UNIT 1

SS8G1

GEORGIA'S GEOGRAPHY

SS8H1 EARLY HISTORY





SS8G1

The student will describe Georgia with regard to physical features and location.

- a. Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.
- b. Describe the five geographic regions of Georgia; include the Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Appalachian Plateau, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain.
- c. Locate and evaluate the importance of key physical features on the development of Georgia; include Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands.
- d. Evaluate the impact of climate on Georgia's development.

SS8G1 The student will describe Georgia with regard to physical features and location.

Georgia is a state that has a diverse geography. With mountains to the north and the largest swamp in North America to the south, Georgia has quite a unique physical landscape. After studying this standard YOU should be able to describe Georgia's relative and absolute location, describe its five regions, locate and evaluate the importance of some of Georgia's physical features, and discuss how Georgia's climate has impacted the state's development.



SS8H1

The student will evaluate the development of Native American cultures and the impact of European exploration and settlement on the Native American cultures in Georgia.

- a. Describe the evolution of Native American cultures (Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian) prior to European contact.
- b. Evaluate the impact of European contact on Native American cultures; include Spanish missions along the barrier islands, and explorations of Hernando DeSoto.
- c. Explain reasons for European exploration & settlement of North America, with emphasis on the interests of the French, Spanish, and British in the southeastern area.

SS8H1 The student will evaluate the development of Native American cultures and the impact of European exploration and settlement on the Native American cultures in Georgia.

People inhabited Georgia long before its official "founding" on February 12, 1733. The land that became our state was occupied by several different groups for over 12,000 years. The intent of this standard is for students to begin to grasp some basic information related to the **Prehistoric Native American** cultures found in Georgia, the early explorers of the state and their treatment of the native peoples, and the rationale behind the major colonial powers who laid claims to the lands of the future state of Georgia.



WARM T AUGUST 6



ESSENTIAL QUESTION PAGE 2

SS8G1a WHERE IN THE WORLD IS **GEORGIA?**



2



REGION:

SS8G1a

NATION:

CONTINENT:

HEMISPHERES:

STEP 1: WRITE THE NUMBER 2 IN THE UPPER RIGHT CORNER OF THE SECOND PAGE

STEP 2: IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER WRITE THE STANDARD SS8G1a

STEP 3: ON THE TOP LINE WRITE THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GEORGIA?

<u>STEP 4</u>: TRACE THE US MAP ON YOUR PAPER (JUST THE OUTLINE OF THE US AND THE

STEP 5: COPY THE FOUR LOCATIONS BELOW THE MAP



SS8G1a

Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.

Concept: LOCATION



LOCATION

The student will understand that location affects a society's economy, culture, and development.

Why are many places in the world very different from one another?

How would you describe the location of Georgia to someone who lives in Japan? Canada? California?





SS8G1 GEOGRAPHY of GEORGIA

LOCATION

- GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS
- PHYSICAL
 FEATURES



Where in the World is Georgia?

- Which hemispheres?
- Which continent?
- Which nation?
- Which region?



EXPLORE and INVESTIGATE



SS8G1a

- The state of Georgia is located in the southeastern United States. It is located on the continent of North America and it is in the Northern (latitude) and Western (longitude) Hemispheres.
- Note: Since Georgia is often referred to as a "Southern State" sometimes students will mistakenly answer that it is located in the "Southern Hemisphere."

Georgia is in the Northern & Western hemispheres



NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Georgia is on the North American continent





Georgia is one of the 50 states in the United States of America



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Georgia is in the Southeast region of the USA



SOUTHEAST REGION





How would you describe the location of Georgia?

How would you describe the location of Paulding County?





LET'S REVIEW YESTERDAY'S ESSENTIAL QUESTION

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GEORGIA?

REGION? NATION? CONTINENT? HEMISPHERES?





ESSENTIAL QUESTION PAGE 3

SS8G1b HOW ARE THE FIVE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF GEORGIA SIMILAR? DIFFERENT?



HOW ARE THE FIVE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF GEORGIA SIMILAR? DIFFERENT? 3

Laber Westerner

STEP 1: TRACE YOUR GEORGIA CUTOUT MAP IN THE CENTER OF THE PAGE

STEP 2: PREDICT AND VISUALIZE WHERE YOU BELIEVE GEORGIA'S FIVE REGIONS ARE LOCATED



SS8G1b

Describe the five geographic regions of Georgia; include the Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Appalachian Plateau, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain.

