

# Georgia Geography

**SS8G1** The student will describe Georgia with regard to physical features and location. Georgia is a state that has diverse geography. With mountains to the north and the largest swamp in North America to the south. Georgia has a unique physical landscape. After studying this standard, students should be able to describe Georgia's relative and absolute location, describe its five regions, locate and evaluate the importance of some of Georgia's physical features, and discuss how Georgia's climate has impacted the state's development.

# Georgia's Location

- SS8G1a. Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.

# Hemisphere (Globally speaking...)



Georgia is located  
in the Northern  
Hemisphere.

Georgia is located  
in the Western  
Hemisphere.



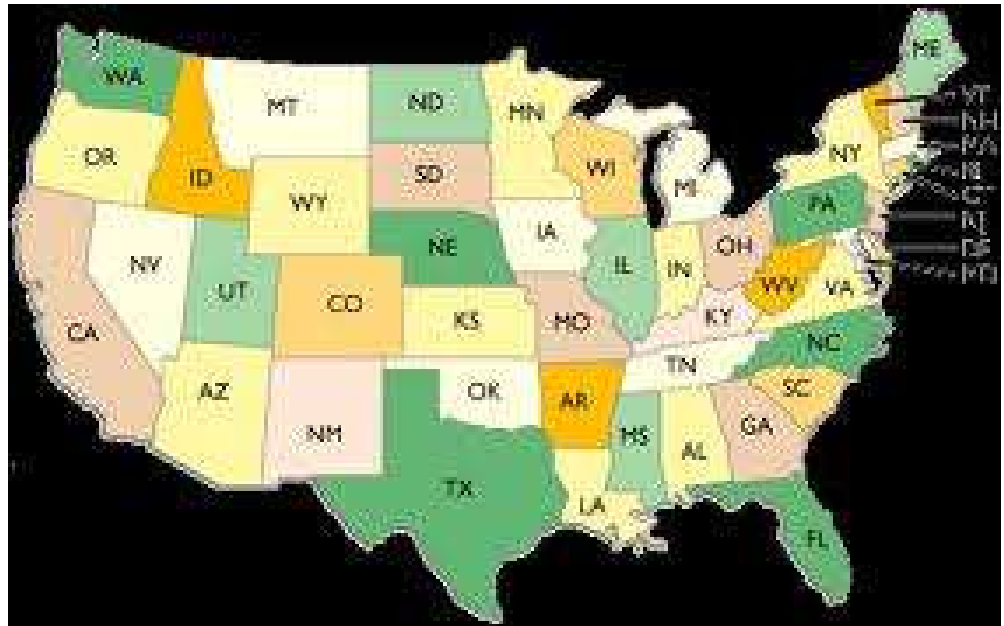
# Continent



Georgia is  
located on  
the  
continent of  
North  
America.

# Nation

Georgia  
belongs to  
the United  
States of  
America.



# Region



Georgia is located in the Southeastern part of the United States.

# Label your maps

- 1) On your map of the Northern Hemisphere color North America green.
- 2) On your map of the Western Hemisphere color North America green.
- 3) On your map of the United States of America color Georgia green.
- 4) On your map of the United States of America label the states that border Georgia. [AL, FL, SC, NC, and TN]

# Georgia's Five Geographic Regions

SS8G1b. Describe the five geographic regions of Georgia; include the Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Appalachian Plateau, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain.



# The Blue Ridge Region



# The Blue Ridge Region

- Located in the Northeastern portion of the state
- Home to Georgia's largest mountains
  - Brasstown Bald (highest peak in Georgia)
  - Southern most point on the Appalachian Trail
- Includes the city of Dahlonega, site of America's first gold rush
- In the past the primary industry was mining.

# The Blue Ridge Region

- Today the primary industry is tourism
- Receives the most precipitation in the state with over 80 inches of rain a year
- Is the starting point of most of Georgia's rivers

