

EVENTS IN GEORGIA'S HISTORY

(adapted from Georgia Department of Education Teacher Notes)

Spanish missions	(1568-1684) Churches / forts set up by the Spanish on Georgia's barrier islands to convert Native Americans to Christianity and to protect Spain's land claims in North America.
Charter of 1732	(1732) The document that formally established the colony of Georgia; outlines the reasons for Georgia's founding and the regulations set up by the trustees.
Trustee period	(1732-1751)- time period when Georgia was governed by the trustees. The trustees created many regulations (rules), including a ban on slavery, liquor, lawyers, and Catholics.
Charity	One of the three reasons for Georgia's founding. James Oglethorpe and the trustees hoped to bring debtors and England's "worthy poor" to the colony to begin new lives.
Economics	One of the three reasons for Georgia's founding. The English hoped that Georgia would be able to produce wine, rice, silk, and indigo.
Mercantilism	Economic policy focused on exporting more than importing; colonies shipping raw materials (exports) to the mother country of England in exchange for finished goods (imports).
Mulberry Trees	Used in the production of silk. The silk worms were placed on the trees and used the leaves as food. The Georgia colonists were required to set aside a portion of their land to grow the trees.
Defense	One of the reasons for Georgia's founding to create a "buffer colony" to protect from Spanish Florida.
Battle of Bloody Marsh	(July 7, 1742)- the decisive battle during the War of Jenkins Ear where the Georgia colonists stopped a Spanish invasion of St. Simmons Island, thus ending the Spanish threat from Florida.
Royal period (colony)	The royal period in Georgia beginning in 1752 after the trustees gave authority of the colony to the king. The royal period lasted until the Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolution in 1783.
French and Indian War	(1754-1763)- war between England and France for control of North America. The English won the war and gained a large area of North America from the French, but forced the American colonist to pay taxes to pay down the war debt, which became a cause of the American Revolution.
Proclamation of 1763	Royal proclamation that forbade English colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.
Stamp Act	(1765)- a tax on all legal documents, newspapers, and other paper products; one of the first direct taxes placed on the colonies by the British Government causing much protest amongst the colonists.
Intolerable Acts	(1774)- Acts the British Parliament designed to punish the colonists for the Boston Tea Party; [1] closing Boston Harbor, [2] outlawing patriot groups and town hall meetings; [3] trials in British courts; [4] Quartering Act (colonists required to house and feed British soldiers)
Declaration of Independence	(1776)- Three part document that discusses natural rights, explains the wrongs committed by King George, and offers an official declaration of independence from England.
Georgia Constitution of 1777	Georgia's first state constitution; established three branches of government and basic liberties, though the executive and judicial branch had limited powers.
Battle of Kettle Creek	(February 14, 1779)-Small Revolutionary War battle in Georgia where patriot forces, led by Elijah Clarke, defeated 600 loyalist; one of the few patriot victories in the state.
Siege of Savannah	(1779)- failed attempt by the French and Americans to recapture Savannah during Revolutionary War.
Articles of Confederation	(1781)- The first written constitution of the United States uniting colonies (states) together to fight against the British; after the Revolutionary War the many weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation made it necessary for the states to hold a Constitutional Convention to revise the Articles.
Constitutional Convention	Meeting that took place in Philadelphia from May to September 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation, but was soon scrapped and a new and improved constitution was written.
Unicameral Legislature	Under the Articles of Confederation the U.S. legislative branch had a one house legislature.
Bicameral Legislature	Legislative branch has two houses (House of Representatives and a Senate). A two house legislature.
Great Compromise	A compromise made between the large and small states during the Constitutional Convention; allowed for a two house legislature with the number of senators for each state being equal (2 per state) and the number of members of the House of Representatives based on the state's population.
Virginia Plan	A plan proposed by delegates during the Constitutional Convention that favored representation based on a state's population in the U.S. legislative branch.
New Jersey Plan	A plan at the Constitutional Convention that favored a unicameral house with each state having the same number of delegates in Congress in order to have equal representation regardless of state size.
Three-Fifths	A compromise made between slave and free states during the Constitutional Convention; North and

Compromise	South agreed that a slave would count as 3/5 of a person in a state's population.
Second Great Awakening	(1790s-1830s) Christian revival movement that led to the growth of Baptist and Methodist churches.