> Concept: LOCATION





WHERE ARE THE FIVE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF GEORGIA?

HOW ARE THEY SIMILAR?

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

EXPLORE and INVESTIGATE



SS8G1b

The state of Georgia is divided into five geographic regions. In the north there are three small mountainous regions, each with a differing topography. In the middle of the state is the hilly Piedmont area which is home to many of Georgia's largest cities including Atlanta. Finally, the state is dominated by the Coastal Plain region which takes up three fifths of Georgia. The Coastal Plain, which is divided into an inner and outer section, was actually covered by water millions of years ago.

Where are the five geographic regions of Georgia?

- Appalachian Plateau
- Valley and Ridge
- Blue Ridge Mountains
- Piedmont
- Coastal Plains





PLATEAU

The Appalachian Plateau is located in the northwestern corner of the state and is Georgia's smallest region. The region is sometimes called the "TAG" region, as the states of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia all connect at one point. The region has many scenic areas and is the location of **Cloudland State Park. Lookout** Mountain, the site of a major Civil War battle, is located in the region, though it is actually in the state of Tennessee.



CLOUDLAND CANYON


APPALACHIAN PLATEAU

As with the other mountain regions of Georgia, mining was an important economic activity in the region. In the case of the Appalachian Plateau, coal was the most important product. However, unlike the other two northern regions, due to poor soil, agriculture in the Appalachian Plateau is limited.





VALLEY and RIDGE

The Valley and Ridge region is characterized by low open valleys and narrow ridges. The area was traditionally a mining region, with the valleys being used for agriculture. The region has several cities and towns, including Cartersville, Calhoun, and Dalton.





VALLEY and RIDGE

Dalton is probably the Valley and Ridge's most important city due to its textile and carpet industry. Historically, this region was a major battle ground during the Civil War and is a major transportation route between Georgia and Tennessee.











BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

The Blue Ridge region is located in the northeastern portion of the state. The region is home to Georgia's largest mountains, including Brasstown Bald the highest peak in the state and the southernmost point of the Appalachian Trail. Important cities in the region include Dahlonega, the site of America's first Gold Rush.





BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

In the past, the primary industry of the region was mining (gold and marble). Today, due to the region's scenic beauty, it is tourism. The Blue Ridge receives the most precipitation in the state with over 80 inches of rain annually and is the starting point of most of Georgia's rivers.















PIEDMONT

The Piedmont region is in the middle of the state and is the most populous of the five regions. With over 4.5 million people, almost onehalf of Georgia's population lives in the region. Many of Georgia's most important cities are located in the region including Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, and Macon.





PIEDMONT

Due to these urban centers, manufacturing is important in the region, though agriculture, primarily in the form of poultry, is also a significant enterprise in the region. In addition, due to the large amount of granite found in the region, mining has been important (Stone Mountain may be the most obvious example of the large amount of granite that can be found in the region, but the town of Elberton is known as the "Granite Capital of the World).



Paulding County is off the map – just west of Kennesaw Mtn.

STATE -

100

Dan ToonMapa....

COASTALPLAINS

The largest region in Georgia is the Coastal Plain. Making up three-fifths of the state, this region is actually divided into two areas: the Inner and the Outer Coastal Plain. The Inner Coastal Plain is the agricultural heartland of the state. In this region peaches, peanuts, cotton and the famous Vidalia onions are important crops.





The Outer Coastal Plain is the home of Georgia's oldest city, Savannah, which was founded in 1733. Due to the abundance of pine trees in the region, naval stores was an important industry in the state. Today the trees are used in pulp and paper production. With its location on the Atlantic Ocean tourism, shipping, and seafood are all important industries in the region.









Look at the map key.

Which color represents the high elevation of mountains?

Which part of the state is highest in elevation?

What direction do many of the rivers flow?



LET'S REVIEW YESTERDAY'S ESSENTIAL QUESTION

HOW ARE THE FIVE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF GEORGIA SIMILAR? DIFFERENT?

