

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



**A FUN BOOK ON THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Before Raleigh became the capital city, the North Carolina General Assembly, which consisted of one house, moved from town to town. They would meet in courthouses, local schools, and residences, or any structure big enough to hold the legislators.



The General Assembly first met in Raleigh in 1794. They met in a simple two-story brick building that was the first Capitol building until it was destroyed by fire in 1831. A new Capitol building was finished in 1840 and is the building you see on the Capitol grounds when you visit Raleigh. This building was used by the General Assembly until the present Legislative Building was completed in 1963.

Today, the General Assembly of North Carolina is made up of two houses - - the House of Representatives and the Senate. All members of the General Assembly are elected by the voters from their respective districts. The primary duties of the members are to amend and pass laws.

The General Assembly meets every two years beginning at 12:00 Noon on the third Wednesday after the second Monday in January after their election. The Governor may call a special session when it is deemed necessary or when petitioned by three-fifths of the members of both the House and the Senate.



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House of Representatives consists of 120 members who serve a term of two years. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House. The Speaker is elected by the members from their membership for a two-year term. The Speaker's duties include maintaining order in the House and appointing members to the House standing committees. The members also elect a Speaker Pro Tempore from their membership, who carries out the duties of the Speaker in an absence. The Principal Clerk, who is responsible for the administrative duties of the House, is elected by the members every two years. The Reading Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms are appointed by the Speaker.

THE SENATE

The North Carolina Senate is composed of 50 members who serve a term of two years. The Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer of the Senate and is elected in a statewide election every four years. The main duty of the Lieutenant Governor is to maintain order in the Senate. Committee appointments in the Senate are made by the President Pro Tempore, who is elected by the members of the Senate from their membership. If the Lieutenant Governor is absent, the President Pro Tempore carries out the duties of the presiding officer. The members of the Senate also elect a Principal Clerk, Reading Clerk, and Sergeant-at-Arms.



MATCHING

Fill in the blank on the left with its correct answer on the right by placing the correct letter in the blank.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. The House of Representatives has _____ members. | A. Lieutenant Governor |
| 2. The Senate has _____ members. | B. Esse Quam Videri |
| 3. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is called the _____. | C. 2 |
| 4. The President of the Senate is the _____. | D. Law |
| 5. Another name for the State Legislature is the _____. | E. Principal Clerk |
| 6. The person in charge of administrative duties in the House and Senate is the _____. | F. 1963 |
| 7. When a bill is passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor, it becomes a _____. | G. 50 |
| 8. North Carolina's motto is _____. | H. Speaker |
| 9. The General Assembly first met in its current location in _____. | I. 120 |
| 10. Members of the House and Senate are elected for _____ years. | J. General Assembly |

UNSCRAMBLING

Unscramble the following legislative words.

1. RLAENGE MSEBLYSA _____

2. KEESAPR _____

3. EATSNE _____

4. STREVPETAEI REN _____

5. I LBL _____

6. NREVROGO _____

7. EAOSRTN _____

8. TNLEI TAUNE
NREVROGO _____

9. EOTV _____

10. OSUEH _____

SEEK

Find the hidden North Carolina symbols listed below in **CAPITAL** letters.

R	B	S	K	J	I	L	R	P	L	O	T	T	H	O	U	N	D
T	W	C	Q	L	D	U	X	I	B	Y	V	Z	D	F	Q	W	O
S	C	A	X	U	V	A	Y	V	Z	H	Y	F	G	J	M	U	E
W	A	K	S	A	I	Q	L	Z	B	E	M	E	R	A	L	D	S
E	R	D	G	W	X	R	B	S	V	A	S	T	A	C	U	E	S
E	D	I	O	M	O	T	R	G	K	S	N	I	N	P	E	L	E
T	I	N	W	B	K	C	X	E	A	J	G	M	I	L	K	T	Q
P	N	X	A	U	N	H	Y	B	L	Q	I	T	T	E	P	R	U
O	A	L	R	W	P	I	L	Z	T	Q	H	S	E	B	V	H	A
T	L	V	H	Z	I	E	N	P	Z	T	Q	H	I	I	B	V	M
A	Q	M	J	G	N	N	S	S	I	O	A	C	L	R	E	I	V
T	P	S	P	N	E	H	A	H	V	F	H	Q	D	T	F	D	I
O	E	O	A	H	M	O	E	M	A	W	G	A	N	U	P	E	D
F	S	H	C	W	Z	R	H	N	L	D	B	G	Q	R	L	I	E
H	C	G	W	D	O	G	W	O	O	D	P	S	Q	T	F	K	R
Q	V	S	C	O	T	C	H	B	O	N	N	E	T	L	R	K	I
H	O	N	E	Y	B	E	E	F	D	P	Z	C	A	E	F	C	E