Camp Meetings and Circuit Riders	Religious and social gatherings used by the Methodist and Baptist churches to recruit members. Methodist ministers traveled from town to town to preach; were instrumental in recruiting converts.
University of Georgia	The first state sponsored public University in the United States; founded in 1785.
Louisville	Georgia's third capital (1796-1806); selected due to westward movement in the state.
Headright System	Land distribution system after the American Revolution that provided the head of a family and Revolutionary War veterans up to 200 acres of free land to promote settlement in Georgia frontier.
Treaty of New York	(1790)-treaty signed by the Creek Indians and the United States government that ceded land to the United States in return for allowing Creeks to punish non-Indian trespassers on Creek land.
Cotton Gin	Machine invented by Eli Whitney in 1793 that quickly removed seeds from the cotton fibers.
Yazoo Act	(1795)- Georgia act signed by Georgia Governor George Mathews that transferred 35 million acres of land in present day Alabama to four land companies for \$500,000; this led to the Yazoo Land Fraud.
Yazoo Land Fraud	Land companies bribed members of the Georgia General Assembly to sell land for pennies on the dollar in the western part of Georgia. Georgia forced to sell lands west of the Chattahoochee to the US Government in the Compact of 1802.
Missouri Compromise	(1820)- compromise that brought Missouri into the Union as a slave state and Maine as a free state; in addition, Congress banned slavery north of the 36°20' line of latitude.
Treaty of Indian Springs	(1825)- Treaty signed by William McIntosh that gave the remainder of Creek land to Georgia; McIntosh was killed for this act.
Land Lottery	Land distribution system; gave the average Georgian a chance to buy land at pennies on the dollar.
Dahlonega Gold Rush	(1829)- Site of America's first gold rush; discovery of gold in the area led to the Cherokee removal.
Indian Removal Act of 1830	(1830)- Act signed by Andrew Jackson; the removal of the Cherokee to Indian Territory in the West.
Worcester vs. Georgia	(1832)- landmark Supreme Court case which declared that the Cherokee were sovereign and not subject to the laws of the United States. However, Andrew Jackson refused to enforce the Court's decision and the Cherokee were later removed from Georgia.
Nullify	To make legally null and void; cancellation of a federal law.
Nullification Crisis	South Carolina attempted to make null and void the National Tariff of 1832. As tensions increased South Carolina threatened secession and Andrew Jackson threaten to send troops.
Syllabary	The written language of the Cherokee Indians. Within one generation after it was invented, over 90% of the tribe was literate in the language.
Treaty of New Echota	(1835)- a treaty between the U.S. Government and a minority representation of the Cherokee tribe that ceded all Cherokee land in the Southeast to the United States and allowed for their move to Indian territory (Oklahoma).
Trail of Tears	(1838)- Final removal of the Cherokee Indians from Georgia; over 4,000 people died on the forced march from Georgia to Oklahoma.
Rail Road	Georgia was one of the leaders in railroad development in the 1830's and many of Georgia's towns and cities were established due to the railroad, particularly the city of Atlanta.
Compromise of 1850	Compromise between the North and South that allowed California to enter the union in exchange for the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act that required northerners to return runaway slaves to the South.
Georgia Platform	Position supported by several prominent Georgia politicians who supported the Compromise of 1850.
Fugitive Slave Act	(1850)- act requiring runaway slaves be returned to their masters if captured in the United States.
Popular Sovereignty	Allowing political decisions to be made by the vote of the people; concept of the Kansas Nebraska act.
Kansas-Nebraska Act	(1854)- act that allowed the territories of Kansas and Nebraska to decide if they wanted to enter the union as free or slave states (popular sovereignty).
Dred Scot Case	(1857)- Supreme Court ruling that declared slaves were not citizens of the United States.
States' Rights	The belief that a state's sovereignty is more important than that of the national government.
Election of 1860	Election where Abraham Lincoln defeated three opponents to win the presidency; upon Lincoln's election Southern states seceded from the Union.
Anaconda Plan	(1865)- Union blockade strategy during the Civil War that blocked Southern ports to limit Confederate imports and exports and slowly weaken the Southern economies.
Battle of Antietam	(September 17, 1862)- Union victory; bloodiest one-day battle in the War.
Emancipation Proclamation	Document that declared all slaves in the rebellious states would be freed if the South did not return to the Union by January 1, 1863.

