

# Glossary

## A

- abolitionist** one who wanted to abolish slavery in the United States as soon as possible (9)
- agrarian** a person who farmed to make a living, who also believed that farming made life worth living (8)
- agribusiness** large-scale farming operations (15)
- amendment** an addition or change to a document (5)
- annex** to add territory to a larger territory (9)
- Antifederalists** those who opposed the new government established by the U.S. Constitution (6)
- appropriate** to set aside a sum of money for a specific purpose (4)
- archaeologist** a scientist who discovers and explains the evidence of human habitation found buried in the ground (2)
- armistice** an agreement to stop fighting; the end of World War I (11)
- Articles of Confederation** the country's first constitution (6)
- artisan** a skilled craftsperson, such as a carpenter or blacksmith (8)
- assembly line** an arrangement of workers, machines, and equipment in which the product passes from operation to operation until completed (12)
- atlatl** a carved stick that had a base at right angles to the shaft used to throw a spear forward with more force and speed (2)
- attorney general** an elected official in the executive branch who handles the state's legal needs (15)
- auction** a sale to the highest bidder (11)

## B

- backcountry** the land that was "back" of the real "country," the land near the coast (4)
- bald** a mountain area usually above 6,000 feet in elevation where few trees grow (1)
- barrier island** a long chain of islands or sand spits along the state coastline (1)

- barter** to trade one item for another (8)
- bicameral** having two legislative bodies (5)
- bill** a proposed law (15)
- Bill of Rights** the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution (6)
- biotechnology** the use of living organisms to make or modify products (15)
- Black Codes** a series of laws passed during Reconstruction that recognized some rights of the freedmen but also denied freedmen many rights that whites took for granted (9)
- blacksmith** a crafter who made shoes for the animals and repaired iron tools (8)
- blockade runner** a low-lying steamship painted gray to match the ocean and fool pursuers that was able to slip through the naval blockade (9)
- Blue Ridge Parkway** a road, begun as a New Deal project, that runs along the "crest line" from Charlottesville, Virginia, to the Cherokee Reservation through the Great Smoky Mountains (12)
- bounty** a reward or extra amount (3)
- boycott** to refuse to participate in or to buy something until certain conditions are met (4)
- bright leaf tobacco** tobacco cured by controlled heat, which turned the leaf yellow; flue-cured tobacco (10)
- budget** the plan for receiving and spending money (15)
- buffalo** a man in the Tidewater region that hid rather than fight for the Confederacy (9)
- busing** the practice of taking children on buses to schools outside their neighborhood to achieve racial balance (13)
- bypass** a road that went around a city to avoid downtown congestion (13)

## C

- camp meeting** a long weekend of religious services where people came and camped (8)

**canal** a manmade water channel (6)  
**capital** seat of government (4)  
**Carolina bays** elongated depressions in the ground found in the Coastal Plain (1)  
**carpetbagger** one who came to North Carolina from a northern state to gain power and fortune (9)  
**cede** to transfer or give up (3)  
**ceremonial center** an area built by the Mississippians that allowed them to come together for religious worship, recreation, and fellowship (2)  
**charter** a contract granted by the king to individuals or groups who were to be in charge of settlement and then govern the settlers (3)  
**city council** the governing body of a city or town, headed by a mayor (15)  
**civil rights** the rights of citizens (13)  
**Civil Rights Act of 1964** legislation that made it illegal for any government office or place of business that served the public to practice segregation (13)  
**clan** an extended family of people with a common ancestor (2)  
**climate** long-term atmospheric conditions (1)  
**clubbing** when a neighborhood combined their surplus crops into one large load and trusted neighbors to go to market for them (8)  
**Coastal Plain region** that part of North Carolina that lies between the Tidewater and the Piedmont (1)  
**Cold War** the hostilities between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II; it was “cold” because it was fought mainly with words and diplomacy (13)  
**collateral** something pledged to guarantee the repayment of a loan (10)  
**collective bargaining** the ability of a union to speak for all the workers in negotiations with an employer (12)  
**colony** a group of people who settle in a distant land but who are still under the rule of their native land (2)  
**commissioner of agriculture** an elected official in the executive branch who helps farmers and consumers of farm products (15)  
**commissioner of insurance** an elected official in the executive branch who enforces insurance laws (15)  
**commissioner of labor** an elected official in the executive branch who tries to ensure the health and safety of the state’s workers

