

The Story of the North Carolina Gingerbread Boy

one cold winter day, a teacher and her 25 2nd grade students in claremont, North Carolina made a gingerbread boy cookie. When they opened up the oven the gingerbread boy hopped off the tray and said; "Run, run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me! I'm off to explore your land!" The class ran after him as fast as they could.

The Gingerbread Boy ran on and on until he came to a beautiful dogwood tree, our state flower. on it was perched a cardinal, our state bird. The cardinal asked, "where are you off to? The bird asked. "You look good enough to eat," Gingerbread Boy laughed, "I am off to Raleigh to see the governor!" and took off! The cardinal took off after the gingerbread boy.



The gingerbread boy ran on and on until he came upon an Eastern Box turtle, our state reptile, sunning on a slab of granite, our state rock. "Please stop little ginger boy. You look mighty tasty. I think I would like to eat you!" the turtle called, but the gingerbread boy just laughed and said, "I am a gingerbread boy, I am. I've run away from a class of 2nd graders and a cardinal. I can run away from you, I can." The turtle chased after him.



Finally gingerbread boy made it to the Research Triangle Park in Raleigh. Here he explored three large universities: UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State and Duke university (the country's first!). He caught sight of the turtle, cardinal, and 2nd graders so he decided to take off east towards Kitty Hawk, NC-where the wright Brothers had the first flight.



on his way he came upon Roanoke Island. He read all about the Lost Colony and virginia Dare, the first American child born in this country. He couldn't cross the water, but spotted a Gray squirrel, our state mammal, in a shad boat. Gingerbread boy told the squirrel that he'd never catch him! The gray squirrel offered to help Gingerbread boy to cross and told him he didn't want to eat him anyhow.



After getting through the sound, Gingerbread boy made it to Kitty Hawk. He then decided to take a quick tour of the many lighthouses in the outer Banks region of the state then head to Charlotte to see a Carolina Panthers game. on his way to Charlotte he got lost and ended up in the

Appalachian Mountains. There on the Blue Ridge Parkway, he saw a Plott Hound sitting underneath a pine tree. The hound dog told the gingerbread boy he sure looked tasty and asked him to slow down. But Gingerbread boy ran as fast as he could until suddenly...his feet wouldn't budge. He'd gotten stuck in tar! "Now you know why this is called the "Tar Heel State," the hound howled.



Gingerbread boy heard the 2nd graders, the cardinal, the turtle, and the squirrel approaching. Gently, Mrs. Lamb, the teacher, pried him out of the tar. "Don't worry", she said. "we don't want to eat you. we just want you to tell classes all over the USA about the great state of North Carolina!" They carried him back to Oxford Elementary and fed him sweet potatoes (state veggie), scuppernong grapes (state fruit), and a big glass of milk (state beverage)!

we hope you enjoy learning all about the wonderful state we live in and we cannot wait to learn about yours, too!

Sincerely,

