

Chapter 14



Stars on the National Stage

Chapter Preview

Terms: Equal Rights Amendment, subsidy, metropolitan, urban sprawl, urban renewal, franchise, interstate banking, historic preservation, cultural renewal, ridge law, global warming

People: Jim Holshouser, Jesse Helms, Jim Hunt, Eva Clayton, Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt, Sr., Ben Long

Places: the Triangle, Piedmont Triad, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Princeville

Opposite page, above: Salisbury native Elizabeth Hanford Dole took the oath of office as the state's first female U.S. senator in 2002. With her is her husband, former Senator Bob Dole of Kansas. **Right:** Michael Jordan, from Wilmington, went from being a Carolina All-American to an NBA star with the Chicago Bulls and Washington Wizards. Jordan was also part-owner of the Wizards.

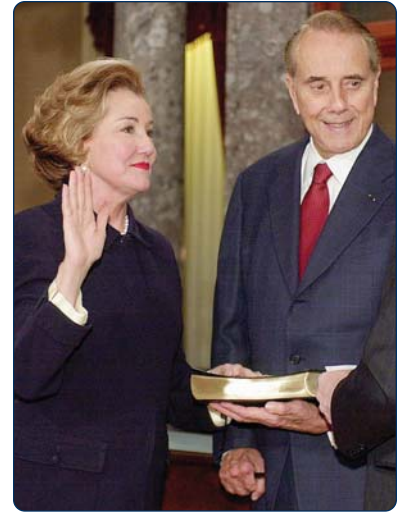
As television became a part of everyday life after the 1960s, North Carolinians became more known to all Americans. It seemed that every year another native of the state gained national attention and admiration. Why? Because North Carolinians could be determined, competitive people. They worked hard to achieve their goals. They let adversity take them to the next step up. In the 1976 Olympics, for example, Leroy Walker became track coach of the U.S. team after decades of being overlooked at North Carolina Central University. Dean Smith of UNC won a gold medal as the basketball coach, even though he did not win the college national title until six years later. Two other Tar Heels were more notable than most in the last decades of the century.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole, who grew up in Salisbury in the 1950s, told childhood friends that "I want to be the first woman president of the United States." She went to Duke University, then to Harvard Law School at a time when young women were expected to marry and settle down. She went to work in Washington, D.C., in the federal office that helped consumers with their problems. She was then appointed to the Federal Trade Commission and married Senator Bob Dole of Kansas. Later she served in the cabinets of two presidents, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. In 1991, she became the head of the national Red Cross. In 1996, Bob Dole ran for president, and Elizabeth could have become First Lady. In 1999, at the urging of many North Carolinians, she decided to run for president herself. She did not win, but she did become the most widely accomplished woman in American politics in the twentieth century.



Michael J. Jordan, who grew up in Wilmington during the turmoil of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, wanted to win at every game he played. By the time he was a junior in the recently integrated Laney High School, he had become a star basketball player. The UNC All-American went on to the National Basketball Association and became a star for the Chicago Bulls. He also became one of the most recognizable people in the world. Almost everyone associated with basketball in the twentieth century agreed: Jordan was the “best” player ever. Period. These accomplishments came just a generation after segregation, when Michael’s parents could not go to white schools.

The last decades of the 1900s were heady times for North Carolina. It moved from being a manufacturing state to one involved in the many new technologies sweeping the world. It diversified its politics and its economy. The state became a model for the rest of the nation.





SIGNS OF THE TIMES

POPULATION

The state's population was 5.8 million in 1980, 6.6 million in 1990, and 8.4 million in 2000. Two-thirds of the state lived in towns or cities. Charlotte, still the largest city, grew from 350,000 in 1980 to 500,000 by 2000.

THEATER

A production facility built in Wilmington led to more movies being made in the state. The sites for the movies included *Being There* (1982) at the Biltmore Estate, *The Color Purple* (1985) in Anson County, *Bull Durham* (1988) in Durham, *Days of Thunder* (1990) in Charlotte, *Last of the Mohicans* (1992) at Lake Lure, and *Nell* (1994) near the Joyce Kilmer Forest.

