

Carolina Children

The Sandhills

Cynthia Mitchell Stroud is a frequent presenter and consultant in the area of social studies in South Carolina elementary schools. During her career, she has been a classroom teacher, a teacher evaluator, and a curriculum and assessment writer. She lives with her husband, Mike, in Greenville, SC.

Jerry Shearer was a retired bank executive. His hobby was photography. He lived in Columbia, SC with his wife, Martha Mitchell, who is the author's aunt.

Vicki and Mackenzie Wallace are a mother and daughter who share an interest and talent in art. They live in Mauldin, SC where Mackenzie is an honors student at Mauldin High School.

This book is intended to give students in South Carolina a glimpse of life in the Sandhills area of South Carolina. It is incumbent upon the teacher or parent to develop the vocabulary and draw similarities and differences with this area and the region of the state in which the students live. The role of human systems is apparent in several ways; in order to identify them, students should have some preinstruction on the process, patterns, and functions of human settlement and the role physical features and environments play in shaping human activities.



CYNTHIA MITCHELL STROUD



Carolina Children *The Sandhills*

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Photographs by
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Illustrated by
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This book is dedicated to Jerry Shearer.
He touched so many lives; the world is
a better place because he was here.

Thanks to Don Shearer for his help on finishing this project.

South Carolina Social Studies Standards

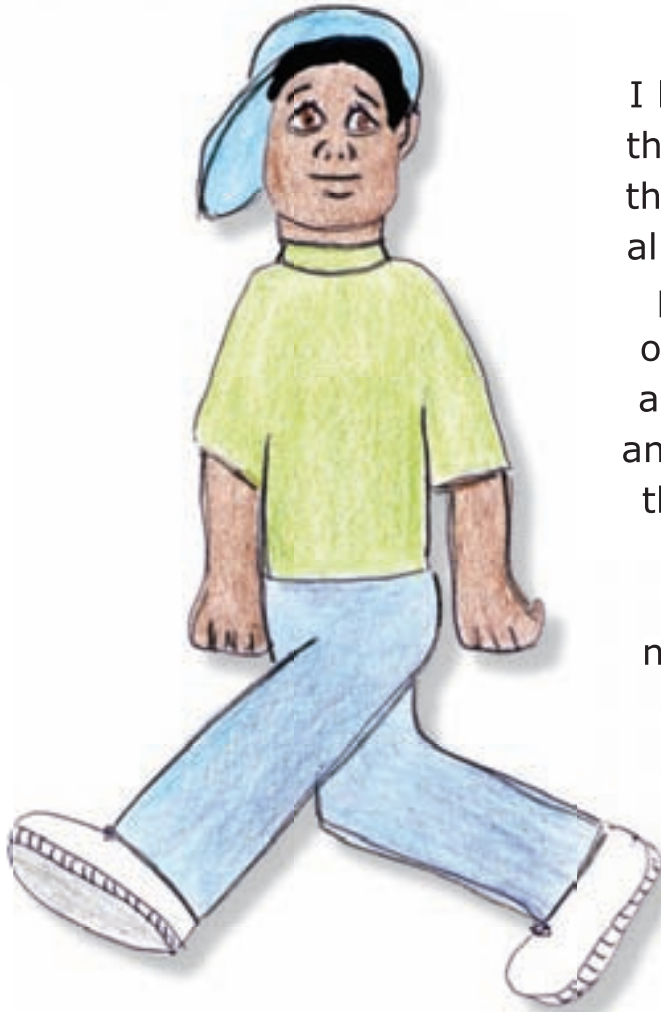
Standard 3.1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of places and regions and the role of human systems in South Carolina.

For students

Can you find the author in one of the pictures?

Answer at the end of the glossary.

Hi! My name is Sandifer James Hill III, but you can call me Sandy. I live in South Carolina.

