

Carolina ^[1]

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by Lindley S. Butler, 2006

See also: [Carolina Charters \(1663, 1665\)](#) ^[2]



Close up of the Carolina Charter of 1663, featuring a portrait of King Charles II of England. Image from the North Carolina Digital Collections.

^[3]Carolina was a Proprietary colony established by England's [King Charles II](#) ^[4] through the charter of 24 Mar. 1663 that granted eight [Lords Proprietors](#) ^[5] all of the land on the North American continent between the latitudes of 31° and 36° north, extending west to the South Seas (Pacific Ocean). This was the same territory that had been conferred by [Charles I](#) ^[6] in 1629 to Sir [Robert Heath](#) ^[7] as the [Carolana](#) ^[8] Proprietary, which was nullified by the new charter. Named in honor of Charles II, the Carolina Proprietary rewarded courtiers and loyalists who had helped make the 1660 restoration of the monarchy possible. To encompass the settlement north of [Albemarle](#) ^[9] Sound, a second charter was issued on 30 June 1665 that expanded the colony to 36°30' and 29° north latitude, which located the northern boundary on the present Virginia-North Carolina border and the southern boundary in mid-Florida.

Educator Resources:

[Carolina Charter Lesson Plan](#) ^[10], State Archives of North Carolina

References:

Hugh T. Lefler and William S. Powell, *Colonial North Carolina: A History* (1973).

Powell, *The Carolina Charter of 1663* (1954).

Additional Resources:

"Treasures." North Carolina Digital Collections. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/treasures> ^[11] (accessed January 28, 2019).

"Original boundaries of Carolina (1663/1665)" ANCHOR. <https://www.ncpedia.org/media/map/original-boundaries> ^[12] (accessed January 28, 2019).

"The Charter of Carolina (1663)." *Colonial North Carolina*. ANCHOR. <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/charter-carolina-1663> ^[13] (January 28, 2019).

Walbert, David. "A little kingdom in Carolina." *Colonial North Carolina*. ANCHOR. <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/little-kingdom-carolina> ^[14] (January 28, 2019).

Image Credits:

Charles II, King of England. *Carolina Charter*. 1663. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/carolina-charter/418673> [3] (accessed October 15, 2012).

Subjects:

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Authors:

[Butler, Lindley S.](#) [18]

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[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) [19]

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