North Carolina Symbols

Beverage: **MILK**

Bird: **CARDINAL**

Boat: **SHAD** Boat

Dog: **PLOTT HOUND**

Fish: **CHANNEL BASS**

Flower: **DOGWOOD**

Insect: **HONEY BEE**

Mammal: Gray **SQUIRREL**

Motto: **ESSE QUAM VIDERI**

Reptile: Eastern Box **TURTLE**

State Rock: **GRANITE**

State Shell: **SCOTCH BONNET**

State Stone: **EMERALD**

State Tree: **PINE**

State Vegetable: **SWEET POTATO**

THE STATE SEAL

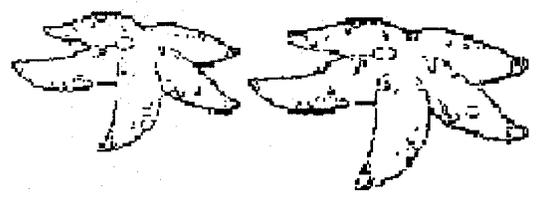
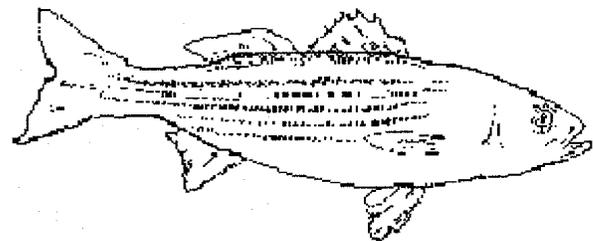
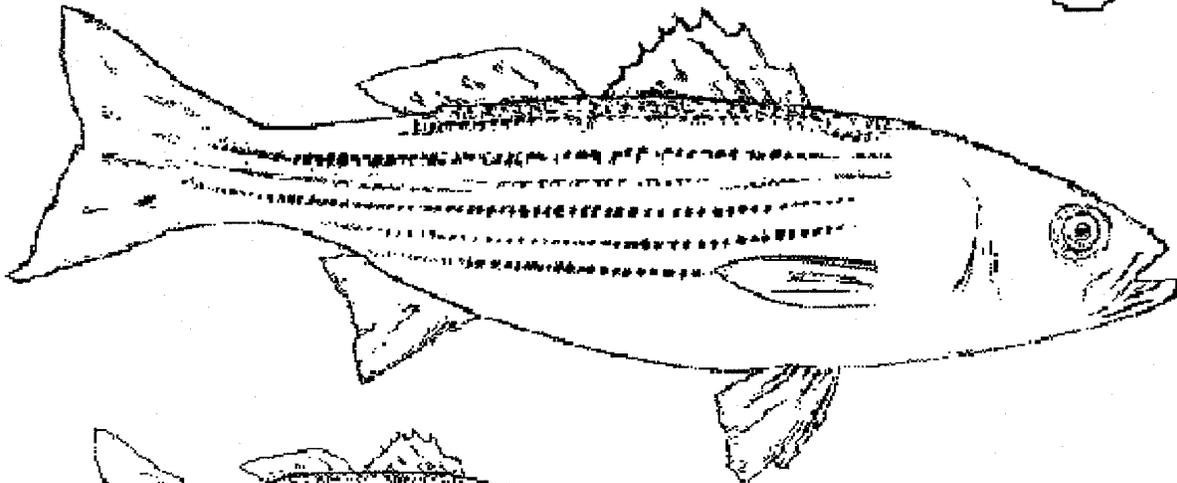