**Committee of Safety** an organization set up in each county once the war started to keep order and provide government (5)  
**common school** a school where even the most “common” family could send a boy to learn “the rudiments of education” (6)  
**community college system** state schools that provided the first two years of college education; were originally “industrial schools” established by counties (13)  
**commute** to go to and from work (13)  
**compromise** an agreement where each side gives up something and gets something it wants (6)  
**Compromise of 1850** an agreement by Congress that allowed California to enter the Union as a free state, but guaranteed the protection of slavery with a stronger fugitive slave law that ordered every American citizen to return escaped slaves (9)  
**compulsory education** a requirement that every child attend school until a specific age, unless there was a family situation that required the child to work (11)  
**Confederate States of America** the government formed by the southern states that seceded from the Union in the early 1860s (9)  
**Confiscation Act** a law passed by the new state saying that those who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the new state could have their property taken away (5)  
**conjurer** a medicine man (2)  
**conscript** to force to join the military (9)  
**consensus** the discussion of a problem until almost everyone agrees to the same action (2)  
**consolidated high school** a centrally located school for grades nine through twelve; usually combined several smaller schools into one larger school that had more teachers and offered more courses (13)  
**constituent** a person in a legislator’s district (15)  
**constitution** a set of rules and procedures for government (5)  
**cooper** a barrel maker (8)  
**council of state** nine state officials, who are elected directly by the people to perform specific tasks (15)  
**county** a jurisdiction that allowed for local government (3)  
**county commission** the governing body of a county (15)

**court of appeals** a state court that hears appeals from lower-level courts (15)

**court week** a time, once each season, when justices came to the county seat and tried cases that needed a jury trial (8)

**cove** a valley where streams cut out swathes wide enough for farming (1)

**credit** the ability to buy something now and pay for it over time (7)

**crossroads hamlets** small towns that provided goods and services to nearby farmers (1)

**Culpeper's Rebellion** a political struggle over the control of the Albemarle that arose after the Lords Proprietors tried to enforce the Navigation Acts (3)

**cultural renewal** an effort to find out the best things about the past and continue to use them (14)

**culture** the beliefs, traditions, music, art, and social institutions of a group of people who share common experiences (2)

**curriculum** the courses offered at an educational institution (7)

**customs duty** a fee paid when a good was shipped out of a port (3)

## D

**Declaration of Independence** the 1776 document issued by the Continental Congress by which the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain (5)

**Declaration of Rights** a list included with the first state constitution that set out the rights and protections citizens had (5)

**Democratic Party** political party strengthened by Andrew Jackson in the 1830s; it supported less interference by the federal government (7)

**depression** a serious downturn in economic activity; sales of goods and prices fall, manufacturing decreases, businesses close, banks fail, and people lose their jobs (12)

**dialect** a variation in the pronunciation of words in a language (2)

**discrimination** ill treatment, usually based on race, gender, class, or some other category instead of who a person is (13)

**disfranchisement** to lose the right to vote (11)

**district court** the lowest level of court in the state, generally handles traffic violations and domestic and

civil disputes (15)

**drover** one who took surplus cows to the seaports and sold them for slaughter (4)

## E

**ecosystem** all the living organisms in an area and how they interact with each other (15)

**elevation** the height above sea level (1)

**emancipation** legally freeing a slave by a master (8)

**equalization** the funding of schools in poorer counties at a greater rate than in the richer counties (11)

**Equal Rights Amendment** a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would forbid discrimination against someone because of gender; the amendment failed to be ratified (14)

