A Teacher's Guide

T is for Tar Heel: A North Carolina Alphabet
Guide by Patricia Pierce
based on the book by
Carol Crane
Illustrated by Gary Palmer

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Discover what facts and information you know about North Carolina by completing the first section of the chart. Read *T is for Tar Heel* and complete the second half of the chart. How many new facts did you learn?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information I Know about North Carolina</th>
<th>Facts I learned about North Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. State Nickname</td>
<td>1. State Nickname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. State Flower</td>
<td>2. State Flower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. State Tree</td>
<td>3. State Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. State Mammal</td>
<td>5. State Mammal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. State Insect</td>
<td>7. State Insect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. State Reptile</td>
<td>10. State Reptile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. State Historical Boat</td>
<td>11. State Historical Boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□I’m not certain, but will learn.</td>
<td>□I was correct.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Refer to *T is for Tar Heel* and read the following clues to discover interesting places in North Carolina.

1. I am at the site of the first successful powered flight by man.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________

2. I am at the highest waterfall in the eastern United States.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________

3. I am watching mysterious lights that early frontiersmen believed were the spirits of Cherokee and Catawba warriors.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________

4. I am touring a pottery museum.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________

5. I am at a National Historic Site in a house with bookshelves in every room.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________

6. I am listening to the wind pass through steel rail tubes as I cross the nation’s highest suspension footbridge.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________

7. I am in North Carolina’s largest city.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________

8. I am in the city named after the English explorer Sir Walter Raleigh and the capital of North Carolina.  
   Where am I? ________________________________________________
Learn information about the Appalachian Mountains and North Carolina’s waterfalls by reading page A of *T is for Tar Heel.*

Whitewater Falls, the highest waterfall in the eastern United States, is found in North Carolina. Compare the height of Whitewater Falls to other waterfalls in North Carolina. List the waterfalls in order of their estimated height from greatest to least.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATERFALL</th>
<th>ESTIMATED HEIGHT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whitewater Falls</td>
<td>411 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drift Falls</td>
<td>80 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking Glass Falls</td>
<td>60 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stairway Falls</td>
<td>150 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird Falls</td>
<td>100 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtleback Falls</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crabtree Falls</td>
<td>70 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midnight Hole Falls</td>
<td>6 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Mountain Falls</td>
<td>200 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse Creek Falls</td>
<td>35 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ______________________ 2. ______________________ 3. ______________________
4. ______________________ 5. ______________________ 6. ______________________
7. ______________________ 8. ______________________ 9. ______________________
10. ______________________
A ______ breeze blew as the first light appeared on the horizon.

“Look!” ______ _________. “I see a light!”

As quickly as the light appeared, it vanished in the __________ sky.

“Where?” asked __________. (adjective)

Pointing to the spot, __________ replied. “It was right there.”

“Oh, I see one!” ______ ________. “It looks like a __________ rocket.”

“There’s another one. Look at it move _______ toward us.”

“Let’s count them,” said __________ .

__________, ________________, and __________ began

__________ counting the lights. Just then . . . (continue the story on your own).
Lighthouse Diorama

Construct a lighthouse diorama. Take a shoebox and place it with the open side toward the viewer. Use the lighthouse picture below and gather additional material, such as blue cloth and toy boats to use for the background. Refer to page C of *T is for Tar Heel* and color spiral striping on the lighthouse. Fold the gray tab along the black dotted line to make the lighthouse stand upright. Glue the tab to the shoebox.
Students “shell” learn interesting information about the Eastern box turtle by reading page E of *T is for Tar Heel* and creating a shell of facts!

**Materials**
- Glue
- Styrofoam bowl
- Brown construction paper
- Fact box
- Markers in brown, orange, and yellow

**Directions**
1. Read page E of *T is for Tar Heel* and write facts about the Eastern box turtle in the fact box above.

2. Place a Styrofoam bowl on a piece of brown construction paper and trace the outer rim of the bowl on the paper.

3. Cut out the construction paper tracing, and glue to the bottom rim of the bowl, creating a closed boxed turtle “shell.”

4. Cut out the fact box and glue to the bottom of the boxed turtle shell.

5. Refer to the illustration on page E of *T is for Tar Heel* and color the shell dark brown with streaks, spots, and lines of yellow and orange.
Cooperative Group Activity

Provide each group of students with three envelopes and the following informational cards. Instruct students to cut out the informational cards and label the first envelope President Andrew Jackson, the second envelope President James Knox Polk, and third envelope President Andrew Johnson. Read page J of *T is for Tar Heel* and sort the information cards into the correct envelope.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11th President of the United States</th>
<th>7th President of the United States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th President of the United States</td>
<td>United States purchased Alaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Young Hickory”</td>
<td>“Old Hickory”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War of 1812</td>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Hail to the Chief”</td>
<td>Pineville, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See what is buzzing on page H of *T is for Tar Heel*!