When the government of the State of North Carolina was organized, the Constitution adopted in 1776 provided for a state seal that should be called the "Great Seal of the State of North Carolina". In 1972, the Seal was made one-sided. Other changes were made in 1835, 1893, and 1971. In 1983, the date April 12, 1776, was added at the bottom to commemorate the Halifax Resolves, a document which gave North Carolina's delegates to the Continental Congress the authority to vote for independence. The date May 20, 1775, is thought to be the date of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. This document made a statement in favor of independence from England for the colonies. The State Motto, "Esse Quam Videri", which is Latin for "To be rather than to seem", appears at the bottom of the Seal.

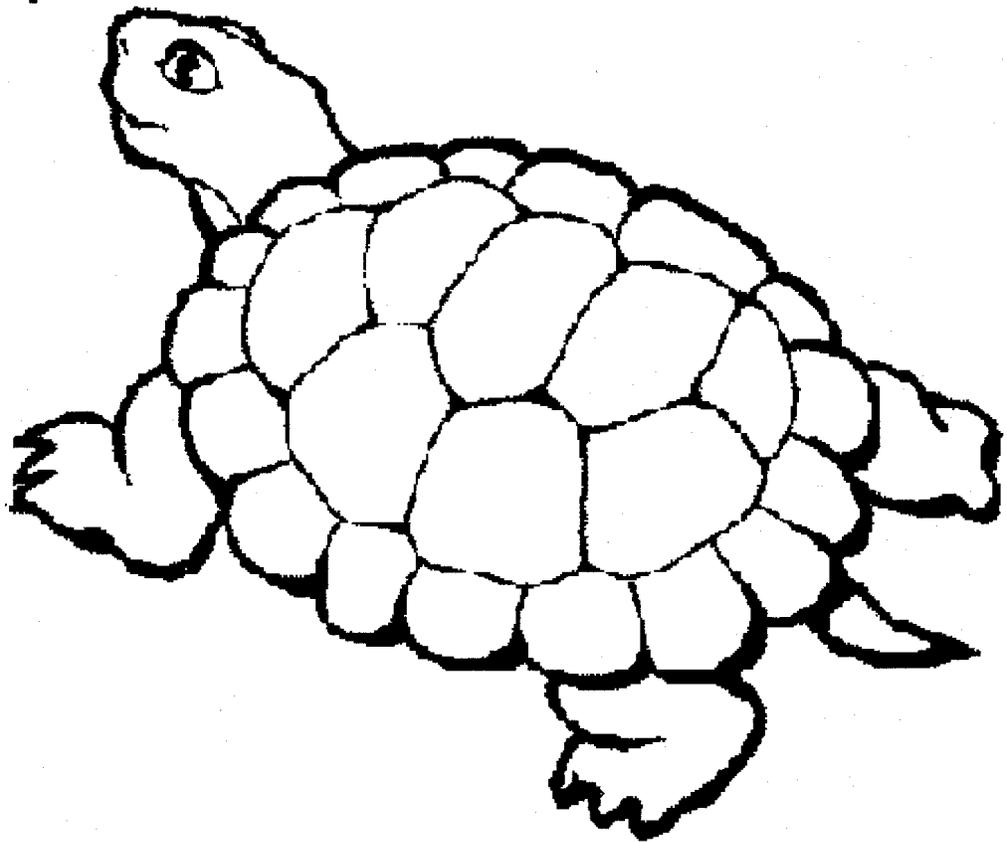
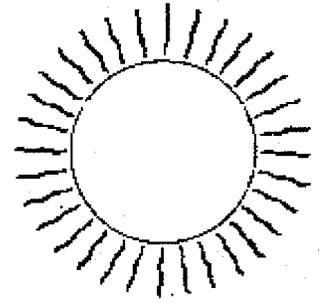
DOGWOOD - THE STATE FLOWER
CARDINAL - THE STATE BIRD



