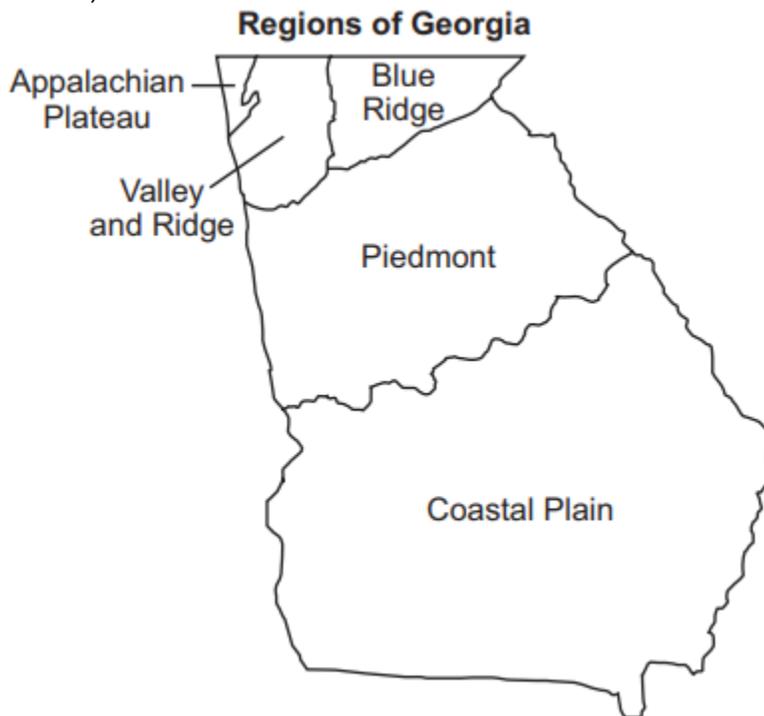


## Georgia History Study Guide

**Mississippi** and Alabama were sold cheaply to political supporters. Though reformers later passed a law nullifying the sales, the U.S. Supreme Court overruled the law. (H5b)

**Regions:** Georgia can be divided into regions based on similarities in geographic features such as climate, rocks and minerals, soil, elevation, and vegetation. The state is often divided into these five regions: Appalachian Plateau, Valley and Ridge, Blue Ridge, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain. (SS8G1b)



**Appalachian Mountains:** A large mountain chain in eastern North America extending from Canada into Alabama. (G1c)

**Appalachian Plateau:** A region in northwest Georgia known for its mountains. It is part of the larger Appalachian mountain range. (G1b)

**Barrier Islands:** A group of mostly undeveloped islands along Georgia's coast. (G1c)

**Blue Ridge Mountains:** A mountainous region in northern Georgia that is a branch of the Appalachian mountain chain. (G1b)

**Chattahoochee River:** A long river that flows from northern Georgia along the

Georgia/Alabama border and into the Apalachicola River. The river is used for rafting and fishing and is a national recreation area. (G1c)

**Coastal Plain:** A low-lying and mostly flat region of Georgia that covers most of the state's southern half. It has sandy beaches, flatlands, and gently rolling hills. (G1b)

**Fall Line:** A geological boundary that divides the rocks of the upper Coastal Plain from those of the Piedmont. Because the line is marked by rivers, it has been a center for commerce and trade throughout Georgia's history. (G1c)

**Regions of Georgia**

Region	Location	Climate	Agriculture	Economic Contribution
<b>Appalachian Plateau</b>	northwestern Georgia	cooler temperatures, some snow and ice in winter	corn, soybeans	coal, forestry, limestone, tourism
<b>Valley and Ridge</b>	northern Georgia	cooler temperatures, some snow and ice in winter	corn, cotton, soybeans, timber, wheat	mining, textiles
<b>Blue Ridge</b>	northeastern Georgia	cooler temperatures, highest precipitation rate	apples, corn, livestock, vegetables	mining, timber
<b>Piedmont</b>	central Georgia	hot and humid summers, some snow in winter	cattle, cotton, hogs, poultry/eggs, soybeans, wheat	aircraft and automobile manufacturing, carpet milling, poultry processing, timber
<b>Coastal Plain</b>	southern Georgia	hot and humid summers, cool winters	cotton, onions, peaches, peanuts, pecans, soybeans	fishing, pulp and paper, recreation, seafood processing, tourism