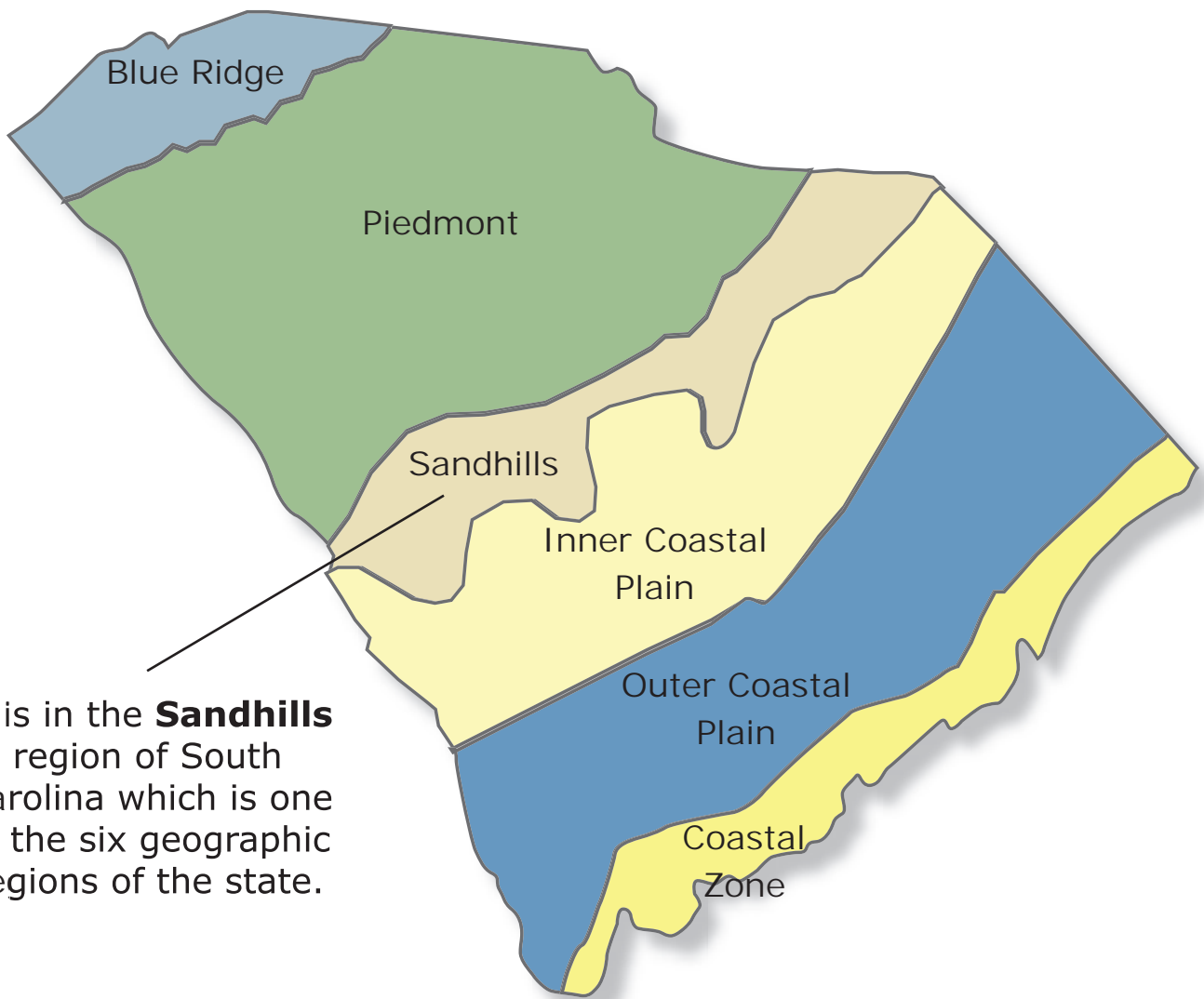


I know that I live in the best place in the world because there are so many things to see and do here. There are all kinds of people to meet and many places to visit. I live in the middle of my state; the mountains are just about three hours to the northwest, and the ocean is about three hours to the southeast. There are mountain habitats and there are ocean habitats and there are incredible natural environments in between.

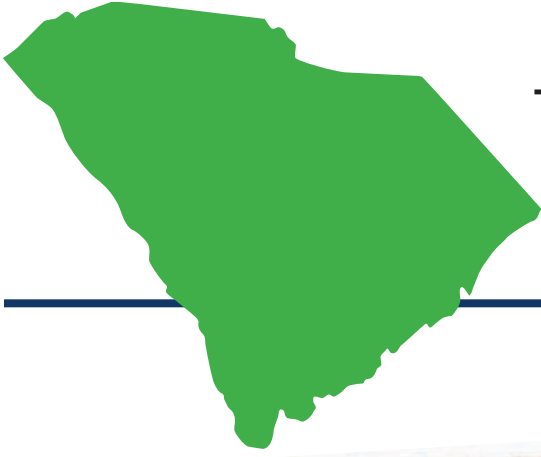
The diversity in South Carolina is amazing!



I live in the capital city, Columbia.



It is in the **Sandhills** region of South Carolina which is one of the six geographic regions of the state.