# The Valley and Ridge Region



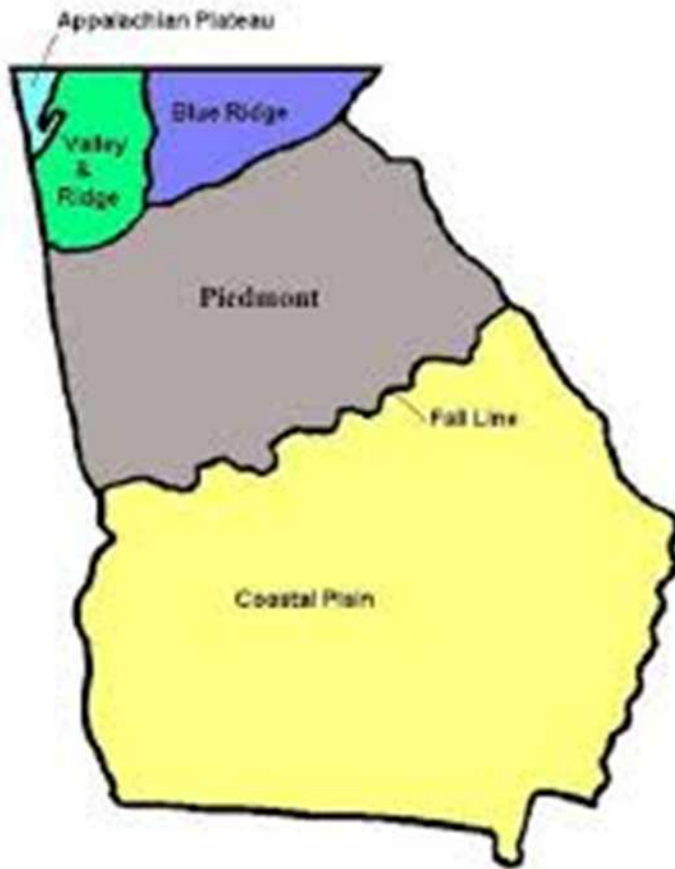
# The Valley and Ridge Region

- Characterized by low open valleys and narrow ridges
- Traditionally a mining region with the valleys used for agriculture
- Cities:
  - Cartersville
  - Calhoun
  - Dalton – known for textiles and carpet

# The Valley and Ridge Region

- Historically this region was a major battle ground during the Civil War
- Major transportation route between Georgia and Tennessee

# The Appalachian Plateau



# The Appalachian Plateau

- Located in the northwestern corner of the state
- Smallest region
- Sometimes called “TAG” region because it is where Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia all connect at one point.
- Includes all of Dade County and part of Walker County



# The Appalachian Plateau

- Has many scenic areas and is the location of Cloudland State Park.
- As with the other mountainous areas of Georgia, mining was an important economic activity in the region.
- Coal was the most important product.
- Agriculture is limited due to poor soil.

# The Piedmont Region



# The Piedmont Region

- The Piedmont region is in the middle of the state and is the most populous of the five regions.
- With over 4.5 million people, almost one-half of Georgia's population lives in the region.
- Most of Georgia's most important cities are located in the region including Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, and Macon.

# The Piedmont Region

- We live in the Piedmont region.
- Due to these urban centers, manufacturing is important in the region, though agriculture, primarily in the form of poultry, is also a significant enterprise in the region.
- In addition, due to the large amount of granite found in the region, mining has been important.

# The Piedmont Region

- Stone Mountain may be the most obvious example of the large amount of granite that can be found in the region, but the town of Elberton is known as the “Granite Capital of the World”.



# Coastal Plain Region



# Coastal Plain Region

- The largest region in Georgia is the Coastal Plain.
- The inner Coastal Plain is the agricultural heartland of the state.
- In this region peaches, peanuts, cotton and the famous Vidalia onions are important crops.

# Coastal Plain Region

- The Outer Coastal Plain is the home of Georgia's oldest city, Savannah, which was founded in 1733.
- Due to the abundance of pine trees in the region, naval stores were an important industry in the state.
- Today, the trees are used in pulp and paper production.



