

A low-angle photograph of the Georgia State Capitol dome and the Statue of Liberty, set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The dome is a large, golden-yellow structure with a dark, ornate top section. The statue, positioned on the dome's peak, holds a torch aloft in its right hand. The text "Georgia Studies" is overlaid in large, bold, orange letters with a white drop shadow.

Georgia Studies

Periodic Review

Study Presentation

Unit 1: Geography of Georgia/Georgia's Beginnings

Standards and Elements:

- SS8G1
- SS8H1

Geography of Georgia

- Georgia is located in the following areas:
 - **Region**: South, Southeast, etc.
 - **Nation** (Country): U.S.A.
 - **Continent**: North America
 - **Hemispheres**: Northern and Western
- Georgia is divided into 5 Physiographic Regions: **Coastal Plain**, **Piedmont**, **Blue Ridge**, **Valley and Ridge**, and **Appalachian Plateau**.
- Georgia's warm and humid temperate **climate** help to make GA both a good farming area and a good tourist spot.

Geography of Georgia

- Key Physical Features:
 - **Fall Line** – Divides Coastal Plain and Piedmont Regions. The best farm land in GA is located just north and south of the Fall Line.
 - **Okefenokee** – Largest freshwater wetland in GA.
 - Appalachian Mountains – Highest peak in GA is here (**Brasstown Bald** is 4,786 feet above sea level). Highest and wettest part of GA. This rain leads to rivers that provide drinking water for most of GA.
 - **Chattahoochee** and **Savannah Rivers** – Provide drinking water for GA. Also assists in transportation and electricity (hydroelectric power)
 - **Barrier Islands** – Important to the tourism of GA. Also houses industries such as paper production and fishing.

Georgia's Beginnings

- 4 Early periods of Native American cultures:
 - **Paleo** Indians – Period lasted about 10,000 (approximately 18,000 BC to 8,000 BC) years. Nomadic hunters. Used the **atlatl** to hunt large animals.
 - **Archaic** Indians – Period lasted from 8,000 to 1,000 BC. Moved with each season to find food. Used tools to assist with hunting and with work tasks.
 - **Woodland** Indians – Period lasted from 1,000 BC to 1,000 AD. Families began to live together and form tribes. Used bow and arrows to hunt. Held religious ceremonies.
 - **Mississippian** Indians – Period lasted from 900 AD until the arrival of European explorers (in the 1500's). Most advanced group. Protected villages using fences and moats. Very religious group. Built **Temple Mounds** as places of worship.

Unit 2: Exploration and GA's Colonization

Standards and Elements:

- SS8H1 (b. and c.)
- SS8G1 (d.)
- SS8H2

European Contact

- **Hernando De Soto** – Spanish explorer. Reached the modern day Florida and Georgia in 1540 while searching for gold. De Soto used plated armor, war horses and war dogs to fight against the Native Americans he came across. His soldiers also brought diseases, such as Small Pox, which killed large amounts of Native Americans.
- In 1566, Spain created **missions** (religious outposts) on Georgia's barrier islands.

Reasons for European Exploration

- **England** – Wanted raw materials from the New World so they could manufacture goods. These goods could then be sold to other countries. This was known as **mercantilism**. British also wanted to found a new colony to act as a “buffer” between British Carolina and Spanish Florida.
- **France** – Wanted gold.
- **Spain** – Wanted gold. Also spread Catholicism through the mission they established.

Founding of Georgia

- In 1732, **James Oglethorpe** convinces King George II to allow him to create the colony of Georgia. GA would become a place for debtors to start a new life, an area for England to get raw materials, and the buffer between Carolina and Florida.
- The **Charter of 1732** gave Oglethorpe the power to create Georgia.
- **Tomochichi** (a Yamacraw Chief) helped Oglethorpe to choose the location for his first settlement (**Savannah**).
- **Mary Musgrove** used her connections to the British and Native Americans to help with communication, trading, and to help keep peace.

The Trustee Period

- GA was originally governed by a group of **Trustees** (including Oglethorpe).
- The **Salzburgers** left Austria in the 1730's and arrived in Georgia in 1734. Founded the city of Ebenezer.
- The **Highland Scots** (from Scotland) arrived and settled in Darien, GA in 1735.
- A group of **malcontents** became unhappy with the Trustees. Malcontents wanted to purchase additional land and enslave people.

