Farming, Manufacturing, Industry, Research, Technology:
THE PIEDMONT HAS IT ALL!!
4. Mountains
located between the Piedmont and Tennessee
Last region to be settled. Why?

- Part of the Appalachian Mountain Chain.
- **Elevation** ranges from about 1500 to 6600 feet.

**Elevation**: height above sea level

*Mount Mitchell (6684ft), in Yancey County, is the highest peak East of the Mississippi!*
One of the nations Indian Reservations is located in the mountains. 

CHEROKEE INDIAN RESERVATION
The mountains are very rural with close knit families.

Rural: Country

The first settlers in the mountains typically lived in coves.

Cove: valleys cut out by streams wide enough for farming.

Asheville is the largest city in this region.
• Agriculture is important.
• Major **cash crops** are tobacco and Christmas trees.
• Mining, logging, and tree farming are major contributors to the economy of the mountains.

DYK? Christmas tree farming & tourism are the mountains #1 income source

**Cash Crop:**
Crop grown to sell for profit.
Tourism $$$$ is most important to the Mountain Region

People visit here for the Blue Ridge Parkway, Appalachian Trail, Skiing, Mining, Hiking, Arts & Crafts, Music, and to get away from the city.
Biltmore House located in Asheville, NC was built as a vacation home for the Vanderbilt Family to get away from the summer heat of New York City.

DYK? Biltmore House is the largest privately owned home in America. It encompasses more than 8,000 acres. Built by George Vanderbilt, was completed in 1895. Vanderbilt commissioned Richard Morris Hunt to create the 250-room mansion modeled after a French chateau. Today the Estate encompasses the house, gardens, restaurants, gift shops, inn and winery.
Geographic Regions of NC Summary

North Carolina

Mountains
- High Peaks
- Very Rural
- Rocky Soil
- Tourism Based

Piedmont
- Rolling Hills
- Industry
- Many Urban Areas
- Largest Cities in NC
- Center of Higher Education

Coastal Plain
- Sandy Soil
- Very Fertile
- Agriculture Oriented
- Military Bases
- Rural Towns

Tidewater
- Outer Banks
- Inlets
- Sounds
- Fertile
- Ports/Trade
- Tourism