The South Carolina Sandhills Region



The Sandhills region was once the coast of South Carolina. The materials that make up the soil were left by the ocean millions of years ago. The sandy soils and hills here were once dune and beach deposits.

That was about twenty million years ago, and it explains why the soil is so sandy from Aiken to Bennettsville. The fall line is also a part of the geography of the Sandhills. At the fall line,

water drops from higher land to lower land. Canals were built there and communities developed because of the availability of water and water transportation.



This is the Columbia Canal. It is part of a power plant that was built in 1896 and it is still used today. The early textile mills in the region used the energy that the falling water provided. I believe that is pretty incredible when I think about it!

Let me tell you about my home and my life as a South Carolinian.



I am in the third grade at Brennan Elementary School on Devereaux Road. Our school used to be Devereaux Elementary, but the name was changed to honor a **distinguished** former teacher in our district. Wouldn't it be great to have a school named after you?

Our school is a great school where learning is fun and we take a lot of pride in our accomplishments. We have teachers who work hard to encourage us to do well and so we have won awards such as the Palmetto Gold and the Red Carpet awards. We have had excellent ratings on our school report card too. The students have many opportunities such as after school programs and clubs. The Parent-Teacher organization and business partners help us get things we need. Our **community** supports us in every way.



Even though I know there are many good schools in South Carolina, I am very proud to be a Brennan Bulldog!



I live in an urban area. The Columbia area includes several smaller cities like Irmo, Lexington, Blythewood, Cayce, Forest Acres, Dentsville, and Gilbert. Cars and trucks are the main mode of transportation, although you will also find buses and trains. Interstates 77,

26, and 20 all run through the Sandhills and take people to, from, and through our region. Amtrak, a passenger train, has a station in Columbia. There is the Columbia Metropolitan Airport which serves 1.2 million passengers a year.

Concrete, steel, and asphalt can sure change the landscape, can't they?

You can find something to do like sports, the arts, festivals, or outdoor activities, any time that you want to do it. The rivers, the lakes, the parks, the history; it is all there with a mild climate that boasts an average temperature of 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

I live with my dad in a condominium. It is in a downtown area so that my dad can be close to work. He is a professor at the University of South Carolina. He teaches geography and he explained to me how humans have changed the physical features in South Carolina. He takes me on trips around the state so that we can see all the wonderful things here. The history is fun to learn alsoand I know that the geography has been, and still is, a huge effect on our history.

Here is the building with our condo on the second floor.



It is an old building that my granddad used to shop in with his mother when he was a boy. It was a dime store, he said. Now I know all about stores where you can find lots of things for a dollar, but a dime? I told him I thought he must be kidding because a dime won't buy anything. Now there is a bakery and café on the bottom floor of the building and it sure smells good when they are baking.



