

## Companion Document for “Coastlines and Voting Patterns”

**Contributors:** Branson Becker

**Keywords:** Coastline, Blackland prairie, slaves

**Location:** American Southeast

**Last Updated:** 1/7/2022

### Additional Context for Slides

*Slide 2:* The Western Interior seaway appeared about 100 million years ago and split North America into two main continents, the western Laramidia and the eastern Appalachia. There was also a continent north of Appalachia, but there is very little information about it except that some sources call it “Franklinia”. Image from “[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North\\_america\\_75mya.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North_america_75mya.png)”.

*Slide 3:* The cause of the receding of the western interior seaway was mountain formation which also raised the elevation of the great plains area. The western interior seaway was relatively shallow which also contributed to its receding. Image from “<https://sauriangame.squarespace.com/blog/555>”.

*Slide 4:* Image from “<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/92321/black-belt-prairie>”.

*Slide 5:* The main reason that the three fifths compromise was created was for tax purposes. With a smaller population, the state would be taxed less, so southerners only wanted 1 out of 4 slaves to be counted towards population so they would be taxed less, while the north wanted 3 out of 4 slaves to be counted so that they could tax southern states more. They eventually reached an agreement where 3 out of 5 slaves would be counted as a compromise. Image from “<https://www.scienceofthesouth.com/tag/black-belt/>”.

*Slide 6:* Image from “[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_Belt\\_in\\_the\\_American\\_South](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Belt_in_the_American_South)”.

*Slide 7:* In 2016, Hillary Clinton won 88% of the black vote. These counties were a large part of the reason Georgia flipped from red to blue in the 2020 election. The historical significance of the Appalachian coastline has been huge in determining modern America's political landscape. Image from “<https://kottke.org/16/10/how-the-cretaceous-coastline-of-north-america-affects-us-presidential-elections>”.

*Slide 8:* *Top left:* The Appalachian coastline 80 million years ago in the American south. Image from “[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North\\_america\\_75mya.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North_america_75mya.png)” *Top right:* The distribution of fertile soil shows the black belt region of the south. Image from “<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/92321/black-belt-prairie>”. *Bottom left:* Slave population in 1860 shows high concentrations of slaves along the same distinct curve as the Appalachian coast. Image from “<https://lincolnmullen.com/blog/a-better-map-of-slavery-in-1860/>”. *Bottom right:* 2012 election results by county where blue is democrat and red is

republican. These maps show the clear correlation between the Appalachian coastline 80 million years ago and modern voting patterns. Image from “<https://kottke.org/16/10/how-the-cretaceous-coastline-of-north-america-affects-us-presidential-elections>”.