

Episode: America's Eastern Natural Boundary

EXPLORING NORTH CAROLINA



USEFUL VOCABULARY

arctic
climate
disjunct
ecosystem
habitat
microclimate
temperate
subtropical

CHAPTER 1 (2:17–6:55)

1. What is a “natural” boundary?
2. Why is North Carolina considered a natural boundary for eastern America?
3. What makes North Carolina home to so many living things?
4. What are contributing factors to North Carolina’s climate?

CHAPTER 2 (6:55–10:06)

5. Bald Head Island is a boundary between what two climates? Name some species that are in their northern range.

CHAPTER 3 (10:06–15:12)

6. Why have few eastern diamondback rattlesnakes been reported in the ecologically diverse longleaf pine forest of the Coastal Plain?
7. What is the importance of ephemeral ponds in an animal’s life cycle?

CHAPTER 4 (15:12-18:14)

8. Name some of the Ice Age "orphans" found in the Piedmont.

CHAPTER 5 (18:14-21:33)

9. What makes North Carolina home to several boundary species of reptiles and amphibians? Why is there concern about these animals?

CHAPTER 6 (21:33-25:13)

10. How are Arctic species able to thrive in the North Carolina mountains?
11. Why should North Carolina be a focal point for study as our climate continues to change?