Battle of Gettysburg	(July 1-3, 1863)- Union victory of the Civil War; the North repelled a Southern invasion into Pennsylvania; turning point of the Civil War - Union began to take over
Battle of Chickamauga	(September 18-20, 1863)- Confederate victory; largest and bloodiest battle fought in Georgia.
Sherman's Atlanta Campaign	Union military campaign led by William T. Sherman from May 1864-September 1864 with the Atlanta as the ultimate objective; Sherman's army marched from Chattanooga to Atlanta.
Sherman's March to Sea	Union military campaign led by William T. Sherman with Savannah being the ultimate objective; Sherman used a "scorched earth" policy and waged "total war" to end the South's will to fight.
Andersonville	Infamous Civil War prisoner-of-war camp in Georgia. Over 13,000 Union soldiers died.
13th Amendment	(1865)- ended slavery in the United States.
Freedmen's Bureau	Federal agency created in 1865 to provide aid to former slaves (freedmen).
Presidential Reconstruction	(1865-1866)- Reconstruction period where the President took responsibility for bringing the South back into the Union; most lenient of the Reconstruction plans; commonly known as 10% plan.
Congressional Reconstruction	(1866-1867)- Reconstruction period where Congress took responsibility for bringing the South back into the Union by requiring the South to pass the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. South was also divided into 5 military districts in order to protect the new rights of freedmen (former slaves).
Military Reconstruction	(1867-1877)- Reconstruction period where the military took responsibility for bringing the South back into the Union; the South was divided into military districts.
14th Amendment	(1868)- gave African-Americans citizenship.
15th Amendment	(1870)- gave African-American men the right to vote.
New South	Period after Reconstruction where political and community leaders in the South sought to diversify Georgia's economy and bring Northern technology and/or investments into the state.
International Cotton Expositions	A series of three large events (1881, 1885, 1895) established to display Atlanta's growth and industrial capabilities and to lure Northern investment to the region.
Atlanta Compromise Speech	(1895)-speech made by Booker T. Washington at the International Cotton exposition; stated that blacks should accept segregation in exchange for economic opportunity; both would lead to mutual progress.
Plessy V. Ferguson	(1896)- Supreme Court case that established the 'separate but equal' doctrine, promoting segregation.
Jim Crow Laws	Laws created by state legislatures to deny African-Americans citizenship rights; particularly laws related to segregating the races.
Disenfranchisement	To deprive a person the right to vote or rights of citizenship.
Literacy Test	A disenfranchising tactic that required voters to pass a reading and writing test in order to vote.
Poll Tax	A disenfranchising tactic that required voters to pay a fee in order to vote.
Grandfather Clause	If a person's father could vote before the Civil War they would be able to vote as well; disenfranchised blacks while allowing poor or uneducated whites to be exempt from the literacy test or poll tax.
Atlanta Race Riot	(1906)- 48 hour riot in Atlanta caused by economic competition and false newspaper accounts of African-American men attacking white women; several African-Americans were killed during the riot.
World War I	(1914-1918)- European war caused by ethnic conflict, militarism, economic rivalries, the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and the German U-boat sinking the Lusitania passenger ship containing 128 Americans. The US also feared Mexico would invade the US with the help of Germany.
Leo Frank Case	(1915)-Trial where a northern Jewish pencil factory manager was accused of murdering 13 year old Mary Phagan; found guilty of the crime and sentenced to death, his sentence was later reduced to life due to additional evidence. However, a group of men kidnapped and lynched him in Marietta.
Lusitania	British passenger ship that was sunk by the Germans in 1915. Over 100 Americans were killed; the sinking of the Lusitania contributed to America entering World War I.
Zimmerman Telegraph	Telegraph sent from Germany to Mexico; Germany urged Mexico to attack the United States in return for territory lost during the Mexican-American War.
County Unit System	A voting system that gave more power to Georgia's rural counties than urban ones.
Women's Suffrage	National political moment supporting women's right to vote, supported by Rebecca Latimer Felton.
Roaring Twenties	Decade of economic growth in the 1920s; consumerism using both cash and credit created by new technological innovations and mass production; period of social and cultural change.
Boll Weevil	Insect whose larvae feed on cotton crops; destroyed cotton production in the southeastern US.
Drought of 1924	One of the worst droughts in Georgia's history; led to an economic depression in the state.

Great Depression	Period of economic decline characterized by high unemployment (25%), businesses downsizing or going bankrupt, bank failures, and the stock market crash.
Reduction in Purchasing	A factor that led to the Great Depression; economic fears caused consumers to stop buying manufactured products, which led to companies losing money and laying off more employees.
