

STANDARDS:

S8CG2 The student will analyze the role of the legislative branch in Georgia state government.

- a. Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of members of the General Assembly.
- b. Describe the organization of the General Assembly, with emphasis on leadership and the committee system.
- c. Evaluate how the legislative branch fulfills its role as the lawmaking body for the state of

TEACHER INFO: Anticipation Guide

- Print out the Anticipation Guide for each student.
- Before the lesson, have the students write whether each statement is true or false.
- After the lesson, have the students look back over their papers and make corrections to the ones that they had incorrect.
- Discuss the answers as a class.

General Assembly Anticipation Guide

Directions: Before the lesson, write whether you think each statement below is true or false. After the lesson, correct your mistakes.

	Statements	Answers
1	You must be at least 21 years old to be a Senator.	
2	Senators and representatives serve four-year terms.	
3	The General Assembly is Georgia's legislative branch.	
4	The presiding officer of the House is the lieutenant governor.	
5	Each representative may choose only one committee to serve on per term.	
6	The president pro tempore serves in the lieutenant governor's place when s/he is absent.	
7	The governor introduces bills into the General Assembly.	
8	A two-thirds vote of both houses is required in order to override a governor's veto.	

General Assembly Anticipation Guide

KEY

	Questions	Answers
1	You must be at least 21 years old to be a Senator.	True
2	Senators and representatives serve four-year terms.	False
3	The General Assembly is Georgia's legislative branch.	True
4	The presiding officer of the House is the lieutenant governor.	False
5	Each representative may choose only one committee to serve on per term.	False
6	The president pro tempore serves in the lieutenant governor's place when s/he is absent.	True
7	The governor introduces bills into the General Assembly.	False
8	A two-thirds vote of both houses is required in order to override a governor's veto.	True

TEACHER INFO: CLOZE Notes

- The next pages are handouts for the students to use for note-taking during the presentation. (Print front to back to save paper and ink.)
- Check the answers as a class after the presentation.

General Assembly CLOZE Notes 1

Legislature

- The legislative branch is the one that makes the laws, and according to separation of powers, no other branch has the right to _____.
- In Georgia, the _____ acts as the state's legislative branch of government.
- It consists of _____: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Under Georgia's Constitution, the House must have at least _____ and the Senate must have _____.

Qualifications

- In order to serve in the General Assembly, individuals must _____.
- Qualifications for legislators in both Houses include _____, Georgia citizenship for at least _____, and _____ in their districts for at least one year.
- Senators must be at least _____ and representatives must be _____.
- Someone who is currently _____ is not allowed to be either a senator or representative.

Terms & Elections

- Members of both houses of the General Assembly serve _____ with no limit on consecutive terms.
- General Assembly members are elected in _____ in their local districts.
- The entire membership of each body is elected at the same time and elections occur in _____.

Duties

- The legislative session begins on the second Monday in January and lasts for _____.
- For the rest of their two-year terms, the duties of senators and representatives take place in special _____.
- Members work on making laws to ensure the welfare of citizens, _____, and amending the constitution.
- While many legislative _____ by the House and Senate, some powers are reserved for one house but not the other.
- Only the House of Representatives may introduce bills designed to _____, appropriate funds, or impeach.
- Only the Senate may determine the guilt or innocence of _____ or _____.

~~approval/reject appointments by the governor.~~

General Assembly CLOZE Notes 2

Leadership

- The _____ acts as the head of the House of Representatives.
- Members of the House elect him/her from _____.
- The _____ presides over the Senate.
- Georgians elect him/her in a _____ by popular vote.
- The Senate elects a _____ and the House elects a _____ to serve in place of the lieutenant governor and speaker when they are absent.
- The Senate also has a _____ and the House a *clerk of the House of Representatives*.

Committees

- Both the speaker of the House and the lieutenant governor appoint committees that _____ and make recommendations about specific bills.
- The _____ is an important part of the legislative process as much of the work done in Georgia's General Assembly takes place in committees.
- Both houses use committees to _____ before they are sent to the members for debate and vote.
- There are about _____ in the House of Representatives.
- Each representative sits on 2-3 committees that deal with things such as public safety, _____, agriculture, transportation, etc.
- There are about _____ in the Senate.
- Each Senator is a member of at least three committees, and the lieutenant governor chooses each _____.

Bill to Law

- In order for a bill to become a law, it must go through a specific _____.
- 1. Drafting – With the help of lawyers, legislators write the _____.
- 2. Introduction – Either a senator or representative _____ to the house s/he belongs to.
- 3. Committee Consideration – The committee _____ and decides whether or not it should become a law.
- 4. Floor Consideration – The bill is read aloud in either the House or the Senate and members _____. If the majority votes “no”, then the bill dies. If the majority votes “yes”, then the bill goes to the other house where the _____.
- 5. Governor Consideration – A bill that passes both houses is sent to the governor. The governor can sign the bill and it _____, or veto the bill. It then goes back to the General Assembly for reconsideration. They can override the governor's veto with a _____ in both houses.