APPALACHIAN PLATEAU? VALLEY and RIDGE? BLUE RIDGE? PIEDMONT? COASTAL PLAINS?

WARM T AUGUST 9



ESSENTIAL QUESTION PAGE 4

SS8G1c HOW ARE PHYSICAL FEATURES IMPORTANT TO GEORGIA'S DEVELOPMENT?



HOW ARE PHYSICAL FEATURES IMPORTANT TO GEORGIA'S DEVELOPMENT? 4

Laber Westerner

STEP 1: TRACE YOUR GEORGIA CUTOUT MAP IN THE CENTER OF THE PAGE

STEP 2: PREDICT AND VISUALIZE WHERE YOU BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING PHYSICAL FEATURES OF GEORGIA ARE LOCATED



SS8G1c

Locate and evaluate the importance of key physical features on the development of Georgia; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands.

> Concept: LOCATION



EXPLORE and INVESTIGATE



Appalachian Mtns

Savannah River

Chattahoochee River

Okefenokee Swamp

Barrier Islands

What and where is the FALL LINE?

The fall line is a natural boundary that separates the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain regions. Due to the drop off of the hilly Piedmont region into the flat Coastal Plain, the waterfalls found on the fall line caused many rivers in the area to be difficult to navigate.



WHERE ARE RIVERS NAVIGABLE IN RELATION TO THE FALL LINE... NORTH OR SOUTH?



What and where is the FALL LINE?

However, the waterfalls did offer sources of water power and many mills were located on the fall line. In addition, many of Georgia's most important cities such as Columbus, Macon, and Augusta were located on the fall line due to their location as the last navigable upstream points in the state.



THE FALL LINE'S MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE

Kaolin is one of Georgia's largest natural resources. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, more than 8 million metric tons of kaolin are mined from Georgia each year, with an estimated value of more than \$1 billion. Georgia is by far the leading clay-producing state in America and is recognized as a world leader in the mining, production, processing, and application of kaolin products.

Kaolin in Georgia is generally found in a northeast to southwest band of deposits extending from Augusta to Macon to Columbus. This belt parallels the fall line, which marks the boundary between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain.

Kaolin is most commonly used in the papercoating industry. It is also used as a filler (added to plastics, for example, and rubber compounds), as a pigment additive in paints, in ceramics (tile, chinaware, and bathroom toilets and sinks), and in pharmaceuticals such as toothpaste.

- New Georgia Encyclopedia





What and where is the OKEFENOKEE SWAMP?

The Okefenokee Swamp covers 700 square miles and is the largest swamp in North America. Located in southeastern Georgia, the swamp can be found in four Georgia counties. Native Americans lived in the swamp dating back to the Archaic period. The most famous Indian tribe that lived in the swamp was the Seminole, which fought two wars against the United States in the Okefenokee area.



What and where is the OKEFENOKEE SWAMP?

White families began settling in the area in 1805. From 1910 until 1937, before Franklin Roosevelt established 80% of the Okefenokee as a wildlife refuge, the swamp was a major source of timber. Now, protected by the federal government, over hundreds of animal species live in the area, the most well known being the American alligator.













What and where are the APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS?

The southernmost point of the Appalachian Mountains is located in Georgia. Georgia's highest peaks are in the Appalachian Mountain ranges and they can be found in the three mountain regions. In the southern states these mountains are often called the Blue Ridge due to the blue haze that appears around their peaks.



What and where are the APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS?

Long ago, the Appalachians were some of the tallest mountains in the world, though millions of years of erosion have weathered them tremendously. Today the highest peak in Georgia is Brasstown Bald, which has an elevation of over 4700 feet above sea level. In comparison, the highest peak in the continental United States is Mt. Whitney which is almost 14,500 feet.



What and where is the CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER?

The Chattahoochee River begins it journey to the Gulf of Mexico in the Blue Ridge Region of the state and forms part of the border between Alabama and Georgia. Native Americans long used the river as a food and water source, as did Georgia's European settlers. Due to the Fall Line the Chattahoochee becomes difficult to navigate between the **Piedmont and Coastal Plain** regions, though river traffic was important during the 1800s from the Gulf of Mexico to the city of Columbus.



What and where is the CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER?