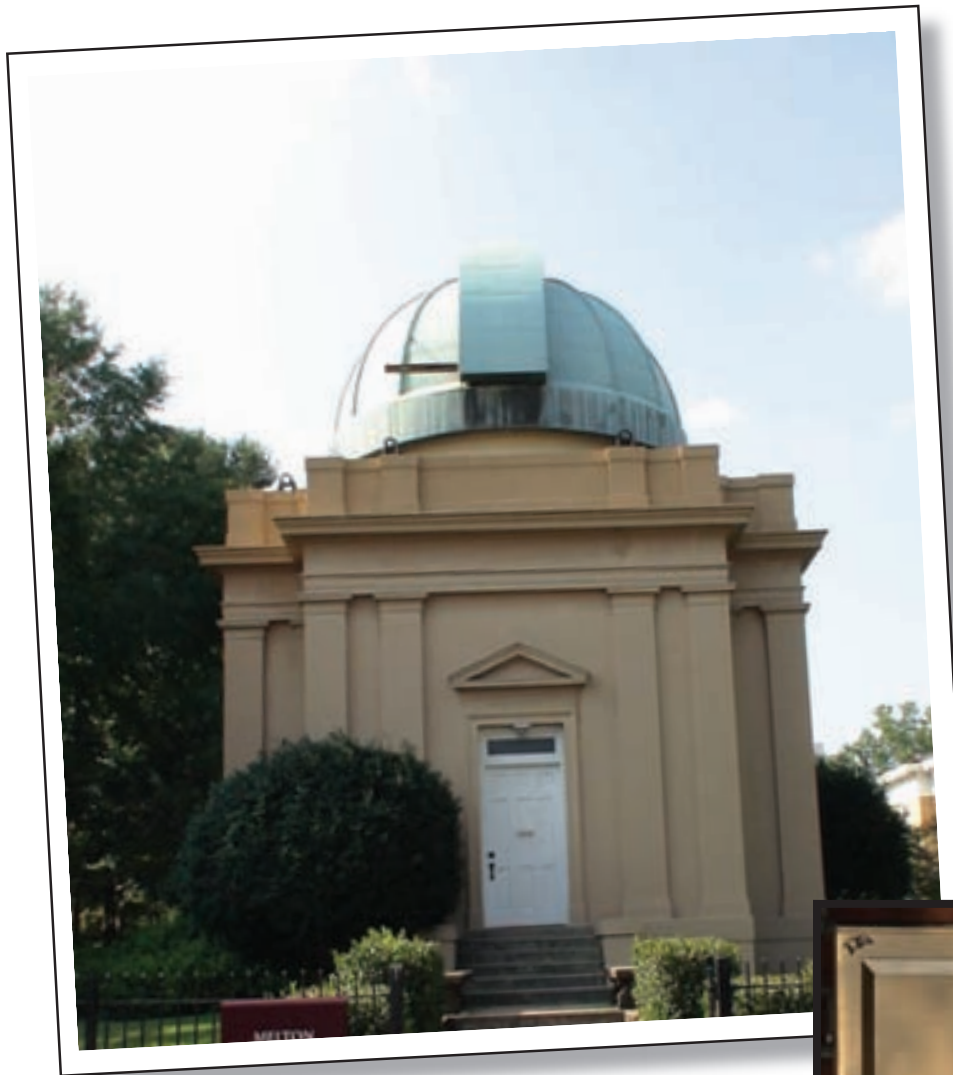
Dad works just a short walk away from our home. He doesn't drive to work unless it is raining really hard. He can do much of his work at home but he teaches classes on campus. He says he has the greatest job in the world.



USC has over 27,000 students so it brings many people to Columbia. The university is more than 200 years old and it even survived the Civil War. There was just one building in the beginning, in 1806, and it was on the property where eleven buildings now form the Horseshoe.



What a beautiful place it is!



Sometimes Dad and I go to the Melton Observatory on the USC campus. The admission is free and you can see all kinds of things there. At night you can see stars, constellations, even the Andromeda Galaxy! Comets, asteroids, and meteorites have been observed there.



It's another great part of the University, in addition to the exciting football and basketball games!

Living in an urban area really has its advantages. We are never bored because there is so much to do. There are museums and art exhibits and historical buildings.

This is the State Museum. It houses many interesting exhibits and provides lots of programs to teach the students in SC.

You can enjoy art, natural and cultural history, science, and technology exhibits there. There is a Discovery Center too.



It was once the Columbia Duck Mill. It was the first electric textile mill in the WORLD!



There is the Confederate Relic Room where the exhibits are about 200 years old.



Edventure is also a museum but it is a children's museum. There are neat things to do, like make your own tv news show!

The Columbia Museum of Art on Main and Hampton is another great place to spend an afternoon. Exhibits change so there are always new things to see. You can get a group tour or you can look at exhibits on your own. Any way you want to do it, you ought to go there.



Have you ever heard of Blue Sky?

He is an artist in Columbia and he has certainly left his mark on the environment. He has a gallery on Saluda Avenue where you can see some incredible art. His art has been in *People* and various other magazines.

Look at this one called "Busted Plug Plaza" on Taylor Street, between Bull and Marion Streets, at the Ag First Farm Credit Bank. It weighs 675,000 pounds and is four stories tall. You can see his famous "Tunnelvision" in the same parking lot. He has made his mark on the environment, hasn't he?





If you want to see an example of how the rich people lived in the 1800's, you can visit the Robert Mills House on 1616 Blanding Street. Ainsley Hall, who was a wealthy merchant in Columbia, hired Robert Mills to design his new home. Mr. Mills was a famous architect and he also designed the Washington Monument as well as other famous buildings in the United States. Mr. Hall died before the house was finished. My dad says that it is perfect, inside and outside.



This is the Hampton Preston House which also was once owned by Ainsley Hall. Wade Hampton I bought it for his family and then later his daughter, Caroline Preston, lived there. These two families obtained wealth from their cotton plantation and sugar cane plantations in Louisiana where hundreds of their slaves produced the crops for them. The Hamptons, and then the Prestons, lived in style and were part of the high society of Columbia.



The State House is a cool place to visit too. My class visited a legislative session when we were studying the branches of government. Did you know that the courts are the judicial branch and the SC Senate and House of Representatives make up the legislative branch of the state government? This is where it all happens.