(SS8G1b)

**Mississippian culture:** An early native culture, which settled the midwestern and southeastern parts of what is today the United States. The Mississippian people cultivated the land, gathered nuts and berries, and hunted. They existed as a group from about CE 800\* to 1600 and then split into a number of Native American groups. (H1a)

**Native Americans:** Many groups of Native Americans once made what is now Georgia their home, including the Apalachicola, Cherokee, Muscogee, and Yamacraw tribes. (H1a)

**Okefenokee Swamp:** A large but shallow wetland in southeast Georgia and northeast

Florida. Much of the area is today protected as part of a national refuge. (G1c)

**Piedmont:** A region of Georgia located between the Coastal Plain in the south and mountains in the north. It is hilly, the second-largest region of the state, and the most populated. (G1b)

**Savannah River:** A river that begins in South Carolina, flows along the South Carolina and Georgia border, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. It is about 300 miles long. (G1c)

**Valley and Ridge:** A region located in northwest Georgia, marked by high ridges that overlook deep, wide valleys. (G1b)

**Georgia's Climate:** has a climate as diverse as its topography.

Summers are hot and winters mild, thanks to Georgia's subtropical location in the

**Northern Hemisphere.** The northern part of the state, which is more mountainous, tends to be colder and snowier. The line of division between these two climate regions is the Chattahoochee River.

**Hernando de Soto:** A Spanish explorer and conquistador who landed in what came to be known as Florida in 1539. He explored the Southeast, including Georgia, from 1539 to 1542. He and his 600 men searched for wealth, sparking conflict with the Native American groups whom they exploited and enslaved. (H1b)

**European Exploration:** The French, Spanish, and British all sent explorers to the southeastern part of North America. The Spanish, believing the area to be rich in gold, searched for wealth. They also believed it was their mission to convert the natives to Christianity. The French sought to found an empire based on trade in furs, fish, and sugar. The British wanted to colonize the area for a number of reasons. Some sought the riches offered by the area's abundance of resources. Others hoped to escape religious persecution in Europe. (H1c)

**Charter of 1732:** Signed by King George II, it established the royal colony of Georgia and appointed a Board of Trustees to govern it. (H2a)

**James Oglethorpe:** The British general and philanthropist who founded the colony of Georgia. Oglethorpe was one of the original trustees and the only trustee to come to Georgia. (H2a)

**Salzburgers:** A group of German-speaking Protestant refugees who helped settle the colony of Georgia in the 1730s. (H2b)

**Savannah:** A Georgia city near the mouth of the Savannah River, founded in 1733 by James Oglethorpe. (H2a)

**Highland Scots:** A group of Scottish people from the area of Inverness who came to Georgia in the 1730s. They founded the city of Darien along the colony's southern border. (H2b)

**Land Ownership:** Under the royal charter signed by King George II, colonists were not permitted to own land. This caused discontent, due to their hard work in developing and cultivating the region. (H2c)

**Malcontents:** A group of mostly Scottish colonists who loudly opposed the policies of James Oglethorpe and Georgia's Board of Trustees. (H2b)

**Mary Musgrove:** A Native American woman who was James Oglethorpe's Creek interpreter and emissary during Georgia's earliest years. (H2a)

**Royal Governors:** After the Trustees refused to continue overseeing Georgia's daily operations, the king appointed a series of governors to lead the colony. The first royal governor introduced the self-government to colonists, but later took it away. The second governor reintroduced self-government. The third became popular because of his successful economic policies. (H2c)

**Articles of Confederation:** The first constitution of the United States of America. Because it allowed for only a weak central government, it was later replaced with the U.S. Constitution, which established a federal government with a president, a judicial system, and the authority to tax. (H4a)

**Abraham Baldwin:** A delegate from Georgia to the Continental Congress in 1785 and

1787–88. He later served as a representative and senator of the state. (H4b)