GA as a Royal Colony

- Oglethorpe grew unhappy with the problems in Georgia and the people who wanted slavery, rum, and gambling. Returned to England in 1750.
- In 1752, the British government did not renew funding for the colony. The Trustees then turned over control of GA to the British King and GA became a **Royal Colony**.
- Georgia was ruled during this time (1752-1776) by 3 Royal Governors: **John Reynolds**, **Henry Ellis**, and **James Wright**.
- As a Royal Colony, citizens of Georgia were limited in the amount of land they could own and began to be allowed to own slaves.

Unit 3: Statehood, Revolution, and Westward Expansion

Standards and Elements:

- SS8H3
- SS8H4
- SS8H5
- SS8E2 (a.)

Causes of the American Revolution

- 5 Major Causes of the American Rev:
 - **French and Indian War** – Both England and France wanted to control land in North America. War ends in 1763 with the British victorious. They now controlled more land in North America (Ohio River Valley).
 - **Proclamation of 1763** – King George III creates borders for where the colonists could live. Colonists had fought and some died to gain land during the French and Indian War but they can not live on that land.

Causes of the American Revolution

- 5 Major Causes of the American Rev:
 - **Stamp Act** – Tax on all legal documents, permits, and paper goods. The colonists did not want “**taxation without representation**” in the British government.
 - **Intolerable Acts** – Four British laws meant to punish colonists for the **Boston Tea Party**. Allowed British citizens to live in colonists’ homes, closed Boston Harbor, cancelled the Massachusetts’s royal charter, and allowed British officials to be tried for crimes in England instead of the colonies.

Causes of the American Revolution

- 5 Major Causes of the American Rev:
 - **Declaration of Independence** – On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress approved the Dec. of Independence. This document announced the separation of the 13 colonies from Britain. There were three signers of the Dec. of Independence from Georgia: **Lyman Hall**, **Button Gwinnett**, and **George Walton**.

Causes of the American Revolution Video

BrainPop - Causes of the American Revolution

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GA During the American Revolution

- **Loyalists** – People living in GA that were loyal to England.
- **Patriots** – People who wanted the colonies to be independent.
- **Battle of Kettle Creek** - **Elijah Clarke** led Georgia militia, defeated 800 British troops near Washington, Georgia
- **Siege of Savannah** - 15,000 Americans and 4,000 French laid siege to Savannah. Colonists and French were unsuccessful. The British controlled Savannah until the end of the war in 1782.

Georgia Wartime Heroes

- **Nancy Hart** single-handedly captured a group of British loyalists who bragged of murdering an American colonel; Hart County is the only county named for a woman
- **Austin Dabney** fought with distinction and was wounded at Kettle Creek; he also saved Elijah Clarke's life during that battle
- The American Revolution ended in 1782. The 13 colonies were victorious and became the United States of America.

State and Federal Constitutions

- **Articles of Confederation** – First document that created a government for the United States. Created a weak government (could not collect taxes). The Federal Government of the United States could not enforce any laws as it did not have a military.
- In **1777**, **Georgia** held a Constitutional Convention to create it's first **Constitution**. This constitution created a system with separation of powers, even though the legislature had the most power. Guaranteed citizens some right, however, voting rights belonged only to white men over 21 and who could afford to pay taxes.
- In 1787 the United States held a Constitutional Convention to revise the Articles of Confederation. At this convention leaders created the **Constitution** of the United States (still in use today!). **Abraham Baldwin** and **William Few** were delegates from GA at this convention. GA agreed to ratify the Constitution because it hoped the U.S. Government would help them fight the Native Americans in GA.

American Revolution Video

BrainPop - The American Revolution

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Growth of Georgia

- **University of Georgia** – Held first classes in 1801. Allowed people from all economic backgrounds to go to college. First state university in the United States.
- After the Revolutionary War Georgia's capital was moved from Savannah to **Louisville** because Louisville was more centrally located (farther west).
- Due to the **Second Great Awakening** churches (like the **Baptist** and **Methodist churches**) were built all around Georgia.