It is on the corner of Assembly Street and Gervais Street. The grounds are full of statues and monuments, and display some of the plant life of South Carolina.



Monument to a confederate soldier



Stars mark spots where cannonballs hit the State House in the Civil War



Statue of Wade Hampton

Do you know why the palmetto tree is so important to South Carolinians?

It is our state tree and its presence on our flag represents Fort Moultrie, which was made from palmetto logs. Nine British ships attacked it during the Revolutionary War and the palmetto logs withstood the attack. Charleston was saved from capture and the palmetto logs get most of the credit for it.



Now we are the Palmetto State!



The State House grounds almost look like a park, don't they? Even so, most people walking through seem to be in a hurry. They probably have important business inside the Capitol.

This is the African American Memorial. South Carolina has the only capitol in the nation with a memorial dedicated to the African American population and their accomplishments.



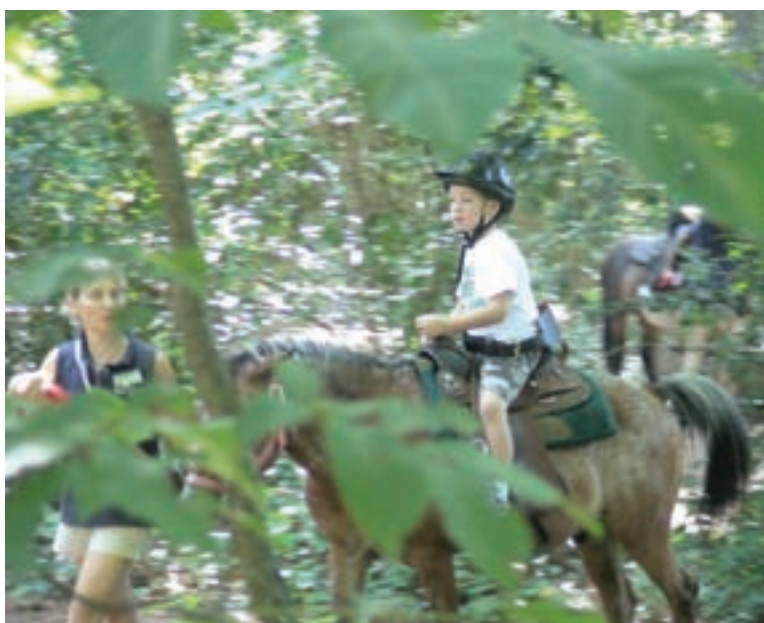
The pictures represent the struggle of the African-Americans as they have been a major part of the history and the development of this state. This is one way that we, as South Carolinians, can demonstrate our appreciation and respect for the African-American tribulation.

Sculptor Ed Dwight said that he hoped people would see it as a time machine to take them back to Charleston in the days of slavery and even through the Jim Crow and civil rights period. The monument was paid for through private donations. The history of our state was not always pretty, but we all realize that our heritage is rich and diverse.



I love to go to the zoo. It seems that every time we go there are lots of groups touring the zoo. I have seen big charter buses and church vans and I have seen Girl Scouts and Boy Scout troops visiting there. Riverbanks Zoo is 170 acres of habitats for 2,000 animals as well as river views and beautiful scenery. It contains one of the of the best botanical gardens in the nation, and has won several awards as a tourist attraction.

The elephants are my favorite.



The animals are fun to watch, but I like to watch the people too! They are always having a good time.

There are trails to follow, and they can be nice and shady on a hot summer's day.



Riverbanks Zoo is a really interesting and fun way to spend the day. I recommend that you bring your sun block and your camera so that you can make some great pictures.

Paddlers are often seen in the Saluda River. There are whitewater rapids that a beginner can learn or more difficult ones that an expert can challenge. People say that they never forget their trips down this river. The water temperature never gets above 60 degrees Fahrenheit; rainbow trout and striped bass just wait for the fisherman to throw them a line. Uh, that sounds fishy, doesn't it?

You can take a tram and cross the Saluda River to other exhibits. You can walk, but I would rather ride.



