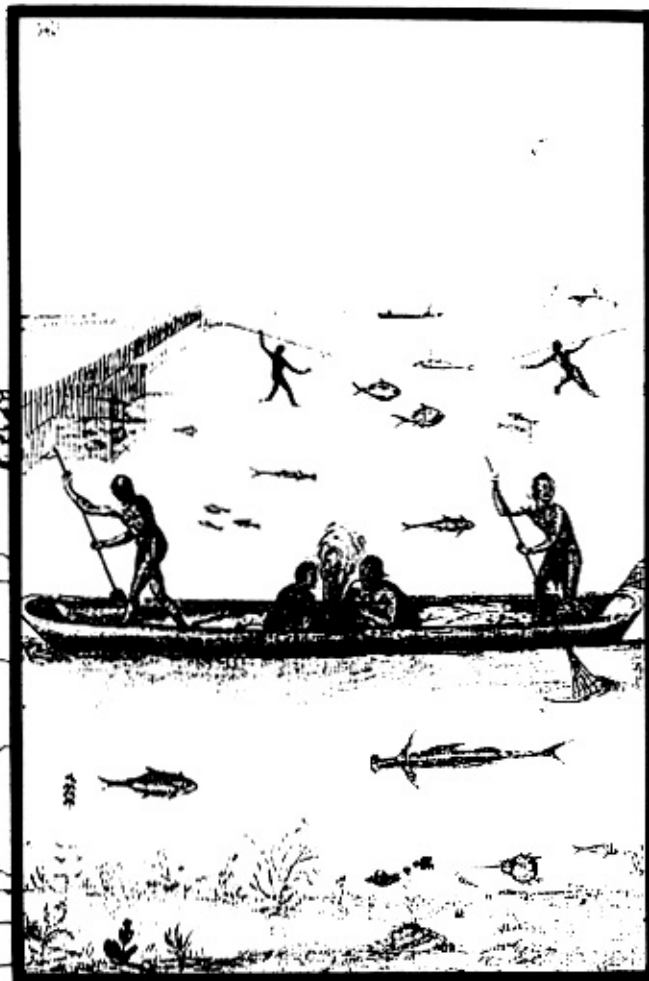
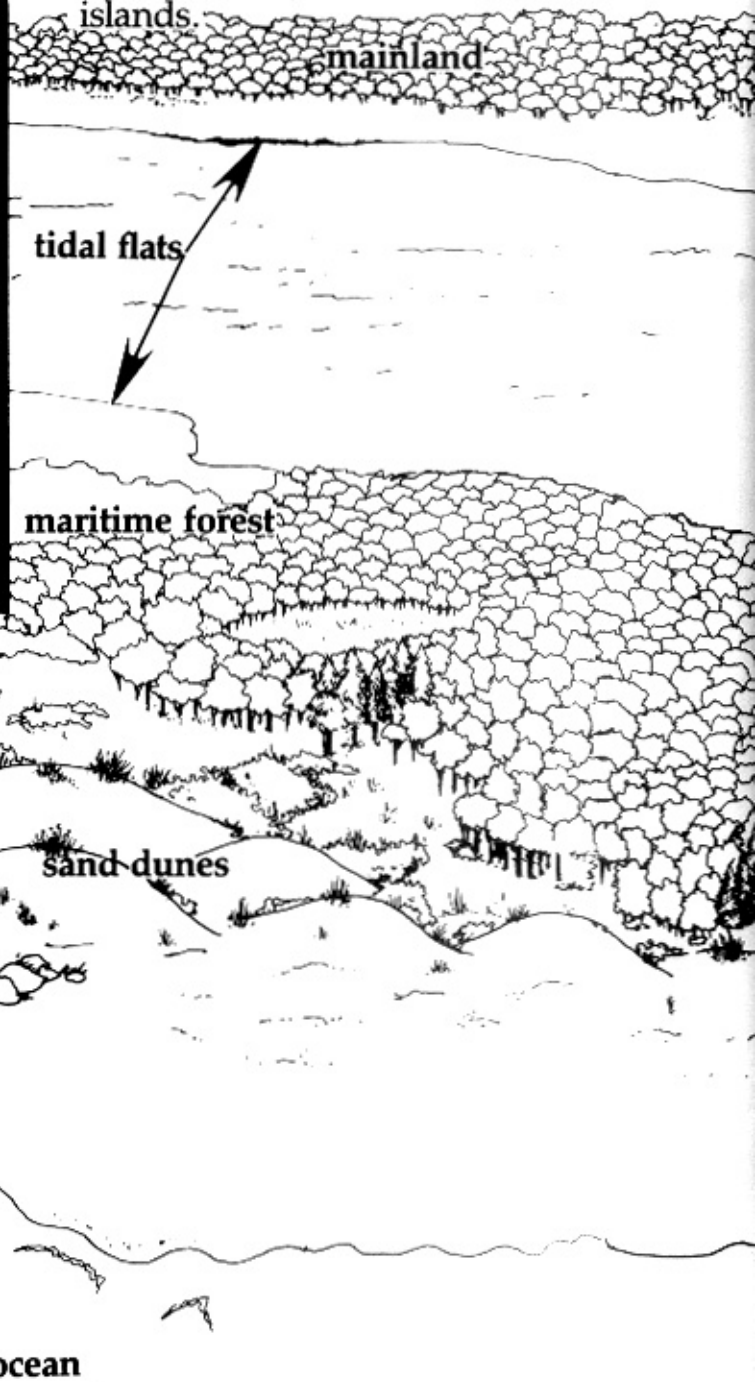


