

Ancient People and Explorers
Vocabulary List

Archaic Indians (8000 B.C.E-1000B.C.E.)- Second oldest Native American culture in Georgia; nomadic hunters who hunted smaller game; credited with developing grooved axes, fish hooks, and pottery.

Archeologist a scientist who studies artifacts.

Artifacts objects from the past that contribute to our understanding of prehistoric cultures.

Atlatl a spear throwing device used perhaps as early as the Paleo Indian period; allowed spears to be thrown faster, further, and more accurately.

Barrier islands several island off Georgia's coast; inhabited by Native Americans; the Spanish built several missions on these islands.

Chiefdoms a form of hierarchical political organization in non-industrial societies usually based on kinship, and in which formal leadership is monopolized by the legitimate senior members of select families or 'houses'.

Civilization a form of culture characterized by city trade centers, specialized workers, organized forms of government and religion, systems of record keeping, and advanced tools.

Clovis points leaf-shaped flint projectile points having fluted sides.

De Soto, Hernando (1496-1542)- Spanish Conquistador who led an expedition through the Southeastern United States; credited as being the first European in Georgia.

The 3 G's God, Gold and Glory the three principle reasons/justifications for European exploration to the new world.

Hierarchies the organization of people into different social rankings.

Indigo- a plant used to produce a blue dye.

Mercantilism- the English economic policy focused on exporting more than importing.

Missions- churches set up by the Spanish in hopes of converting Native Americans to Christianity.

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.

Mounds structures left by Woodland Natives that contain skeletons and elaborate grave articles; such as, pottery, jewelry, and beads that were buried with the dead.

Okefenokee Swamp- the largest swamp in North America; was the home to many Native Americans and a location for Spanish missions.

Paleo Indians (12,000 B.C.E.-8000 B.C.E.)-the first humans in Georgia; nomadic hunters and gathers who hunted large game such as woolly mammoth and giant bison.

Palisade a wall made of tall posts built around Mississippian Indian villages for protection.

Projectile points the general term archaeologist's use for the stone points ("heads") of spears and arrows made by Indians.

Woodland Indians (1000 B.C.E.-700 C. E.)- the third prehistoric Native American culture in Georgia; credited for the development of the bow and arrow, pottery for storage, and intensification of horticulture, as well as building small mounds.

Woolly mammoth/mastodon large extinct mammal; from the elephant family.