Today, the Chattahoochee is used primarily as a water source for the millions of Georgians living in the Piedmont area, though the river is also used for industry and recreation as well.

Note: The states of Florida and Alabama have sued Georgia due to its unrestricted rights over the use of the river. Should Georgia be allowed to have unrestricted rights to the river? Which Social Studies Concepts apply to this issue?







What and where is the SAVANNAH RIVER?

The Savannah River forms the border between Georgia and South Carolina. One of Georgia's longest waterways, the Savannah River begins in Hart County, forms Lake Hartwell, and then flows to the Atlantic Ocean. The river has been a source of water, food, and transportation for thousands of years. Paleo Indians lived around the river and Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto was the first European to cross it.



What and where is the SAVANNAH RIVER?

James Oglethorpe chose a site 18 miles upriver to create Georgia's first city, Savannah. Today, the river is navigable for over 200 miles between the city of Savannah and Augusta. In addition to shipping, the river is used as a major source of drinking water for Savannah and Augusta, to cool two nuclear power plants in South Carolina, and to generate hydroelectric power.





What and where are the BARRIER ISLANDS?

The Barrier Islands, also known as the Sea Islands or Golden Isles, are a chain of sandy islands off the coastline of Georgia. These islands protect the mainland from wind and water erosion. There are 14 Barrier Islands off Georgia's coast including Tybee, St. Simons, Jekyll, and Cumberland. Some of the islands, such as Cumberland, are wild life refuges and are national or state parks. Others, like St. Simons, have been developed and three (Little Cumberland, Little St. Simons, and St. Catherine's) are still privately owned.





What and where are the BARRIER ISLANDS?

People have lived on these islands for thousands of years. Indians lived on them and in the 1500s the Spanish set up missions there. During the Colonial and Antebellum periods, plantations were set up on the island to grow products such as rice and indigo. Today, the islands are mainly tourist and recreation destinations though the fishing and paper industries are still important economic enterprises.



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Appalachian Mtns

Savannah River

Chattahoochee River

Okefenokee Swamp

Barrier Islands

WARM T AUGUST 10



ESSENTIAL QUESTION PAGE 5

SS8G1d HOW DOES **GEORGIA'S** CLIMATE IMPACT ITS ECONOMIC **DEVELOPMENT?**



HOW DOES GEORGIA'S CLIMATE IMPACT ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?

AGRICULTURE

STEP 1: TRACE YOUR GEORGIA OUTLINE MAP

5

Lader Controls

TOURISM

<u>STEP 2</u>: COPY THE T-CHART BELOW YOUR MAP



SS8G1d

Evaluate the impact of climate on Georgia's development.

Concept: LOCATION



GEORGIA'S CLIMATE

Georgia has a humid subtropical climate with hot summers and mild winters, though the mountainous areas tend to be cooler than that of the rest of the state. Georgia usually has a large amount of precipitation throughout the year and ranges from 45 to 75 inches per year depending on the area, but receives very little snow fall. Georgia is prone to tornadoes and often feels the effects of hurricanes, though the state has not been hit directly since 1898.



GEORGIA'S CLIMATE

Georgia's warm, wet, climate has made it an ideal location for agriculture. From its beginning Georgia was established for growing crops, and James Oglethorpe and the rest of the trustees hoped its climate would allow for the cultivation of rice, indigo, wine and silk. Though wine and silk proved to be unsuccessful, rice and indigo grew well in Georgia. When slavery was legalized in the colony, Georgia developed the plantation based agriculture of the rest of the South. Slavery became more entrenched when Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793, in turn causing the demand for cotton production to increase.



GEORGIA'S CLIMATE

After the Civil War, Georgia remained predominately an agricultural state until the 20th century. During this time period most of Georgia's population was involved in agriculture, primarily working as sharecroppers or tenant farmers. Today, while most Georgians are not involved in agriculture, it is still Georgia's number one industry. In addition, Georgia's relatively mild climate has brought many people and businesses to the state, making it the 9th most populous in the nation.



