

Broad

- Contains the “Bat Cave,” the largest granite fissure cave in North America, which provides a home for the endangered Indiana Bat.
- Home of the popular tourist destinations Chimney Rock Park and Lake Lure.
- Contains 97 rare plant and animal species.

French Broad

- Home of the 6,684-foot high Mount Mitchell.
- Begins as a 50-foot waterfall in Transylvania County.
- Only NC river basin that is home to the common mud-puppy, an aquatic salamander, and the rare Eastern spiny softshell turtle.

Savannah

- This river basin contains no part of the river for which it was named.
- Home of the 411-foot White-water Falls, the tallest waterfall east of the Rockies.
- Three fish, the turquoise darter, redeye bass, and rosyface chub, are found only in this basin’s Gorges State Park.

Chowan

- Contains Edenton, the first permanent European settlement in NC.
- Along with the Roanoke River, it supplies fresh water to the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary, the second largest estuary system in the US.
- Contains less than 1% of the state’s population.

Little Tennessee

- Home of Bridal Veil Falls, a waterfall that you can drive a car under.
- River otters were reintroduced into streams in the basin, which helps the basin keep a natural balance of native aquatic animal life.
- Contains Nantahala Gorge, one side of which reaches more than 1,000 feet.

Watauga

- Grandfather Mountain, the highest peak in the Blue Ridge Mountains, is located in this basin.
- This is the second smallest river basin in NC with only 6 incorporated towns.
- This basin's rare animal residents include the peregrine falcon, the Carolina northern flying squirrel, the Virginia big-eared bat, and the spruce-fir moss spider.

Hiwassee

- Got its name from the Cherokee word meaning savanna or meadow.
- Home of the endangered knotty elimia, a freshwater mollusk that lives nowhere else in the world.
- Contains Peachtree Mound, one of the most important Cherokee ancestral sites.

White Oak

- This basin is filled with coastal and freshwater wetlands, and is made up of four river systems.
- The 160,000-acre Croatan National Forest is home to more insect-eating plants than any other national forest.
- Insect-eating plants like the Venus flytrap, pitcher plants, bladderworts, butterworts, and sundews can be found in this basin.

Neuse

- This river is the longest contained in NC's borders, and at its mouth it is the widest in North America at 6 miles across.
- Contains an unusual feature for the coastal plain, a 100-foot canyon carved by the river, located near Goldsboro.
- Home to the Neuse River waterdog (a rare aquatic salamander), the rare Carolina madtom fish, and the panhandle pebblesnail.

Pasquotank

- This basin has more national wildlife refuges than any other and the fewest number of people.
- Home of Lake Phelps, the second largest natural lake in NC. It has crystal blue water, and more than 30 ancient dugout canoes have been found on its bottom.
- In 1987, red wolves were reintroduced into the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge located in this basin.

New

- This river is actually thought to be one of the oldest in the world, estimated at 300 million years old.
- More bog turtles live in this basin than any other basin in NC. This rare and threatened turtle weighs only about 4 ounces when it reaches adulthood.
- This basin is the largest supplier of Christmas trees in NC.

Roanoke

- This river carries more water than any other in NC, it also has the widest floodplain – up to 5 miles in some places.
- Contains the densest population of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and black bear, and has at least 214 bird species.
- This river was once called “the river of death” because its spring floods claimed so many lives.

Lumber

- Lake Waccamaw is the largest water-filled Carolina Bay in NC.
- Contains a large portion of the Green Swamp, which has the highest density of small-scale plant diversity in North America.
- American alligators, carnivorous pitcher plants and Venus flytraps, as well as the Waccamaw silverside and Waccamaw darter, are found in this basin.

Yadkin-PeeDee

- This basin was the location of the United States' first documented gold discovery.
- Location of the Uwharries, the oldest mountain range in North America.
- This basin is called the cradle of civilization of the Carolinas. The area has artifacts of Native American culture that date back 12,000 years.

Tar-Pamlico

- This basin contains Lake Mattamuskeet, NC's largest natural lake.
- 90% of all commercial seafood caught in NC is born in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary in this basin.
- NC's largest producer of tobacco (Pitt) and producer of corn, wheat, and sorghum (Beaufort) are located in the basin.

Cape Fear

- The largest river basin located entirely in NC.
- Home of the Cape Fear Shiner, an endangered minnow species that lives nowhere else in the world.
- Contains 1/4 of the state's population.

Catawba

- Contains the most major dams of any NC basin.
- Home of Lake Norman, the largest man-made lake in NC.
- Home of the rare Edmund's snaketail dragonfly.

Score Card

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