Saluda River



Congaree River



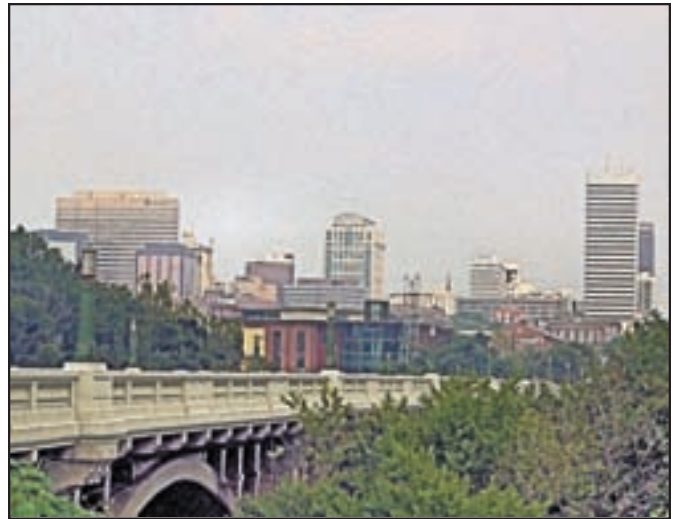
Broad River

In the Sandhills, you'll find the Saluda River, the Broad River, and the Congaree River. The Saluda and the Broad rivers actually combine and form the Congaree. Having three major rivers made the area a good place for settlers because they were able to trade and travel using boats. They could fish for food, plant crops, and have plenty of water for other uses. It was natural that, in time, a city like Columbia would develop.

From this.....



..... to this.



Large mills for manufacturing goods were eventually built on the rivers in the Sandhills.

Did you know that the Columbia Duck Mill (1895) produced material for the uniforms of US soldiers in World War II?

The rivers gave, and still give, people lots of recreational opportunities. Recreational fishing is very popular in the area. A fishing license is required, but they are easy to purchase. You can fish for bream, catfish, striped or largemouth bass or crappie. You can bring your own boat or you can rent one. There are so many relaxing activities and the weather is usually cooperative.



This looks like fun, don't you think?



In addition to the Saluda, Congaree, and Broad Rivers, you will find Lake Murray in the midlands of South Carolina. During World War II, the Army Air Corps trained B-25 pilots and bombing crews in Columbia. Lunch Island, and other islands in the middle of Lake Murray, was used for practicing the bombing runs. Sometimes they crashed. Today we know that there are some planes at the bottom of the lake. Some say there may be as many as 25 planes there, and the US Navy has recently recovered some of them using very sophisticated equipment. I sure would like to watch them do it.
That would be so cool!

Then of course, there is the use of water to make electricity.
In 1896, Columbia had its first power plant.



It is still used today by the South Carolina Gas and Electric Company. There have been some changes but it still works!

The fall line, where water falls from higher land to lower land, makes the Sandhills the perfect place for man to convert water into power. The Lake Murray Dam is an example of what today's technology can do with nature's gifts.



(photo courtesy of SCANA)

Conservation is important to the people of South Carolina. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources helps us take care of our resources by enforcing the laws about managing resources and educating us on the best ways to manage the riches that nature gave us. Land, trees, soil, minerals, and many other natural resources as well as water are part of the wealth in South Carolina.

In the Sandhills region the soil is very sandy. Do you remember why that is true? This region was once a beach.



It looks like it has snowed in the picture, doesn't it? It's not snow-it's sand! There are companies in this region that mine sand and sell it. Sand is used in concrete as well as the sand boxes we play in. You see, humans have found many ways to take what is here naturally, and turn it into something else. Pretty neat, isn't it?

There must be a hundred parks in the Sandhills! People love parks and kids like me especially love them. I want to show you my favorite one. It is Finlay Park, in the middle of Columbia. If you were riding through the downtown area, maybe on Assembly Street, you might go by it without seeing it.



It was dedicated as Sidney Park in 1859 after a councilman named Algernon Sidney Johnson. Shortly after that, and the Civil War, the park was in poor condition. It was used commercially for a long time. In 1990 it was opened again to add some natural element to downtown, and events like Columbia Kids' Day and the Summer Concert Series were held there. In 1992, the park was renamed Finlay Park, to honor Kirkman Finlay. He was the mayor of Columbia. You can find a statue of him in the park and the statue is sitting on a park bench.



There's always someone to play with at Finlay Park!



You will find food, a **pergola** and swings, a lake, playing fields, and two playground areas. It is a great place to have your lunch or take a walk.

Finlay Park is one of the largest parks in the United States that is **handicapped accessible**. The paved walks are also good for people who want to take children in strollers.



Across from the park at 800 Richland Street, you will find another historic place. It is the home of the governor and it is often called the Governor's Mansion. It was built in 1855 and has been home to more than thirty governors. Luckily, it was not damaged when General Sherman came through Columbia during the Civil War. The public rooms contain lots of items that are valuable and are also state property, like furniture, paintings, documents, silver, and china.