CHANNEL BASS THE STATE FISH



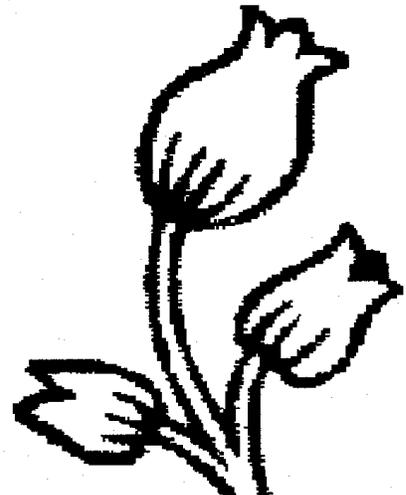
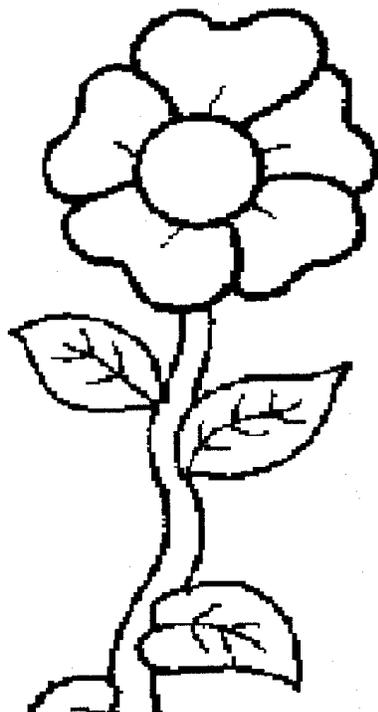
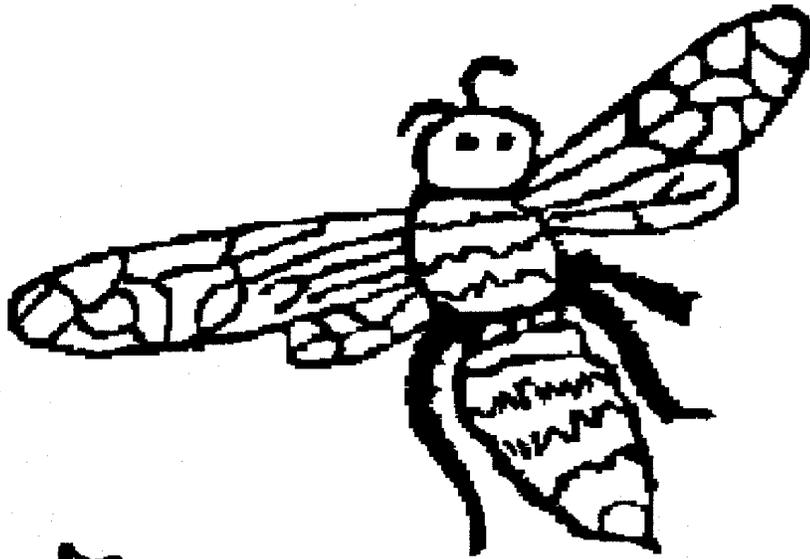
EASTERN BOX TURTLE
THE STATE REPTILE