LITERATURE

Charles Frazier, who grew up in Asheville and studied at Duke University, published one of the most successful historical novels ever written. *Cold Mountain*, which traced the story of a Confederate deserter making his way home to Haywood County, won the National Book Award in 1997.

FOOD

Tar Heels continued to consume large quantities of Cheerwine soft drink from Salisbury, Texas Pete hot sauce from Winston-Salem, and Slim Jim beef sticks from Garner. The prize state food, however, became Krispy Kreme donuts, which were marketed nationally after 1990.

FADS

In 1974, students at UNC in Chapel Hill invented “streaking,” where groups of students stripped naked and ran through the campus. The first streak attracted 200 men and 20 women, the second almost 1,000—watched by a crowd of 6,000.

TECHNOLOGY

Passenger service on railroads had stopped by the early 1970s in the state, as interstates took most traffic. The federal government continued to fund Amtrak, which ran two trains through the state. In the 1990s, the state of North Carolina revived local service with two trains that went daily between Charlotte and Raleigh.

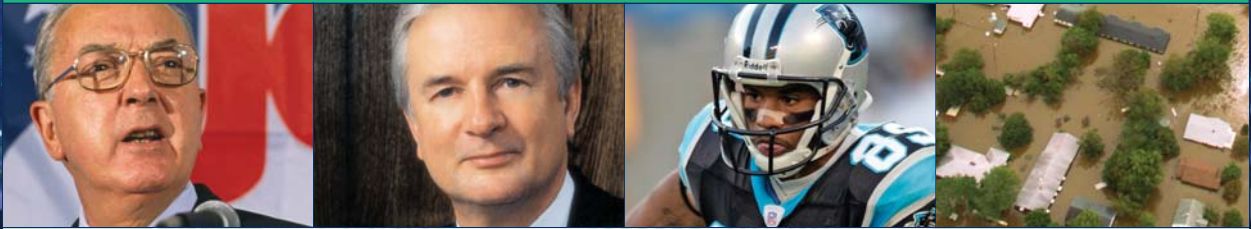
SCIENCE

Dendrochronology was developed, using the rings in the trunks of old trees to date buildings and forests. The width of the rings was matched by a computer program with what was known about weather for every year since 1500. NC State scientists concluded that one of the worst droughts ever experienced was responsible for the Lost Colonists leaving Roanoke in the late 1580s.

FASHION

Alexander Julian of Chapel Hill became one of the nation's leading designers of men's clothing. Julian, who grew up working in his father's men's shop near the University, was notable for the bright "colours" he brought to his fabrics.

Figure 29 Timeline: 1970–2000



1971
State constitution rewritten

1972
Jesse Helms elected U.S. senator

1973
Medical school established at ECU

1976
Jim Hunt elected governor

1980
Hunt became first governor to be reelected

1989
Hurricane Hugo hit state

1995
Charlotte acquired Carolina Panthers franchise

1996
Tobacco advertising restricted; Hurricane Fran

1999
Hurricane Floyd

1970

1975

1980

1985

1990

1995

2000

1976
U.S. celebrated bicentennial

1981
Sandra Day O'Connor became first female U.S. Supreme Court justice

1986
Space shuttle *Challenger* exploded

1991
Persian Gulf War

1995
Bombing of Murrah Building in Oklahoma City

TARGET READING SKILL

Reading Graphs

Defining the Skill

Using graphs to obtain information may be quicker and easier than drawing conclusions or making comparisons from written text. Graphs can make learning more meaningful and actually increase comprehension. Textbooks sometimes contain a variety of graphs, including line, bar, and circle.

When you read a graph, you should notice

- the title, which tells you the subject of the graph.
- the general parts of the graph.
- any trends.
- any information that you can develop into questions or use to answer questions.

Practicing the Skill

Look at the graph that displays the estimated hurricane damage to North Carolina agriculture from 1996 to 2004. Use the information to answer the questions that follow.

1. What is the title of the graph?
2. What does the vertical axis tell you?
3. What does the horizontal axis tell you?
4. Which hurricane was the least destructive to North Carolina's agriculture?
5. Which hurricane was the most destructive to North Carolina's agriculture?
6. What is the total cost of hurricane damage in North Carolina from 1999 to 2004?

Figure 30 Hurricane Damage to North Carolina Agriculture 1996-2004