# Coastal Plain Region

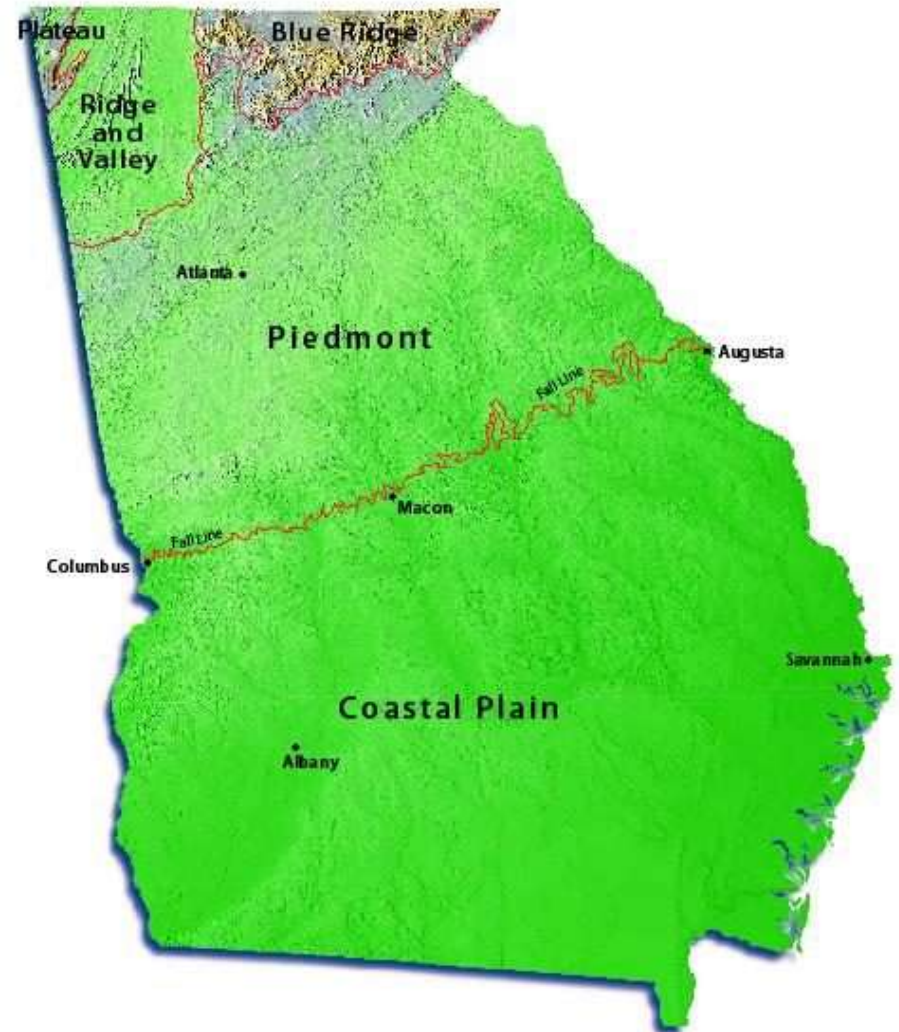
- Baxley, Georgia is the only naval stores producer in the nation today.
- With its location on the Atlantic Ocean, tourism, shipping, and seafood are all important industries in the region.

# Key Physical Features

- SS8G1c. Locate and evaluate the importance of key physical features on the development of Georgia; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands

# The Fall Line

- The Fall Line is a natural boundary that separates the Piedmont and the coastal regions.
- Due to the drop-off of the hilly Piedmont region into the flat Coastal Plain, the waterfalls found on the fall line caused many rivers in the area to be difficult to navigate.



# The Fall Line



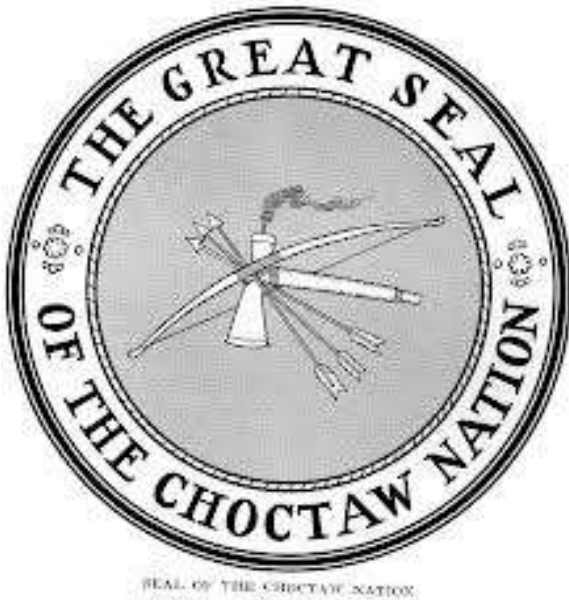
- However, the waterfalls did offer sources of water power and many mills were located on the fall line.
- Many of Georgia's most important cities such as Columbus, Macon, and Augusta were located on the fall line due to their location as the last navigable upstream points in the state.