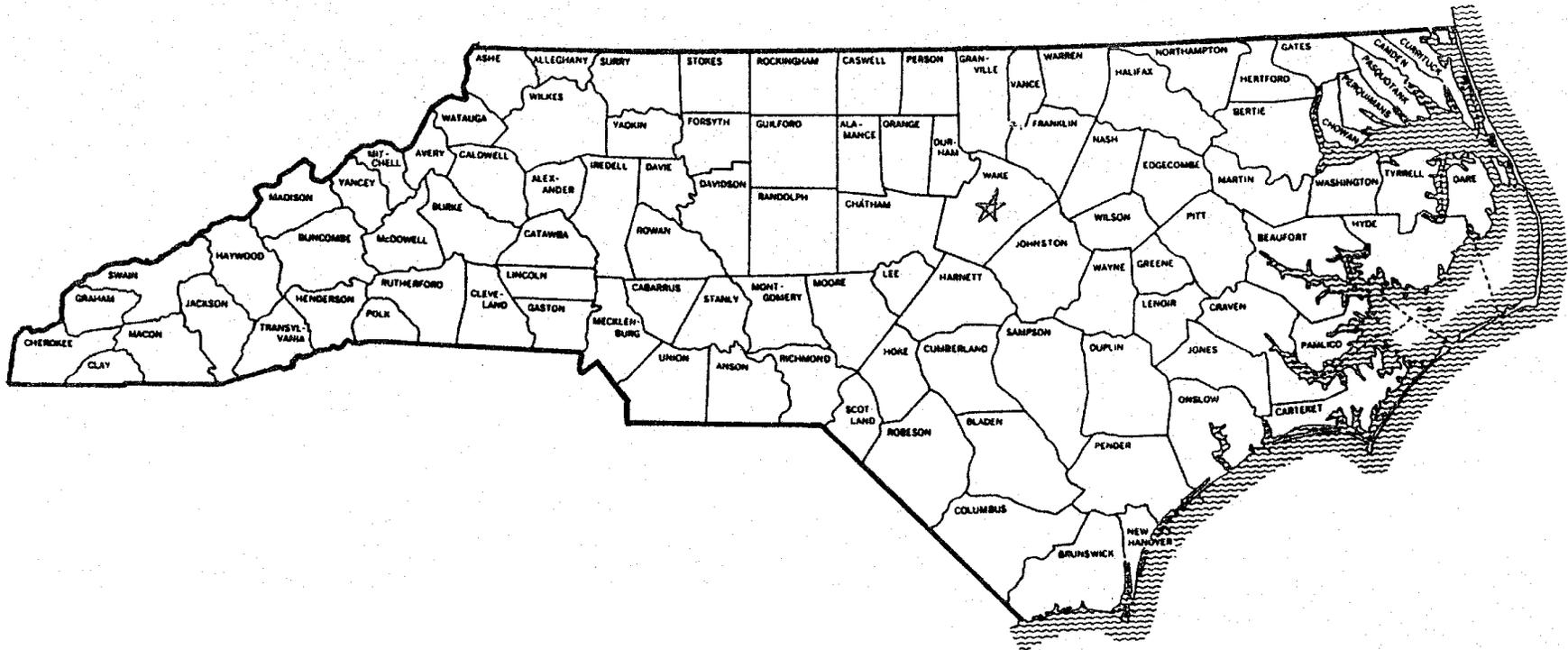
GRAY SQUIRREL
THE STATE MAMMAL



HONEY BEE
THE STATE INSECT



NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES



THERE ARE 100 COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA.
WHICH COUNTY DO YOU LIVE IN?
CAN YOU FIND IT ON THE MAP?

ANSWER KEY

MATCHING

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. I | 6. E |
| 2. G | 7. D |
| 3. H | 8. B |
| 4. A | 9. F |
| 5. J | 10. C |

UNSCRAMBLING

1. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2. SPEAKER
3. SENATE
4. REPRESENTATIVE
5. BILL
6. GOVERNOR
7. SENATOR
8. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
9. VETO/VOTE
10. HOUSE

SEEK

		S					P	L	O	T	T	H	O	U	N	D
			Q													
S	C		U									G				E
W	A			I					E	M	E	R	A	L	D	S
E	R				R				S		A					S
E	D					R		S		N						E
T	I						E	A			M	I	L	K		Q
P	N						B	L				T				U
O	A			P		L						E				A
T	L			I	E											M
A				N	S											V
T			N	E		H						T				I
O		A					A					U				D
		H							D			R				E
	C			D	O	G	W	O	O	D			T			R
		S	C	O	T	C	H	B	O	N	N	E	T	L		I
H	O	N	E	Y	B	E	E						E			

This publication was compiled by:

**Office of the Principal Clerk
North Carolina House of Representatives
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096
(919) 733-7760
<http://www.ncleg.net>**