**estuary** that part of a river where it meets the sea; where fresh and salt water mix (1)

**evolution** the theory that man developed from earlier, simpler life forms (12)

**expedition** a journey for a specific purpose (2)

**extortion** charging illegal fees (4)

## F

**fall line** an imaginary line that extends from near Roanoke Rapids southwest past Raleigh and Fayetteville (1)

**farmer cooperative store** a store that bought supplies, such as fertilizer, in bulk, which lowered the cost to the farmers (10)

**Farmers' Alliance** an organization to help farmers, founded in the late 1800s (10)

**Federalists** those in favor of the new government established by the U.S. Constitution (6)

**franchise** a business granted a special right to sell a product or service in a certain area (14)

**free black** a black who was not a slave (8)

**freedmen** the newly freed slaves (9)

**Freedmen's Bureau** a federal agency set up by Congress in 1865 to provide food, clothing, shelter, and education for the former slaves (9)

**free suffrage** the ability of all white males age twenty-one or over to vote in all state elections (7)

**freedom riders** whites and blacks who, together, rode public buses and attempted to integrate bus stations along their route (13)

**French and Indian War** war fought in North America from 1754 to 1761 between France and

Great Britain over which European kingdom would control North America (4)

**frontier** the area at the edge or just beyond a settled area (4)

**furnishing merchant** a storekeeper who let farmers buy fertilizer, seed, tools, and other supplies to make a crop (10)

**Fusionist** a member of the Populist and Republican parties that cooperated to elect statewide officials in the late 1890s (10)

## G

**General Assembly** the lawmaking body made up of representatives from the various necks (3)

**girdling** the process of stripping the bark from around the trunk of a tree; after time, the tree died (4)

**global warming** the gradual rise of temperatures on Earth (14)

**governor** the leader of the colony (3) or the state

**graded school** a school that required students to pass certain tests before proceeding on to the next step, or grade (10)

**grandfather clause** provided an exception to the literacy requirement for voting; clause stated that any man whose father or grandfather had voted before 1867 could vote anyway, since that family had always done so (11)

**Granville District** land given to Lord Granville as his share of the Carolina colony (4)

**Great Migration** the movement of blacks from across the South to the northern cities (11)

**grist mill** a place to grind grain into flour (4)

**Gulf Stream** the ocean current that runs northward along the North Carolina coast; it carries warm water from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic (1)

## H

**Halifax Resolves** a document issued by the Provincial Congress that authorized the delegates to the Continental Congress to join other colonies in seeking independence (5)

**headwaters** the source or spring from which a river first flows (1)

**historic preservation** an effort to save and restore landmark buildings, those structures that help tell local histories (14)

**Home Guard** the older men of a county who were

charged with defending their neighborhoods during the Civil War (9)

**humidity** a measure of the amount of moisture in the air (1)

**hurricane** a tropical storm that brings high winds and heavy rains (1)

**hydroelectricity** water-powered electricity (11)

## I

**immigrant** one who moves into a new country to settle there (4)

**immunity** resistance to disease (2)

**impeach** to file charges against a public official for wrongdoing while in office (9)

**inlet** a break in the barrier islands that allows seawater to come in and out with the tides (1)

**integration** the process of bringing different groups (races) into society as equals (13)

**interest** a charge for borrowing money (10)

**internal improvements** expenditures for transportation such as railroads and canals (6)

**interstate banking** the ability of banks to have branches in other states (14)

**interstate highway system** a multilane, limited-access system of roads set up by the federal government in 1956 to connect all parts of the nation (13)

## J

**Jim Crow laws** segregation laws that separated the races, particularly in public places like city parks and graded schools; named after an old minstrel show that made blacks look foolish and dependent (11)

**judicial review** the idea that a court could judge the constitutionality of a law (6)

**justice of the peace** a man/judge in each neighborhood who tried petty crimes and small disputes among neighbors (8)

## K

**Kirk-Holden War** Governor Holden's use of the state militia to stop the Klan from taking over key places in the state; the militia was under the command of Colonel George Kirk (9)