**Battle of Kettle Creek:** A battle of the American Revolution, fought in Georgia on February 14, 1779. (H3b)

**Cherokee:** A group of Native Americans who lived in the southeastern United States, including Georgia, before being moved to reservations in Oklahoma and North Carolina. (H5d)

**Elijah Clarke:** An officer in the Georgia Militia who fought in the Battle of Kettle Creek and was a hero of the American Revolution. He later became a legislator in Georgia. (H3b)

**Constitutional Convention of 1787:** A convention to address the problems of federal government, which were weak under the Articles of Confederation. Also known as the Philadelphia Convention. (H4b)

**Cotton Gin:** A machine that separates small particles, such as seeds, from cotton fibers. Its invention in the 1790s made cotton easier to process and cheaper to produce. It had a profound impact on Georgia, where cotton became a large and profitable industry, and it enabled the state to trade with not only other states but also other nations. (H5c)

**Creeks:** A group of Native Americans who lived in the southeastern United States, including Georgia, before being moved to reservations in Oklahoma and Alabama. (H5d)

**Dahlonega Gold Rush:** A rush on Georgia sparked by the discovery of gold near the town of Dahlonega. It spread throughout the state and onto land given to Native American groups as part of a treaty. (H5d)

**William Few:** One of Georgia's four representatives to the Constitutional Convention. In addition to signing the U.S. Constitution, he became a senator from Georgia and a strong supporter of public education. (H4b)

**Georgia Constitution of 1777:** The state's first constitution, in effect for twelve years and never ratified by voters. It protected the right to trial by jury, freedom of

religion, and freedom of the press, but it also invested most of the state's power in the legislature. (H4a)

**Georgia's State Constitution:** Divides government into three branches: the legislature, which is bicameral; the judiciary, which is headed by the state supreme court; and the executive, which is presided over by the governor. Checks and balances among the branches prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. (CG1a, b)

**Button Gwinnett:** One of three signers of the Declaration of Independence to come from Georgia. A British-born colonist, he also served in the colonial legislature and the Second Continental Congress. (H3b)

**Lyman Hall:** One of three signers of the Declaration of Independence to come from Georgia. He also served in the Second Continental Congress and as governor of the state of Georgia. (H3b)

**Headright System:** A system in which land was granted to people willing to voyage from Great Britain to settle in the colonies. Georgia employed the system in an effort to grow its population. (H5b)

**Andrew Jackson:** President of the United States during the Georgia gold rush. He ordered the Cherokee and Creek off Georgian land granted to them by a treaty with the U.S. government. (H5d)

**Land Lotteries:** A system employed by the state of Georgia in the early 1800s in which some citizens could register to win land previously held by the Cherokee and the Creek. (H5b)

**Loyalist:** A colonist who remained loyal to the British government during the American Revolution. (H3b)

**John Marshall:** The chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court at the time of Worcester v. Georgia. (H5d)

**Alexander McGillivray:** A controversial Creek leader who was born to a European father

and Native American mother. He used his connections with European powers to help benefit his people. (H5d)

**William McIntosh:** A controversial Creek chief who supported the United States in its efforts to take Creek land. (H5d)

**Patriot:** A person who supported breaking from the British government and forming a new government ruled by colonists. (H3b)

**Railroad:** A means of transporting people and goods that made interstate commerce easier and more profitable beginning in the mid-to-late 1800s. (H5b, E2)

**John Ross:** A chief who presided over the Cherokee during their migration from Georgia to Oklahoma, commonly known as the Trail of Tears. (H5d)

**Siege of Savannah:** A battle of the Revolutionary War that took place in 1779; it was the second-deadliest clash of the war. The British maintained control of Savannah at the end of the siege. (H3b)

**Trail of Tears:** The route along which various Native American groups were forced to walk from the Southeast to reservations west of the Mississippi. (H5d)

**George Walton:** One of three signers of the Declaration of Independence to come from Georgia; he later served as governor of the state. (H3b)

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**Worcester v. Georgia:** The case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could not make or enforce laws dealing with Native American groups, reserving such authority to the federal government. (H5d)

**Yazoo Land Fraud:** The controversial sale of land by the governor of Georgia and the state's legislature during the mid-1790s. Tracts of land in what would become Mississippi and Alabama were sold cheaply to political supporters.