**BUSY AS A BEE HONEY SNACK**

**Ingredients**

6 graham crackers  
1 tablespoon crunchy peanut butter  
1 tablespoon honey  
1 tablespoon sliced almonds

**Directions**

Place three graham crackers on a plate.  
Spread a layer of crunchy peanut butter on each graham cracker.  
Spread a layer of honey on top of the peanut butter.  
Arrange sliced almonds on top of the honey.  
Take remaining three graham crackers and place on top of each layered graham cracker

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**Honeybee Trivia Questions**

1. How many wings does a honeybee have?

2. How fast can a honeybee fly?

3. How many sides does each honeycomb cell have?

4. Why do honeybees dance?
Label North Carolina’s Neighboring States

South Carolina  Georgia  Tennessee  Virginia

Read page T of *T is for Tar Heel* and explain North Carolina’s nickname.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
Search and Find

Read *T is for Tar Heel* and play a game of search and find. Have a partner choose a word or word phrase from the list below. Search for the picture in the book. After you find the picture, read aloud the passage of that page to your partner. It’s now your turn to choose a word and have your partner search, find, and read!

**Word List**

- Cardinal
- Sliding Rock Waterfall
- Race cars
- Lighthouse
- Sweet potatoes
- Dogwood flowers
- Covered wagon
- Clay pots
- Eastern box turtle
- Presidents Andrew Jackson, James Knox Polk, and Andrew Johnson
- Honeybees
- Train
- Mile High Swinging Bridge
- Dancers clogging
- Woolly bear caterpillar
- North Carolina flag
- Plott hound
- Airplane
- Bat
- Mountain azaleas
- Scotch bonnet
Across
1. State mammal
2. Carl ________ (poet)
   “Rootabaga Stories”
3. State capital
4. State bird
5. Also known as the _____ State (nickname)

Down
1. State historical boat
2. Queen City
3. State precious stone
4. A blend of dancing from many cultures
   “Stepping on a Snake”
5. State rock
The woolly worm’s thirteen black-and-brown bands make it a fuzzy weather forecaster for winter. How do the residents of Banner Elk, North Carolina determine which woolly worm should be the official weather forecaster? By hosting a Woolly Worm Race! Worms race along three feet of nylon string, since they seem unmotivated to race across a flat surface. The winning worm’s band colors are used to predict the winter weather. To find out what a narrow brown band predicts, read page I of *T is for Tar Heel.*

Are the woolly worms on their way to achieving the same weather-predicting status of the groundhog, Paxtahawney Phil? View the following chart to check the accuracy of the woolly worm race champions from past Woolly Worm Festivals held in Banner Elk, North Carolina.

“Hey! Where are my stripes?!”

Draw them in on this woolly worm!

Make sure you have a total of 13 stripes (black and brown).
Accuracy is rated on a scale of 1 to 5.
• One (1) is the lowest score – a very poor prediction
• Five (5) is the highest score – close to perfect prediction!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Race Champion</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Brown Sugar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Wilson the Woolly Worm</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Feets</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Fido</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Name unavailable</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Blinky</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Jenny</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Flash</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Ghost</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Pretty Cougar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Speedy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Hugo</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Willie</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>The Dukester</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Santa’s Helper</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Go-Joe</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Robo Worm</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Casey</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Stu</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Jake</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Staley’s Comet</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Skiddy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Slick</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Woolly Worm Chart Directions: Use the information from the Accuracy Chart to complete the Tally Table below. Mark with tallies the number of times each accuracy rating was given. Example: The rating 3.5 was given 2 times, so make two tally marks in the 3.5 column.

**TALLY TABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accuracy Rating</th>
<th>Tallies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using the Tally Table, complete the bar graph to show the number of times the woolly worms scored each rating. Example: The bar graph below represents the two tally marks in the 3.5 rating column.

**Woolly Worm Accuracy Graph**
Answer the following questions:

1. How many times did the woolly worms receive an accuracy rating of 5?

______________________

2. How many times did the woolly worms receive an accuracy rating of 2.5 and lower?

______________________

3. How many times did the woolly worms receive an accuracy rating of 3 and higher?

______________________

What do you think? Are the woolly worms good predictors of the weather? Why or why not? Or are you still undecided? Why?
How did Orville and Wilbur Wright decide who would fly their airplane first? Learn the answer to this question by filling in the missing letters in the words below.

1. The motto “First in Flight” is found on the North __arolina license plates.
2. __rvill and Wilbur built a wind tunnel to test over 150 wing designs.
3. Orville and Wilbur experimented with gl__ders.
4. The sa__d dunes of Kill Devil Hills were needed for softer landings.
5. After the first flight, ___hree more flights were made on December 17,1903.
6. Orville and Wilbur owned a bicycle shop in Dayton, ___hio.
7. The first successful flight lasted 12 __econds and traveled 120 feet.
8. ___trong winds made Kitty Hawk a good site to try to fly their invention.