Average Annual Precipitation

Georgia

Copyright 2000 by Spatial Climate Analysis Service, Oregon State University



For information on the PRISM modeling system, visit the SCAS web site at http://www.ocs.orst.edu/prism



The latest PRISM digital data sets created by the SCAS can be obtained from the Climate Source at http://www.climatesource.com

This is a map of annual precipitation averaged over the period 1961-1990. Station observations were collected from the NOAA Cooperative and USDA-NRCS SnoTel networks, plus other state and local networks. The PRISM modeling system was used to create the gridded estimates from which this map was made. The size of each grid pixel is approximately 4x4 km. Support was provided by the NRCS Water and Climate Center. NOW- LET'S REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE SOME OF THE THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED



SS8G1 SUMMARY: GEORGIA'S GEOGRAPHY

SS8G1b

SS8G1a Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.





SS8G1c

Locate and evaluate the importance of key physical features on the development of Georgia; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands.

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APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS Oldest mountains in North America and once the home of Cherokee Indians. Site of the 1° gold rush in Dahlonega. The high elevation provides much of Georgials rain and source of drinking water. Its beauty attracts tourists during all seasons and the deposts of coal and marble mineral are in abundance. SAVANNAH RIVER Forms the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina, The river begins at Lake Hartwell and flows southeast to Savannah before depositing into the Atlantic Ocean. Since colonial times the river is used for travel and trade in the Coastal Hains region. From the Fall Line and further north the river is used for hydroelectric purposes and serves as a source of water for many people.

BARRIER

ISLANDS

protect the

from storms

and waves:

attract a bt of

tourists due

to excellent

resorts, nice

recreational

provide jobs

for the fishing

industry and

production.

activities:

paper

beaches, and

climate.

beautiful

mainland

Islands

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER Begins in the Blue Ridge Mtns and flows southwest through the city of Atlanta and eventually becomes part of the boundary between Georgia and Alabama. South of the Fall Line the river is used for trade and boat travel. North of the Fall Line the river is used to generate hydroelectric power and is a source of drinking water for many Georgians. In addition, the rive offers many recreational activities for tourists.

FALL LINE

Natural boundary separating the Piedmont and Coastal Plains regions. Columbus, Macon, and Augusta were built along this line due to the ending of navigable rivers from the south going northbound because of the elevation drop. Because of this there hydroelectric power has been harnessed for industries. The soil is perfect for the growing of peaches and the mineral kaolin is Georgia's largest natural resource.

OKEFENOKEE SWAMP Located in the southeast corner of the state in the Coastal Plans, region, It is the largest freshwater wetland (swamp) in North America. Hecame a national wildlife refuge n. 1937 by President Franklin. Roosevelt because loggers were, destroying the natural habitat. Today, the swamp is hometo over 400 species of animals.



Average Annual Precipitation

Georgia

Copyright 2000 by Spatial Climate Analysis Service. Oregon State University





Georgia has a mild humid subtropical climate. Summers are hot and humid, while winters are cool. Moist air from the Guit of Mexico provides much of the state's rainfall. The Atlantic Ocean provides rainfall for the coastal areas and barrier islands.

The northern part of the state is cooler and receives the most precipitation, which explains why the Blue Ridge region gets snow in the winter season due to higher elevation and latitude.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Georgia's mild climate and rainfall allow farmers to work the land to grow a variety of crops during a longer growing season than farmers in the north. A variety of crops include apples and vegetables in the Blue Ridge region: wheat sovbeans. and corn in the Piedmont; to peanuts, pecans, peaches, and onions in the Coastal Plains region. Agriculture also includes raising animals such as cattle in the Valley and Ridge region for dairy farms like Mayfield and the raising of poultry (chickens) in the Piedmont. The impact of climate on agriculture is huge b/c it provides a lot of jobs for Georgia citizens, not just farmers, but transportation, food processors, and stores.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Georgia's climate varies from the cool mountains in the north to the sunny beaches in the southeast. Tourists from Georgia and abroad flock to different areas of the state for vacation. Some families spend days in the Appalachian Mths camping, whitewater rafting, or even enjoying the snow falls in Blue Ridge region. Georgia's climate allows people to visit plenty of local, state, and national parks, even amusement parks like Six Flags and Whitewater, Families can vacation on one of the many barrier islands off the coast of Georgia as there are golf courses, beaches, parks, and resorts. Tourism brings a lot of money to the state, mainly because Georgia has a warm climate.