The grounds include nine acres of landscaping and two smaller houses, the Lace House, where the gift shop is located, and Caldwell- Boylston House, which is the official guesthouse.



Have you heard about Peachtree Rock Preserve?

It's a site owned by the Nature Conservancy and is named for the big sandstone formation shaped like an upside down pyramid.



Does it look like a peach pit to you? I guess it is like looking at the clouds and imagining different pictures in them.

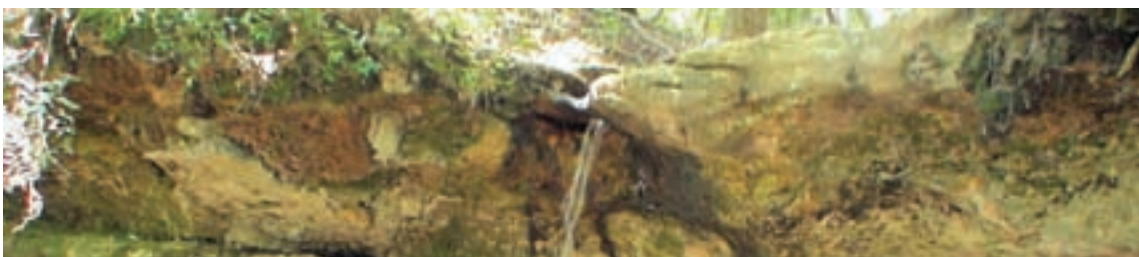
It turned out to look this way because the lower layers of rock and sand eroded faster than the upper layers of hard coarse-grained sandstone. Some people think it looks like a peach pit.

Look carefully and you can see the erosion. The water ran down the hill and carried sand and soil with it. Wind also might be responsible for this erosion.



You can find it in Lexington County, not far from Columbia.

There is a small waterfall that tumbles into a pool on the site, and it is said to be the only cascade found in the South Carolina Sandhills or coastal plain.



There are diverse communities there from bogs to a longleaf pine ecosystem. An endangered type of blueberry is found within the pine forest on the preserve. Interesting, isn't it?

Do you know what the Nature Conservancy is?

It is the leading conservation organization working to protect ecologically important lands and waters around the world. It is a non-profit organization. You can find other Nature Conservancy preserves in South Carolina. Most preserves are open to visitors.



If we are talking about fun, and we are, there is always the State Fair.
What a great time you can have there!

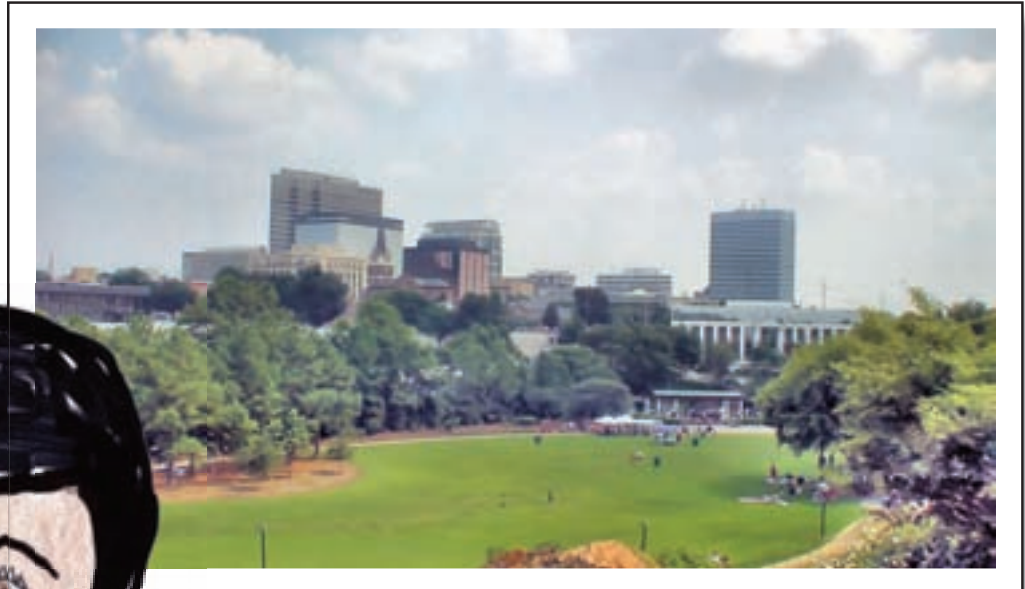


You can find so many things to see, to do, and to eat. There are competitive exhibits for interests like art and agriculture, there are rides and games, and there are hot dogs stands and cotton candy vendors.



