

Episode: The Roanoke Super Highway

EXPLORING NORTH CAROLINA



USEFUL VOCABULARY

angler
anadromous
bottomland
buffer
delta
hardwood
headwaters
migratory
river mouth
resident fish
spawn
wetland

CHAPTER 1 (1:33–3:38)

1. The headwaters of the Roanoke River begin 400 miles upstream in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, and the mouth opens into the Albemarle Sound at _____, North Carolina.
2. The Roanoke River's North Carolina section runs ____ miles through hardwood bottomland forests, pushing more water than any other river in North Carolina. When flooded, the river can be up to ____ miles wide.
3. The Roanoke River's biodiversity is so significant to the eastern United States that it is compared to which famous river in South America?

CHAPTER 2 (3:58–7:51)

4. When European settlers first arrived, which Native American tribes were present?
5. How many Native Americans were thriving in this region now known as the "Garden of Eden"?
6. What did Native Americans trade on the Roanoke River?
7. After the Civil War, what new industry became essential to eastern North Carolina's economy?

CHAPTER 3 (7:51-12:14)

8. The Roanoke River has more than 40 species of fish. These fish are either _____ or _____. Largemouth bass are an example of _____ fish, and striped bass are an example of _____ fish.
9. What does the bottomland forest “buffer” do for the river?
10. Striped bass will migrate from Maine to spawn in the Roanoke River. Which migratory bird nests in North Carolina before returning to the Caribbean and Central America?

CHAPTER 4 (12:14-16:30)

11. Name some species of reptiles that you can expect to find in the Roanoke River.

CHAPTER 5 (16:30-21:25)

12. One of the oldest tree stands in North America is the Roanoke River’s ___ year-old baldcypress.
13. What is “fluvial geomorphology”?
14. Why is flooding important to the river’s ecosystem?

CHAPTER 6 (21:25-24:58)

15. Why is the Roanoke River considered a “living laboratory of biodiversity”?
16. What did Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) mean when he wrote: “In wilderness is the preservation of the soul.”