**Ku Klux Klan** an organization that developed into a secret, racist organization whose purpose was to return political and social control to native whites (9)

## L

**lieutenant governor** an elected official in the executive branch who would serve if the governor could no longer hold office (15)

**Literary Fund** a fund established by the legislature in 1825 whose revenues could be used to help build schools (6)

**literate** able to read and write (7)

**Live at Home Program** Governor Gardner's program where farm families used seeds bought by local governments to grow more food and raise the necessities they usually bought at the store (12)

**loom** a machine that wove yarn into cloth (8)

**Lord Proprietor** one of eight English aristocrats to whom King Charles II gave a charter for the Carolina colony (3)

**Lost Colony** name given to the missing Roanoke residents from the White colony (2)

## M

**manifest destiny** the idea that the United States had been "chosen" to control all the land between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans (9)

**martial law** the use of military forces to keep order (9)

**matrilineal** refers to a society where the "line" is traced through the "matri," or mother (2)

**Mecklenburg Resolves** a series of statements made by Mecklenburg's Committee of Safety that recommended that North Carolina declare itself independent (5)

**metropolitan** an area that has a concentration of people, jobs, services, and entertainment; refers to a city and surrounding suburbs and smaller cities (14)

**militia** a group of citizen soldiers (4)

**millennium** a period of one thousand years; generally refers to the thousand years that began with the year 2000 (15)

**mill village** a cluster of housing near a factory that was owned by the company, which also provided stores and schools (1)

**minimum wage** the least amount an employer can pay a worker for a certain number of hours worked (12)

**Missouri Compromise** an 1820 agreement by Congress that allowed slavery south a line drawn west-

ward from the southern border of Missouri and forbade slavery north of the line (9)

**monadnock** a geological condition where a point of land stands out because all around it the land has been eroded (1)

**money supply** the amount of currency and coin available for each person in the country (10)

**monopoly** exclusive control, as of an industry (10)

**moonshine** illegally made alcohol; so called because it was made at night to hide the smoke (12)

**Mountains region** that part of North Carolina that lies between the Piedmont region and the state of Tennessee (1)

**municipality** a city with its own government (15)

**muster day** a time when able-bodied men came together to train to defend the state; took place twice a year once in the spring just before planting and again in the fall just after harvest (8)

## N

**NAFTA** North American Free Trade Agreement; passed in 1992, an agreement among Canada, the United States, and Mexico that made trade among the three countries much easier (15)

**NASCAR** an abbreviation meaning National Association of Stock Car Automobile Racing (1)

**naval blockade** the use of a fleet of ships to prevent ships carrying supplies from reaching ports (9)

**naval stores** pitch, turpentine, and tar, which are needed to seal ships and keep them from leaking on ocean-going voyages (3)

**Navigation Acts** laws passed by Parliament in the 1660s that listed which colonial goods—such as tobacco, dried fish, flour, or shingles—would be subject to customs duties (3)

**neck** a peninsula located on the northern shore of the Albemarle Sound (3)

**neighborhood** an identifiable place where a small group of people spent most of their time (8)

**neutral** not taking sides in a war or disagreement (5)

**New Deal** measures passed by Congress during President Roosevelt's terms that were intended to help the economy recover from the Great Depression by regulating how much factories and farms could operate and how much they could make (12)

**normal school** a teacher-training institution (10)

**North Carolina Fund** a fund established by the state in 1963 that was intended to help rural black farm families of the east and inhabitants of mountain coves to become self supporting (13)

**North Carolina Manumission Society** an organization formed by Quakers in the Uwharries that raised money to buy slaves from their masters (9)