# The Okefenokee Swamp

- The Okefenokee Swamp covers 700 square miles and is the largest freshwater swamp in North America.
- Located in southeastern Georgia, the swamp can be found in four Georgia counties (Charlton, Ware, Brantley, and Clinch).



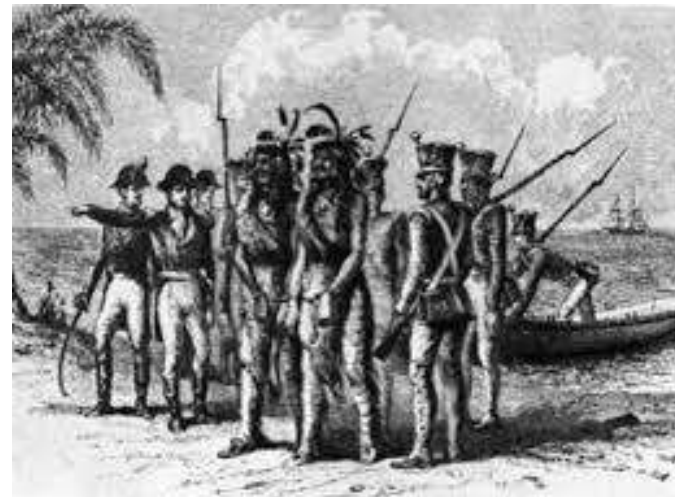
# The Okefenokee Swamp



- Native Americans lived in the swamp dating back to the Archaic period.
- The Choctaw Indians gave the swamp its name which means “land of the trembling earth”.

# The Okefenokee Swamp

- The most famous Indian tribe that lived in the swamp was the Seminole, which fought two wars against the United States in the Okefenokee area.
- White families began settling in the area in 1805.





# The Okefenokee Swamp

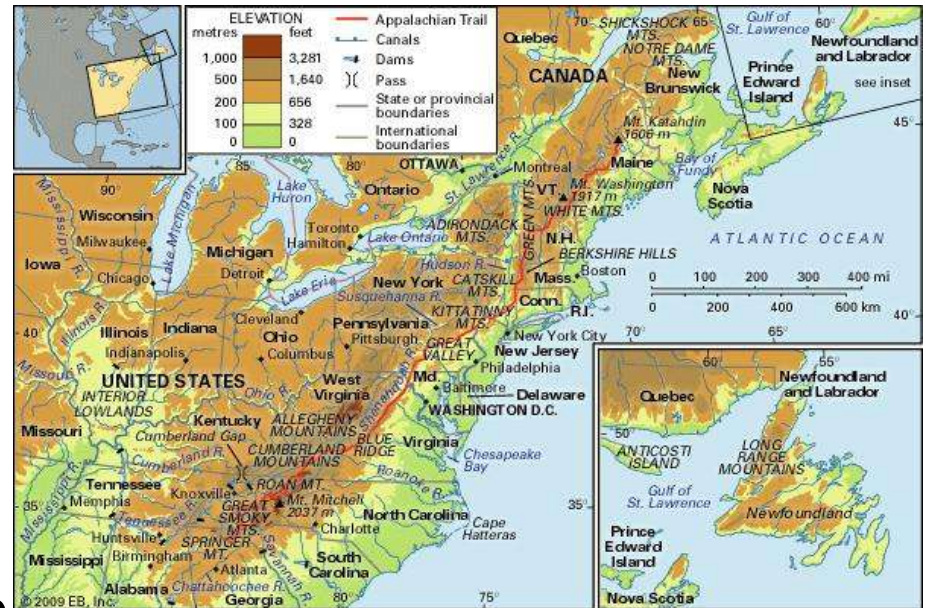


- From 1910 until 1937, before Franklin Roosevelt established 80% of the Okefenokee as a wildlife refuge, the swamp was a major source of timber.
- Now, protected by the federal government, hundreds of animal species live in the area, the most well known being the American alligator.



# The Appalachian Mountains

- The southernmost point of the Appalachian Mountains is located in Georgia.
- Georgia's highest peaks are in the Appalachian Mountain ranges and they can be found in the three mountain regions.



# The Appalachian Mountains



- In the southern states, these mountains are often called the Blue Ridge due to the blue haze that appears around their peaks.
- Long ago, the Appalachians were some of the tallest mountains in the world, though millions of years of erosion have weathered them tremendously.