**Jews:** People descended from the Hebrews of the Middle East whose traditional religion is Judaism. The trustees included a prohibition of Jews in Georgia in the original charter; however, a group of Portuguese Jews arrived in Georgia soon after the colony was established. In the group was a doctor, Samuel Nunes, who is often credited for "saving the colony." Against the rules of the trustees, Oglethorpe allowed the Jewish immigrants to settle in Savannah. (SS8H2c)

**Land ownership:** Under the royal charter signed by King George II, colonists were not permitted to own land. This caused discontent, because of their hard work in developing and cultivating the region. (SS8H2d)

**Philanthropy:** The desire to help others (charity). Philanthropy, economics, and defense were the main reasons for Georgia's founding. James Oglethorpe and the trustees hoped to create a colony for the poor and debt-ridden people of England. However, no debtor was ever released from debtors' prison to come to Georgia. (SS8H2a)

**Spanish missions:** Places of worship set up by Spanish Catholic missionaries to convert native peoples to Christianity. In Georgia, many such places were established along the barrier islands. (SS8H1c)

**Tomochichi:** A Creek leader who acted as a mediator between British settlers in Georgia and the American Indians of the region. (SS8H2b) **Trustee Period:** The period from 1732 to 1752 when a board of trustees governed the colony of Georgia. (SS8H2c)

**Signers of the Declaration of Independence:** Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, and George Walton were the three Georgians who signed the Declaration of Independence. Gwinnett was a British-born colonist who served in the colonial legislature and the Second Continental Congress. Hall served in the Second Continental Congress and as governor of the state of Georgia. Walton also served as governor of Georgia. (SS8H3b)

**University of Georgia:** A university created by the General Assembly in 1785. It was the first university in the United States to be created by a state government and it later became a land-grant institution. The founders believed that educated citizens were important to a democratic society, that education should be available to all people, and that the government had a role in providing education. (SS8H4a)

**Worcester v. Georgia:** The case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could not make or enforce laws dealing with American Indian groups, reserving such authority for the federal government. (SS8H4e) Yazoo land fraud: The controversial sale of land by the governor of Georgia and the state's legislature during the mid-1790s. Tracts of land in what would become Mississippi and Alabama were sold cheaply to political supporters. Though reformers later passed a law nullifying the sales, the U.S. Supreme Court overruled the law. (SS8H4b)

**Andersonville:** A small town in southwest Georgia known for its Confederate prisoner-of-war camp. (SS8H5b)

**Chickamauga:** The largest battle fought in the state of Georgia. The battle lasted three days and was the second-bloodiest battle of the Civil War. This was the largest Union defeat in the west. (SS8H5b)

**Civil War:** The name of a war fought in the United States between the Northern industrial states and the Southern agricultural states (which had seceded over the issue of slavery and states' rights). It lasted from 1861 to 1865. (SS8H5a)

**Compromise of 1850:** A federal compromise between anti-slavery and pro-slavery forces. It allowed each new state to determine its own status as a free or slave state when entering the Union. It also resulted in California joining the Union as a free state and the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act. (SS8H5a)

**Debate over secession:** Even within the Southern states, there was much debate over whether leaving the Union was constitutional. Ultimately, Georgia voted to secede. (SS8H5a)

**Dred Scott:** A slave who, on the basis of having lived in free states, sued for his freedom in federal court. The U.S. Supreme Court ultimately decided that, as "property," he had no right to sue. The court also declared parts of the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional because they deprived slave owners of their property. (SS8H5a)

**Election of 1860:** A presidential election that focused on the issue of slavery. Abraham Lincoln, the Republican nominee, opposed slavery, though he promised not to abolish the institution.

