

Episode: The Naturalists

EXPLORING NORTH CAROLINA



USEFUL VOCABULARY

André Michaux
botanist

herring

horticulture

John Lawson

John and William Bartram

Mark Catesby

naturalist

ornithologist

oysters

Quaker

Thomas Harriot

CHAPTER 2 (0:00–3:54)

1. List some different types of people who may be naturalists.
Some possible answers: teachers, scientists, writers, ministers, lawyers.
2. Name three organisms described by Thomas Harriot, the scientist who was part of Sir Walter Raleigh's 1586 expedition to the New World.
Some possible answers: tobacco, herring, oysters.

CHAPTER 3 (3:54–5:41)

3. Why did John Lawson take a careful inventory of useful organisms as he traveled across North Carolina and South Carolina in 1701?
To encourage the English to settle the area.
4. What was significant about Lawson's "A New Voyage to Carolina," published in 1709?
It was the geographic and natural "bible" of the Carolinas, i.e., the main source of information.

CHAPTER 4 (5:41–12:35)

5. How did William Byrd describe the people who lived on the border of North Carolina and Virginia?
Worthless; ate lots of swine flesh.
6. Why are the writings of William Bartram better known than those of his father, John Bartram?
He was more descriptive and considered a better writer.
7. The North Carolina Collection in the Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill has been collecting books, pamphlets and newspapers from around the state since 1844. Why is this important?
Scholars and lay people have free access to materials that document North Carolina's history, literature and culture.

CHAPTER 5 (12:35-17:40)

8. Mark Catesby is well known for his paintings of birds, but his real interest was _____.
Plants.
9. What was new about how Catesby organized his paintings of wildlife?
He depicted his subjects in a more naturalistic way, putting animals and plants on the same page.

CHAPTER 6 (17:40-24:33)

10. Why did the French government send André Michaux to study trees in America?
France's forests were depleted; the French needed trees for ship masts and other purposes.
11. Why did Michaux enjoy visiting the high-elevation mountains of North Carolina?
He was able to find so many different species of plants there.
12. Why do you think the narrator says Oconee bells are “somewhere in the mountains of North Carolina” rather than revealing their exact location?
To prevent people from destroying or poaching them.