It is held at the State Fairgrounds for several days early in the fall. You can find the dates and all the information you need at: www.scstatefair.org





This is my home.....the Sandhills, and the capital city of Columbia, South Carolina. It is a place where the business of the state is conducted. It is a city filled with history, bursting with energy, and rich with fun and excitement. I am lucky to live in a place with so many beautiful places and wonderful people. I don't think I could ever be happy anywhere else!

Glossary

architect- someone whose job is to design buildings and advise on their construction.

asteroid- an irregularly shaped rock that orbits the Sun, mostly occurring in a band asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Asteroids range in size from the largest, Ceres, with a diameter of 930 km (580 mi), down to dust particles.

bog- an area of wet marshy ground, largely consisting of accumulated decomposing plant material.

campus- an area of land that contains the main buildings and grounds of a university, college, or school.

canal- an artificial waterway constructed for use by shipping, for irrigation, or for recreational use. A canal may take in parts of natural rivers along its course.

capital- a city that is the seat of government of a country, state, or province.

capitol- a building or group of buildings in which a state legislature meets and where other state government offices may be housed.

climate- commonly considered to be the weather averaged over a long time, typically 30 years.

comet- an astronomical object that is composed of a mass of ice and dust and has a long luminous tail produced by vaporization when its orbit passes close to the Sun.

commercial- done with the primary objective of making money.

community- a group of people living in the same locality under the same government.

competitive- involving or decided by competition.

condominium- an individually owned unit of real estate, especially an apartment or town house, in a building or on land that is owned in common by the owners of the units.

conservation- the preservation, management, and care of natural and cultural resources.

constellation- a group of stars visible from Earth that forms a distinctive pattern and has a name, often derived from Greek mythology, linked to its shape. There are 88 constellations and the groupings are historical rather than scientific.

convert- to change the function or use of something, or be able to change in function or use.

distinguished- well known and respected for an achievement, skill, knowledge, or talent.

diverse- made up of many different parts.

diversity- variety of experiences and perspectives that arise from differences in race, culture, religion, mental or physical abilities, heritage, age, gender, and other characteristics.

donation- a gift or contribution, especially a sum of money given to a charity.

dunes- hill of sand: a mound or ridge of sand formed by wind or water action, typically seen on coasts and in deserts.

element- a separate identifiable part of something, or a distinct group within a larger group.

energy- a supply or source of electrical, mechanical, or other form of power.
environment- all the outside factors influencing the life and the activities of people, plants, and animals.
erode- to wear away outer layers of rock or soil, or be gradually worn away by the action of wind or water.
exhibit- to display.
fall line- imaginary line along top of slope: an imaginary line along the edge of higher land, marked by rapids and waterfalls, that indicates where rivers begin to descend more steeply from a highland region to a lowland one.
geography- the study of all the physical features of the Earth's surface, including its climate and the distribution of plant, animal, and human life.
habitat- the natural conditions and environment in which a plant or animal lives, e.g. forest, desert, or wetlands.
handicapped accessible- built for the disabled person's ease of use.
heritage- something passing from generation to generation: something that passes from one generation to the next in a social group, e.g. a way of life or traditional culture.
historical- referring to the past in human terms.
judicial- relating or belonging to a body of judges or to the system that administers justice.
landscape- comprises the visible features of an area of land, including physical elements such as landforms, living elements of flowers and animals, elements such as lighting and weather conditions, and human interaction with the environment.
legislative- relating to lawmaking body: relating to or being part of a legislature.
mansion- a large and stately house.
manufacture- to make something into a finished product using raw materials, especially on a large industrial scale.
meteorite- rock from outer space: a piece of rock that has reached Earth from outer space.
midlands- middle of the state.
monuments- something designed and built as a lasting public tribute to a person, a group of people, or an event.
natural resources- a naturally occurring material that can be exploited by people.
pergola- a frame structure consisting of colonnades or posts with a latticework roof, designed to support climbing plants.
physical features- land shape formed by nature such as deserts, mountains, and plateaus.
recreational- done or used for pleasure or relaxation rather than work.
sandstone- rock made of sand: a sedimentary rock made up of particles of sand bound together with mineral cement.
tribulation- great difficulty, ordeal, affliction, or distress.
urban- relating to or belonging to a city.
vendor- seller: someone who sells something.

*** The author is found on page 28 in the forest.