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**Emancipation Proclamation:** An executive order issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, declaring an end to slavery in those states that had seceded from the Union. (SS8H5b)

**Georgia Platform:** A statement issued by the Georgia Convention in response to the Compromise of 1850, affirming state acceptance of the Compromise. (SS8H5a)

**Nullification:** The failure or refusal of a state to follow or enforce a federal law. A constitutional crisis was created when the state of South Carolina passed an ordinance declaring that two federal tariffs would not be observed. (SS8H5a)

**Sherman's Atlanta Campaign:** A series of battles fought in Georgia after Union General William T. Sherman invaded the state in an attempt to weaken the South. (SS8H5b)

**Sherman's March to the Sea:** The movement of General William T. Sherman's Union forces from Atlanta, Georgia, to the port of Savannah, resulting in the capture of the port. The march destroyed much of the Confederate army's infrastructure, support, and trade routes. (SS8H5b)

**Slavery:** The ownership and forced labor of one person by another. In the early history of the United States, many Black men and women were enslaved in the South. Tensions between anti-slavery forces and pro-slavery forces led to the American Civil War. (SS8H5a)

**States' rights:** The idea that each state can pass laws without federal involvement. In the decades leading up to the Civil War, most Southerners saw slavery as a states' rights issue. (SS8H5a)

**Union blockade:** A strategy by the Union navy to prevent the South from trading its goods with Europe. (SS8H5b)

**Executive branch:** The branch of government tasked with enforcing the law. It is headed by the governor and includes the aspects of government that cover public safety, education, transportation, human resources, and economic development. It also includes state agencies and law enforcement. (SS8CG3a, b)

**General Assembly:** Georgia's legislative branch of government is bicameral, meaning it has two houses. Those two houses are the Georgia House of Representatives and the Georgia Senate. Each of the General Assembly's 236 members is elected directly by the people of his or her district and serves a two-year term. Each member must be a resident of the district that he or she represents, must have been a resident of the state for at least two years, and must be at least 25 years of age. The General Assembly includes committees that study and examine issues pertaining to bills before they are presented to the entire Assembly. The ultimate job of the Assembly is to craft the state's laws. (SS8CG2a, b, c, d)

**Georgia's state constitution:** The Georgia state constitution consists of a preamble, a bill of rights, articles, and amendments. It divides government into three branches: the legislature, which is bicameral; the judiciary, which is headed by the state supreme court; and the executive, which is presided over by the governor. Checks and balances among the branches prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. (SS8CG1a, b)

**Governor:** The leader of the executive branch of state government. In Georgia, the governor is tasked with signing bills into law or vetoing them; appointing leaders to various state agencies; and overseeing the state's affairs in general. Candidates for governor must be at least 30 years old when taking office, must have been a U.S. citizen for 15 years, and must have been a resident of the state for at least 6 years. Each term is limited to four years, and individuals are limited to two consecutive terms. (SS8CG3a)

**Judicial branch:** The branch of government tasked with applying and interpreting laws in the state. It consists of the state Supreme Court, a Court of Appeals, Juvenile Courts, Superior Courts, and additional lower courts. (SS8CG4a, b) **Legislative branch:** The branch of government tasked with creating laws for the state. It consists of the Georgia General Assembly. (SS8CG2a, c)

**Lieutenant governor:** As both the leader of the Senate and the second-in-command of the state, the lieutenant governor is a member of both the legislative and executive branches. He or she is elected by popular vote and reports to the governor. If the governor dies in office, the lieutenant governor assumes the role of governor for the remainder of the term. As president of the Senate, he or she guides bills through the General Assembly but does not vote on them. Each term is four years in length, and candidates must meet the same requirements as candidates for governor. Unlike the governor, the lieutenant governor can run for an unlimited number of terms. (SS8CG3a)

**State revenue:** is the money gathered by the state to pay its bills. This money can be collected through a sales tax charged to customers when they purchase a product, a federal grant given to the state for a specific purpose, personal income taxes collected from an individual from the money he or she makes in a year, and property taxes collected from individuals who own property. The money that is collected is then spent on such things as police officers, firefighters, judges, statewide officeholders, programs designed to benefit members of the state, and so on. (SS8CG2d)