## O

**organic farming** farming that uses no industrially produced fertilizers or pesticides (15)

**outlier** a man from the Uwharries who hid rather than fight for the Confederacy (9)

**Overmountain Men** westerners who crossed the Blue Ridge and trapped the Tories at the Battle of Kings Mountain (5)

## P

**pacifism** a belief that no one should fight or resort to violence for any reason other than self-defense (5)

**paradox** a situation where initial appearances are misleading to people (11)

**pardon** an act forgiving someone for their actions (5)

**parity** the amount of money needed to make a minimum profit (12)

**Peace Movement** the proposal by William Holden to seek a separate peace with the North (9)

**pemmican** a long-lasting and nourishing food made of meat, nuts, and grease (2)

**Piedmont region** that part of North Carolina that lies between the Coastal Plain and the Mountains (1)

**plank road** a road made out of planks laid out like a deck across the roadbed (7)

**plantation** a farm large enough to be strictly organized to produce both enough food for subsistence and large amounts of surplus staple crops that made money for the owner (8)

**pocosin** “swamp on a hill”; a peat swamp that fills with water when the water table is high (1)

**Populist Party** a political party formed in the 1890s that supported the interests of farmers (10)

**prairie** open grassland (4)

**precedent** a case used later as a guide to judge other disputes (6)

**precipitation** rain, snow, sleet, hail (1)

**price gouging** charging a higher price than is “fair” (9)

**Proclamation of 1763** a ruling forbidding settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains; intended to stop the fighting between the Indians and the settlers (5)

**progress** industrial development (11)

**prohibition** a policy making it illegal to make, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages (11)

**Provincial Congress** a legislative body established in 1774 to govern the colony when Governor Martin disbanded the Assembly (5)

## Q

**quarters** the area where slave housing was (8)

**quit-rent** an annual land tax paid to the Proprietors (3)

## R

**ranger** a member of an armed and mounted troop; forerunner of the North Carolina’s highway patrol in the twentieth century (4)

**ratify** to agree to (6)

**rationing** limiting the amount of any item that can be bought (12)

**recession** an economic slowdown (6)

**Reconstruction** the steps taken to restore the southern states to the Union and rebuild the South (9)

**referendum** a vote of the people on a particular issue (11)

**refugee** one who flees danger or persecution (3)

**region** a specific area where the lay of the land and the habits of the people are much the same (1)

**Regulator** a backcountry resident who protested the corruption of backcountry officials (4)

**relief** money and goods given to people in special need (12)

**Republican Party** a political party formed in 1854 mainly to oppose slavery (9)

**republican simplicity** the belief that citizens in a republic lived as simply and independently as possible in the country and depended upon themselves, their family, and their neighbors—in that order—to provide for their needs (6)

**ridge law** legislation aimed at curbing development in the mountains that stated no building could mar

the basic shape of the top of a mountain (14)

**Rip Van Winkle state** North Carolina's nickname in the early 1800s, so called because the state supposedly fell asleep and made little social and economic progress (7)

**royal colony** a colony governed directly by the king (3)

## S

**savanna** a flat grassland with some scattered trees (1)

**secession** the action taken if a state decided to leave the Union (9)

**secretary of state** an elected official in the executive branch who oversees the registration of businesses and other public groups and who keeps the state's official papers (15)

**secret ballot** a method of voting where a voter makes a decision in a private voting booth (12)

**sectionalism** excessive concern for local interests and customs (1)

**segregate** to separate by race (9)

**separate-but-equal concept** the concept established by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896 that states could require separate facilities for African Americans if those facilities were equal to those used by whites (13)

**service industry** companies that provide help (a service) rather than make a product (13)

**sharecropping** an arrangement where a landowner and a renter split the proceeds from selling the crop raised on the rented land (9)

**sheriff** the chief law enforcement agent of a county (15)

**shopping center** a group of stores lined up next to a parking lot (13)

**shotgun house** a house whose narrow end faced the street and its two or three rooms were aligned backward, with no hallway; the nickname came from when all the doors were opened at one time, a bullet fired from a gun would go all the way through without touching anything (11)