Overproduction	A factor that led to the Great Depression; farmers continued to produce record numbers of crop yield though the demand for agricultural products was limited; this drove the cost of these products down.
Bank Failures	One of the factors that led to the Great Depression; when a bank ran out of reserves to pay customers who wanted to withdraw their deposits.
Stock Market Crash of 1929	A factor that led to the Great Depression. A major stock market collapse that led to investors losing over 40 billion dollars. Companies went bankrupt, which increased the unemployment rate.
The Smoot-Hawley Tariff	1930- a factor that led to the Great Depression; a tariff on European goods that closed European markets to American businesses.
New Deal	Name given to a series of federal programs spearheaded by President Franklin Roosevelt in order to help the nation recover from the Great Depression.
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)	A New Deal program that hired unemployed young men to work on public works projects; building roads, buildings, and parks. Money earned would help stimulate the economy.
Agricultural Adjustment Act	A New Deal program that paid farmers a subsidy not to grow crops in order to increase the price of agricultural products, which would allow farmers to earn higher profits and get out of debt.
Rural Electrification Act	New Deal program designed to build the capabilities to bring electricity to rural areas.
Social Security Act	New Deal program that provided retirement and unemployment insurance for American taxpayers.
Warm Springs	Georgia city home to President Roosevelt's "Little White House"; site's warm water mineral springs were used as a rehabilitation center for polio victims and inspiration for FDR's new deal programs.
Lend-Lease Act	(1941)- act that allowed the U.S. government to send billions of dollars in supplies and military equipment to allied countries in exchange for U.S. rights in their military bases.
Pearl Harbor	(Dec. 7, 1941)- U.S. enters World War II because of a surprise attack on the US Naval base in Hawaii by Japanese forces.
Bell Aircraft	Factory located in Marietta, Georgia, that produced B-29 bombers for the U.S. war effort.
Liberty Ships	U.S. cargo ships made during World War II. In all 187 of these ships were made in Georgia.
Savannah and Brunswick Ship Yards	Georgia's two deep water ports; during World War II, 187 Liberty Ships were constructed there, which boosted the Georgia economy. Georgia Congressman Carl Vinson brought the shipyards to Georgia.
Holocaust	The genocide of over 6 million Jews along with gypsies, homosexuals, and political prisoners by Nazi Germany. Georgia Commission on the Holocaust brings awareness to hate crimes.
1946 Governors Race	Also called the Three Governors Controversy. Due to the death of the 1946 governor's race winner Eugene Talmadge and recent changes to the Georgia state constitution, three men had a legitimate claim to the office; the matter was settled by the Supreme Court and a special election in 1948.
White Primary	Tactic used by whites in Georgia to prevent blacks from voting in the Democratic primary; because Georgia was a one party state, this prevented African-Americans from having a voice in elections.
Brown v. Board of Education	(1954)- Supreme Court cases that struck down the policy of separate but equal and mandated the desegregation of public schools.
1956 State Flag	Controversial flag that flew over Georgia from 1956-2001. The flag was controversial due to the flag's prominent Confederate Battle emblem and symbolism of segregation.
Sibley Commission	(1961)- investigation by lawyer John Sibley to determine what should be done about integration in the state; though 60% of Georgians claimed they would rather close the public schools than integrate, Sibley recommended that local school systems desegregate when they were ready.
Albany Movement	(1961)- An organized civil rights protest led by the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and Dr. King to desegregate the city of Albany, Georgia; failed attempt because many of the protestors were arrested and jailed.
End of County Unit System	A political policy that gave each county a certain number of votes based on three categories (rural, town, or urban); system was ended because it violated the "one man-one vote" doctrine and rural counties with less population had more voting power than more populated urban counties.
March on Washington	(1963)- civil rights march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to promote jobs and freedom; the famous "I Have a Dream" speech helped to pass the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act.
Civil Rights Act	(1964)- federal legislation that forbade discrimination in the workforce on the basis of race and sex in hiring, firing, and promotion. Passed by Congress and signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Two Party System	A democratic form of government where two major parties dominate the political landscape.
Reapportionment	Part of a Supreme Court ruling that mandated congressional districts needed to be divided by population with each district having a roughly equal number of voters.
1996 Olympic Games	1996 Olympic Games were awarded to Atlanta and the state of Georgia; Georgia has benefited economically due to the games.