THE COAST

John White's painting of Indians fishing 1585



The coastal environment has shaped the lives of the people who lived there. The first settlers arrived in the 1580s and found the native Americans traveling by water and fishing by methods still used today. The land was low and flat, with abundant creeks, rivers, and bays that eventually flow into sounds lying inside a chain of sandy, low islands, called barrier islands.



ocean beach

sand dunes

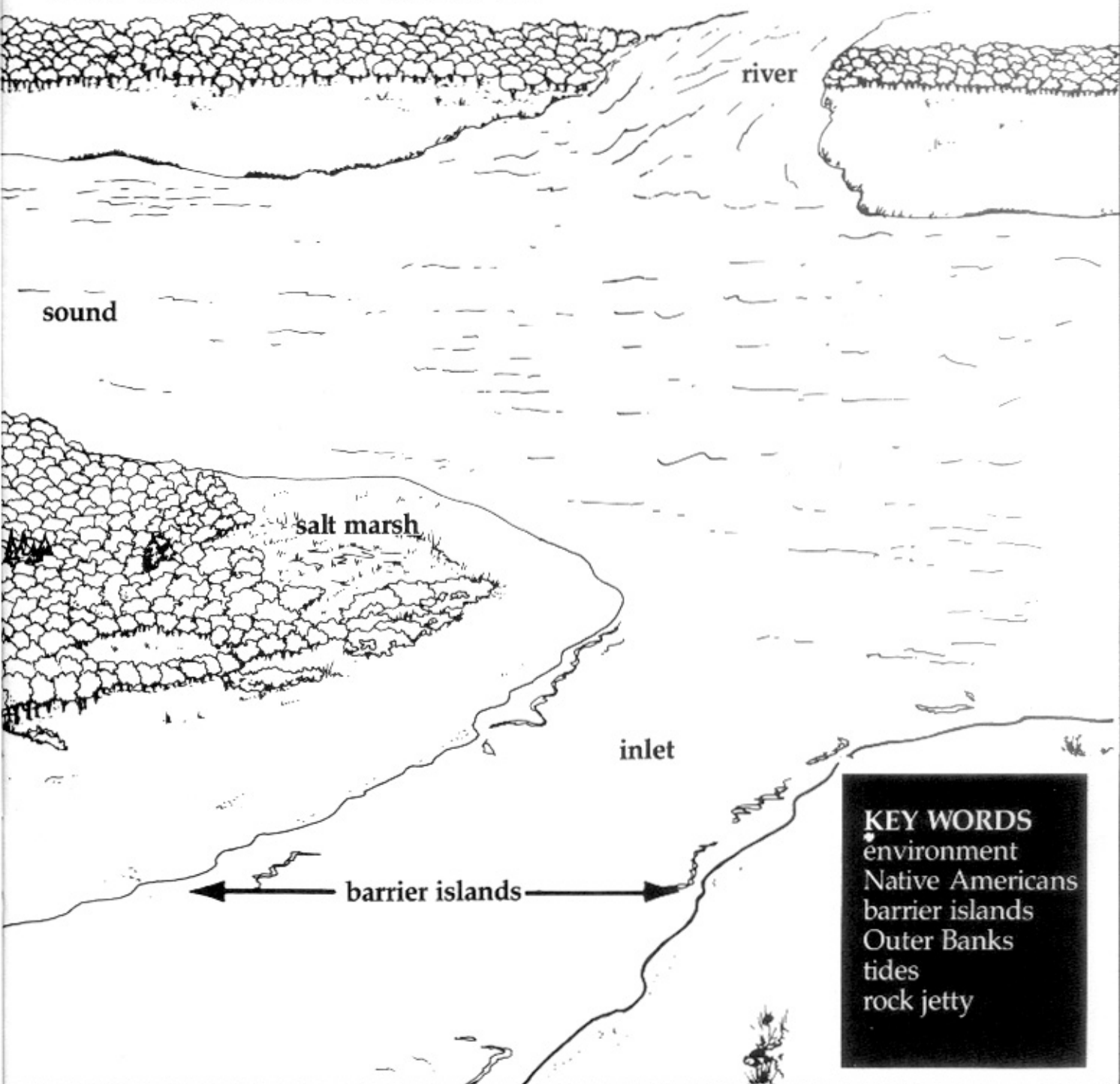
rock jetty

ocean

Self-reliant communities, dependent upon abundant resources and with a healthy respect for an unforgiving environment, were established on the shores of these waterways.

People living on the coast have always had to do things in a special way because of the environment. The weather, the

water and tides, the soils, beaches and islands, all were important factors in their lives. It has been necessary for people to do a number of different things throughout the year, depending on the season. They built specialized boats to carry their families and their goods and to harvest their food.



KEY WORDS
environment
Native Americans
barrier islands
Outer Banks
tides
rock jetty