

Episode: Giving Nature a Hand

EXPLORING NORTH CAROLINA



USEFUL VOCABULARY

Civilian Conservation Corps

erosion

forestry

naval stores

pitch

resin

tar

The Great Depression

turpentine

CHAPTER 2 (0:00–0:46)

1. Dr. Jolly contrasts the land in 1930 with today's landscape. How did it look different than it does now?

He describes childhood memories of gullies that were two stories tall. The land was not as green. There was mostly brush, with few trees and other plants. The land was eroded due to flooding that followed widespread fires. It was windy and dusty. Today there are productive farms and abundant forests.

CHAPTER 3 (0:46–2:35)

2. What enabled the destruction of forests during the Great Depression era?

Unsustainable farming practices (subsistence farming without replanting) and poor or nonexistent forest management from local timber cutters.

CHAPTER 4 (3:30–3:40)

3. What is referred to as "liquid gold" and why?

Pine resin. It was very valuable, used to produce tar, pitch and turpentine. These products, known as naval stores, were necessary for maintaining wooden sailing fleets dating back to the British Empire.

CHAPTER 5 (3:40–5:12)

4. Why was little or no thought given to replanting forests in the 19th century?

Huge swaths of forests seemed like an endless resource at the time.

CHAPTER 6 (5:12–6:09)

5. What prompted the creation of the first School of Forestry at Brevard and later at N.C. State University and Duke University?

When textile mills and furniture mills closed and employment levels declined, people became aware of how much the land had been neglected.

CHAPTER 7 (6:09–17:30)

6. What in Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal experience motivated him to initiate the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)?

He watched the land on his farm erode away. He wanted to give people jobs instead of handouts.

7. What was the CCC's main goal?

To heal the land and provide employment for young men during the Depression.

8. What was the difference between the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration (WPA)?

Unlike the CCC, which hired young men who lived on site, the WPA hired adults who commuted from home.

9. What were the benefits of working in the CCC or WPA?

The programs offered shelter, three square meals, training, companionship, education, inspiration and a purpose in life.

10. What method(s) did the CCC use to repair land and control erosion?

They built "check downs" (rows of earth and brush) to control erosion, planted rows of trees (hundreds of thousands) and spent many man-hours controlling fires.

CHAPTER 8 (17:30–20:05)

11. Name at least three types of CCC projects.

Possible answers: Erosion control, reforestation, decorative stonework, beautification of parks, constructing recreational buildings and fish hatcheries, re-establishing wildlife and building the Appalachian Trail.

CHAPTER 9 (20:05–end)

12. If there were a CCC today, would segregation or racism be as much of an issue? Why or why not?

Fact: The CCC was segregated, with a 10 percent minority of African Americans. Because of segregation in society, people of different races worked apart but with the same mission.

Opinion: Accept any.