# The Appalachian Mountains

- Today, the highest peak in Georgia is Brasstown Bald, which has an elevation of over 4700 feet above sea level.
- In comparison, the highest peak in the continental United States is Mt. Whitney at 14,500 feet.



# The Chattahoochee River



- The Chattahoochee River begins its journey to the Gulf of Mexico in the Blue Ridge Region of the state and forms part of the boarder between Alabama and Georgia.
- Native Americans long used the river as a food and water source, as did Georgia's European settlers.

# The Chattahoochee River

- Due to the Fall Line, The Chattahoochee becomes difficult to navigate between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions, though river traffic was important during the 1800s from the Gulf of Mexico to the city of Columbus.





# The Chattahoochee River



- Today, the Chattahoochee is used primarily as a water source for the millions of Georgians living in the Piedmont are, though the river is also used for industry and recreation as well.

# The Savannah River

- The Savannah River forms the boarder between Georgia and South Carolina.
- One of Georgia's longest waterways, the Savannah River begins in Hart County, forms Lake Hartwell, and then flow to the Atlantic Ocean.



# The Savannah River



- The river has been a source of water, food, and transportation for thousands of years.
- Paleo Indians lived around the river and Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto was the first European to cross it.



# The Savannah River

- James Oglethorpe chose a site 18 miles upriver to create Georgia's first city, Savannah.
- Today, the river is navigable for over 200 miles between the cities of Savannah and Augusta.



# The Savannah River



- In addition to shipping, the river is used as a major source of drinking water for Savannah and Augusta, to cool two nuclear power plants in South Carolina, and to generate hydroelectric power.

# The Barrier Islands

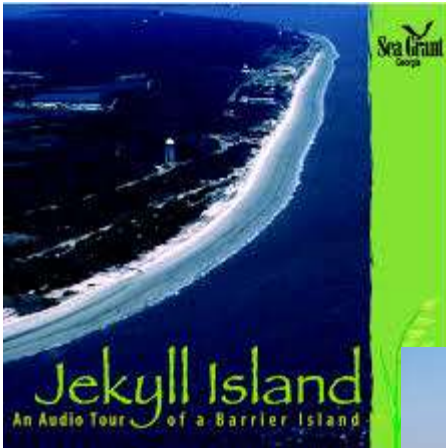
- The Barrier Islands, also known as the Sea Islands or Golden Isles, are a chain of sandy islands off the coastline of Georgia.
- These islands protect the mainland from wind and water erosion.



# The Barrier Islands



- There are 14 Barrier Islands off Georgia's coast including Tybee, St. Simons, Jekyll, and Cumberland.
- Some of the islands, such as Cumberland, are wild life refuges and are nation or state parks.



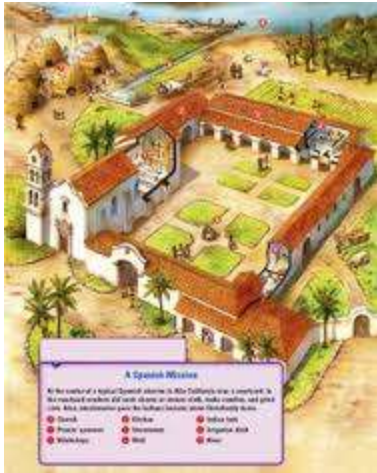
# The Barrier Islands

- Others, like St. Simons, have been developed and three (Little Cumberland, Little St. Simons, and St. Catherine's) are privately owned.
- People have lived on these islands for thousands of years.





# The Barrier Islands



- Indians lived on them in the 1500s, the Spanish set up missions there.
- During the Colonial and Antebellum periods, plantations were set up on the island to grow products such as rice and indigo.



# The Barrier Islands

- Today, the islands are mainly tourist and recreation destinations through the fishing and paper industries are still important economic enterprises.



# Georgia's Climate

- SS8G1d. Evaluate the impact of climate on Georgia's development.



# Georgia's Climate

- Georgia has a humid subtropical climate with hot summers and mild winters
- Mountainous areas tend to be cooler than the rest of the state
- Georgia usually has a large amount of precipitation throughout the year and ranges from 45 to 75 inches per year depending on the area, but receives very little snowfall.

# Georgia's Climate

- Georgia is prone to tornadoes and often feels the effects of hurricanes, though the state has not been hit directly since 1898.