Write the missing letters in order in the sentence below.

A __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ was used to determine who would fly the airplane first. Wilbur won, but crashed in his attempt. Repairs were made to the airplane and then it was Orville’s turn. The first flight by Orville lasted 12 seconds and went a distance of 120 feet. Three more flights were made on that day. On the fourth flight, Wilbur flew their invention for 59 seconds and traveled 852 feet.
As a class, survey 100 people to find out their favorite way to eat sweet potatoes. Depending on the size of your class, instruct each student to survey three to five people. Record and determine the percentage of your results. What was the most favorite way to enjoy sweet potatoes?

**Survey Categories**

- Baked
- Steamed
- Microwaved
- Fried
- Fresh – Sweet potato sticks
- Sweet potato pie
- (Add additional categories of your choice)

When final results are recorded, divide the number of each result by 100 to determine the percentage for each category.

**Did you know?**

- President George Washington grew sweet potatoes.
- George Washington Carver developed 118 products from sweet potatoes.
- Some scientists believe that dinosaurs might have eaten sweet potatoes.
Stalactites and Stalagmites

Go deep beneath Humpback Mountain and view spectacular stalactites and stalagmites on page U of *T is for Tar Heel*. Try this activity to create your own stalactites and stalagmites.

Materials

Two pieces of yarn 20 inches long
One paper plate
Two plastic cups
Epsom salt
Water
Measuring cup
Spoon

Directions

1. Fill each plastic cup with 2/3 cup of water.
2. Gradually add 1/3 cup of Epsom salt to each cup – stir with spoon. The solution will become supersaturated.
3. Dip each string in the solution, soaking the yarn.
4. String the yarn between both cups. Allow the yarn to dip between the cups.
5. Place the paper plate under the two pieces of yarn.
6. Be patient. After 3 to 4 days, as the water and salt slowly drips from the hanging yarn, salt will develop formations resembling stalactites, and piles of salt will build up on the plate, resembling stalagmites.
Put yourself in the driver’s seat as you read page Z of *T is for Tar Heel*. Color and write the meaning of the race flags shown below.

- **Red flag**
- **Black flag**
- **Yellow flag**
- **White flag**
- **Checkered flag**
# North Carolina Word Search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMERALD</th>
<th>GRANITE</th>
<th>DOGWOOD</th>
<th>CARDINAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PINE TREE</td>
<td>HONEYBEE</td>
<td>KITTY HAWK</td>
<td>POTTERY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARLOTTE</td>
<td>RALEIGH</td>
<td>NASCAR</td>
<td>TAR HEEL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAR</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>WE</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>N</th>
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<th>S</th>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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State Facts
Nickname – Tar Heel
Capital – Raleigh
Insect – honeybee
Reptile – Eastern box turtle
Precious Stone – Emerald

Flower – flowering dogwood
Mammal – gray squirrel
Dog – Plott hound
Historical Boat – Shad boat
Rock - Granite

Tree – pine tree
Bird – cardinal
Vegetable – Sweet potato
Shell – Scotch bonnet

Where Am I?
1. Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk
2. Whitewater Falls
3. Brown Mountain
4. Seagrove
5. Connemara
6. Mile High Swinging Bridge – Grandfather Mountain
7. Charlotte
8. Raleigh

North Carolina Waterfalls
1. Whitewater Falls – 411 feet
4. Bird Falls – 100 ft.
6. Crabtree Falls – 70 ft.
7. Looking Glass Falls – 60 ft.
8. Mouse Creek Falls – 35 ft.
10. Midnight Hole Falls – 6 ft.

Lighthouse Diorama
1.) Six lighthouses
2.) “The Big Barber Pole”
3.) 268 steps
4.) The Outer Banks is known as the “Graveyard of the Atlantic” because over 2,000 ships have been wrecked or lost in this area.

President Andrew Jackson
7th President
War of 1812
“Old Hickory”

President James Knox Polk
11th President
“Young Hickory”
“Hail to the Chief”
Pineville, North Carolina

President Andrew Johnson
17th President
U.S. purchased Alaska
Raleigh, North Carolina

Honeybee Trivia Questions
1. Four wings
2. About 15 miles per hour
3. Six sides
4. A honey bee’s dance explains the direction and distance where pollen is located.

Tar Heel Crossword

Woolly Worm Weather Predictions: 8 received a rating of 5; 2 received a rating of 4.5; 3 received a rating of 4;
2 received a rating of 3.5; 4 received a rating of 3; 4 received a rating of 2
How many times did the woolly worms receive an accuracy rating of 5? – 8 times
How many times did the woolly worms receive an accuracy rating of 2.5 or lower? – 4 times
How many times did the woolly worms receive an accuracy rating of 3 or higher? – 19 times

Plane Fun – 1. c 2. o 3. i 4. n 5. t 6. o 7. s 8. s coin toss