**sit-in** a protest where people enter a public facility and refuse to leave until their demands are heard (13)

**slave code** rules that defined the social, economic, and physical place of slaves in North Carolina (8)

**Social Security Act** legislation passed in 1935 to provide workers with a retirement pension and to help them when they were laid off from work (12)

**sound** an inland body of mixed water found through much of the Tidewater region (1)

**speculate** to buy something in the hopes that prices will later rise (3)

**spinning wheel** a device used to turn cotton, flax, or wool into yarn (8)

**Stamp Act** an act of Parliament passed in 1765 that required tax stamps be used on all kinds of documents (5)

**staple crop** a crop that made money for the farmer, primarily tobacco and cotton, but sometimes grains like corn, wheat, and even rice or tar on the Cape Fear River (8)

**state auditor** an elected official in the executive branch; the official state bookkeeper (15)

**state's rights** the political position that the states could assert their independence when they believed the federal government was doing something wrong (6)

**state treasurer** an elected official in the executive branch who receives state revenues (monies) and pays the state's bills (15)

**stock market** a place where the stock of corporations is bought and sold (12)

**stretch-out** situation that occurred when mill owners made workers tend more machines than they could properly handle; so called because workers often literally had to stretch to reach everything (12)

**strike** occurs when workers refuse to work, usually as a protest over some grievances (11)

**subsidy** a grant of money (14)

**subsistence farming** farming to provide food to feed the family with very little left over (8)

**suburb** a neighborhood at the edge of a community (11)

**suffrage** the right to vote (7)

**superintendent of public instruction** the head of the state's public school system (7)

**superior court** a state court that handles cases sent to it by the district court and more serious crimes that may involve felony charges (15)

**supply** the amount of a commodity available for sale (10)

**supreme court** the highest court in the state (15)

## T

**Tidewater region** the region of the state that lies along the Atlantic Ocean (1)

**tobacco allotment** a specific amount of land on which to grow tobacco (12)

**tobacco price support** a minimum price for a tobacco crop; if the market price fell below the minimum price, farmers could store the tobacco, take out a parity loan, and repay the loan when the market price rose above the minimum price (12)

**tobacco town** a town whose activities focused around the raising of tobacco (1)

**toll** a payment for something, such as grinding grain or using a road (4)

**tornado** a funnel-shaped storm whose rotating winds can reach as much as 250 miles an hour or more (1)

**Tory** one who sided with the British during the Revolutionary period (5)

**Trail of Tears** the name given to the journey of the Cherokee who were forced from their homes and made to move west to Indian Country (7)

**transition** the beginning of important and long-lasting change (10)

**treason** the act of trying to overthrow the government (3)

## U

**Unionist** one who wanted to stay in the Union (9)

**United States Constitution** the plan of government for the United States; written in 1787 (6)

**universal education** the idea that every child, white and black, would have access to better schools (11)

**universal manhood suffrage** the ability of all men over the age of 21 to vote regardless of their color or their economic status (9)

**urban renewal** the replacement of run-down city

buildings; usually applied to poor neighborhoods on the edges of downtowns (14)

**urban sprawl** unplanned, uncoordinated spread of a city (urban area) (14)

## V

**veto** to refuse to sign a bill (6)

**Voting Rights Act of 1965** legislation that provided for federal enforcement of voting rights that had been set out in the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution (13)

## W

**War of 1812** a war in which the Americans fought the British to ensure that Americans could settle the West and be safe from interference on the high seas (6)

**weather** short-term atmospheric conditions; refers to temperature, humidity, precipitation (type and amount), air pressure, wind, and cloud cover (1)

**westerlies** winds from the west that bring warmer air in the winter and cooler air in the summer (1)

**wetland** soil that is soaked or flooded with water most of the year (1)

**Whig** one who favored independence from Great Britain (5)

**Whig Party** political party formed in the 1830s to oppose President Andrew Jackson; it supported more government involvement, internal improvements, education (7)

**white supremacy** the belief that the white race is superior to the black race, or any other race (10)

## Y

**yeoman** a farmer who tilled the land he or some family member owned (8)