

**Georgia Studies Glossary**  
**First 9 Weeks**

1. **Continent** - the world's largest land masses.
2. **Hemispheres** - lines of latitude and longitude that divide the earth into halves.
3. **Nation** - a land mass inhabited by people who share a common territory and government.
4. **Appalachian Plateau** - Georgia's smallest region located in the northwestern corner of the state.
5. **Blue Ridge Mountains** - a name for a group of mountains located in the Appalachian chain that are characterized by a "blue" haze that surrounds their peaks.
6. **Blue Ridge Region** - Georgia's northeastern region; receives more rainfall than any other region; many major rivers begin here.
7. **Climate** - a composite of prevailing weather conditions of a location.
8. **Coastal Plain** - Georgia's largest region which makes up 3/5 of the state.
9. **Piedmont Region** - Georgia's most populated region known for its red clay; also known as "foot of the mountains".
10. **Valley and Ridge** - Georgia region characterized by low open valleys and narrow ridges.
11. **Appalachian Mountains** - a mountain chain that stretches from Georgia to Maine.
12. **Barrier Islands** - islands located off the coast of Georgia; provides protection from hurricanes to the Georgia coast.
13. **Chattahoochee River** - important Georgia river that forms part of the western boundary of the state.
14. **Fall Line** - a geographic boundary that separates the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions; named for decrease in elevation.
15. **Okefenokee Swamp** - the largest swamp in North America; located in southeastern Georgia.
16. **Savannah River** - major river that is used for trade and makes up Georgia's eastern border with South Carolina.
17. **Naval Stores** - pitch, tar, and resin that is taken from pine trees and used in ship building.
18. **Chert** - sedimentary rock used by the American Indians to make knives.
19. **Commoners** - the work force in the Mississippian culture.
20. **Elites** - the power holders in the Mississippian culture.
21. **Horticulture** - garden cultivation; important to the Mississippian culture.
22. **Maize** - another term for corn.
23. **Mississippian Indians (800 C.E.-1600 C.E.)** - the last major prehistoric Native American culture in Georgia; known for being large scale framers and mound builders who traded throughout North America.
24. **Wattle and Daub** - walls built of a network of interwoven sticks and covered with mud or clay; used by early American Indian cultures and European settlers.
25. **Mercantilism** - the English economic policy focused on exporting more than importing.

26. **Missions** - churches set up by the Spanish in hopes of converting Native Americans to Christianity.
27. **Conquistador** - The name given to the Fifteenth-to-Seventeenth century Spanish and Portuguese soldiers who conquered much of the world, most famously the Central and Southern Americas.
28. **De Soto, Hernando** (1496-1542) - Spanish Conquistador who led an expedition through the Southeastern United States; credited as being the first European in Georgia.
29. **Savannah** - The first capital of Georgia; founded in 1733 by James Oglethorpe.
30. **Trustee(s)** - An individual or organization that holds or manages and invests assets for the benefit of another. A group of 21 men who established the colony of Georgia. Of the group, only one, James Oglethorpe, came to the colony.