Land Policies in GA

- As the population of GA increased numerous policies were used to distribute land:
 - **Headright System** - Every white male counted as a head of household and had the “right” to receive up to 1,000 acres.
 - **Yazoo Land Sale** - Around 1795, four companies bribed the governor and legislators so they could buy land for less than it was worth. The public found out and protested; the legislators involved were voted out of office. This became known as the **Yazoo Land Fraud**.
 - **Land Lotteries** - All white heads-of-household could buy a lottery chance and win land; millions of acres in several states were given away.

Impact of Technology

- **Cotton Gin** – Eli Whitney in 1793 invented a machine for separating cotton seeds from its fiber. This machine increased the amount cotton growers could process each day. This enabled farmers in the south to become very wealthy if they could own enough land and had enough workers to work the land (usually slaves).
- **Railroads** – Once railroads came to GA they allowed products to be moved over land quickly.

Indian Removal

There were two major Native American tribes in Georgia and both were removed from their lands:

- The **Creek Indians** - Chief **Alexander McGillivray** signed the Treaty of New York giving up all land east of the Oconee River, but could keep land on the west side. These treaties were often broken. After the Battle of Horseshoe Bend the Creeks were forced to give up nearly all of their land. Chief **William McIntosh** gave up the last of the Creek Land with the Treaty of Indian Springs. He was later murdered for this.

Indian Removal

There were two major Native American tribes in Georgia and both were removed from their lands:

- The **Cherokee Indians** – Many Cherokee had assimilated to “white” life (example **Sequoyah** developed a written language) so they were allowed to live on their land longer than many other groups. When gold was discovered in **Dahlonega** in 1829 many Georgians, with the support of American President **Andrew Jackson**, wanted to remove the natives. The Supreme Court of the United States decided that the Cherokee were a sovereign nation and should be allowed to rule themselves (***Worcester v. Georgia***). Eventually, without the support of Chief **John Ross**, a rebellious Cherokee group signed a treaty giving away all Cherokee land which led to the **Trail of Tears** (forced removal of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia to Oklahoma).

Unit 4: Government

Standards and Elements:

- SS8CG1

GA State Constitution

- **Constitution** – A set of laws for a nation or state. The US Constitution established the Federal Government for the United States. The Georgia Constitution established the government for the state of Georgia.
- **Georgia's Constitution**, like the US Constitution, contains a **preamble** (introduction) and a **Bill of Rights** (a section containing a list of rights and government limits).
- The Georgia Constitution created a government similar to the US Federal Government. Both have **three branches** (**Legislative**, **Executive**, and **Judicial**) and contain the systems of **Separation of Powers** and **Checks and Balances**.

GA State Constitution

- **Separation of Powers** – Each of the three branches of government have different jobs:
 - **Legislative** – Makes the rules or laws that people must obey.
 - **Executive** – Head, or leader, of the government. Enforces the laws.
 - **Judicial** – Interprets, or judges, the laws.
- **Checks and Balances** – System created to ensure that none of the three branches of government become too powerful, or more powerful than any of the other branches.

Branches of Government Video

BrainPop – Branches of Government

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Rights and Responsibilities

- **Rights** – Standard or law that ensures that governments and other institutions protect people's freedom and treat people equally in society and politics.
- **Responsibility** – Knowledge that actions have consequences, and that these consequences affect other people. Also, requirements of citizens: taxes, jury duty, etc.
- People living in the US and in GA have certain rights guaranteed to them in the Federal and State Bill of Rights. If people break laws and violate other people's rights they will face consequences (arrests and court hearings).

Voting Requirements

- Article II of GA's Constitution lists **voting requirements**.
- To register to vote in GA, people must be 18 years old, be a citizen of the United States, and live in the county of GA where they wish to vote.
- People who have been convicted of certain crimes or who have certain mental disabilities may not be allowed to vote.
- Every two years Georgians vote for members of the state's General Assembly. Every four years there are elections to choose the governor and lieutenant governor of the state.
- Voters registered to vote in GA also vote in national elections for the president, vice president, and members of the US Congress (House of Representatives and Senate).