Georgia's Government

LEGISLATIVE

BRANCH

Brain
Wrinkles

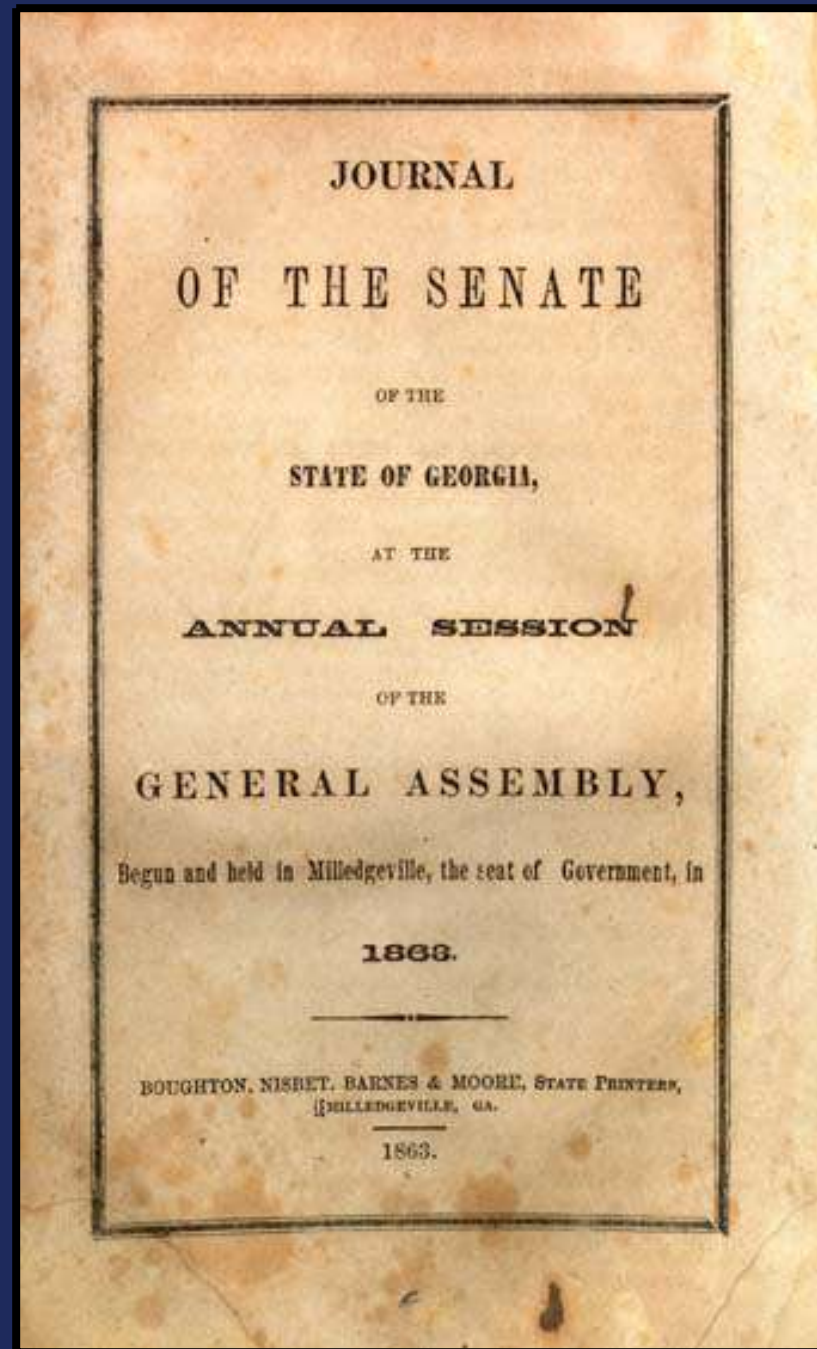


Legislature

- The legislative branch is the one that makes the laws, and according to separation of powers, no other branch has the right to make Georgia's laws.
- In Georgia, the General Assembly acts as the state's legislative branch of government.
- It consists of two houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Under Georgia's Constitution, the House must have at least 180 members and the Senate must have at least 56.

Georgia State Capitol – Atlanta Home of General Assembly





Qualifications

- In order to serve in the General Assembly, individuals must meet certain qualifications.
- Qualifications for legislators in both Houses include US citizenship, Georgia citizenship for at least two years, and legal residence in their districts for at least one year.
- Senators must be at least 25 years old and representatives must be 21.
- Someone who is currently serving in the military is not allowed to be either a senator or

Terms & Elections

- Members of both houses of the General Assembly serve two-year terms with no limit on consecutive terms.
- General Assembly members are elected in general elections in their local districts.
- The entire membership of each body is elected at the same time and elections occur in even numbered years.

Duties

- The legislative session begins on the second Monday in January and lasts for 40 days.
- For the rest of their two-year terms, the duties of senators and representatives take place in special sessions and committees.
- Members work on making laws to ensure the welfare of citizens, proposing Georgia's budget, and amending the constitution.



Georgia Senators

OnlineAthens

Duties

- While many legislative powers are shared by the House and Senate, some powers are reserved for one house but not the other.
- Only the House of Representatives may introduce bills designed to raise revenue, appropriate funds, or impeach.
- Only the Senate may determine the guilt or innocence of impeached officials or approve/reject appointments by the



Leadership

- The speaker of the House acts as the head of the House of Representatives.
 - Members of the House elect him/her from among their members.
- The lieutenant governor presides over the Senate.
 - Georgians elect him/her in a statewide election by popular vote.
- The Senate elects a president pro tempore and the House elects a speaker pro tempore to serve in place of the lieutenant governor and speaker when they are absent.
- The Senate also has a *secretary of the Senate* and the House a *clerk of the House of Representatives*.



Committees

- Both the speaker of the House and the lieutenant governor appoint committees that focus on different issues and make recommendations about specific bills.
- The committee system is an important part of the legislative process as much of the work done in Georgia's General Assembly takes place in committees.
- Both houses use committees to study bills before they are sent to the members for debate and vote.

Committees

- There are about 36 regular committees in the House of Representatives.
- Each representative sits on 2-3 committees that deal with things such as public safety, education, agriculture, transportation, etc.
- There are about 26 committees in the Senate.
- Each Senator is a member of at least three committees, and the lieutenant governor chooses each committee's chair.



Senate Rules Committee

Bill to Law

- In order for a bill to become a law, it must go through a specific legislative process.
1. **Drafting** – With the help of lawyers, legislators write the text of the bill.
 2. **Introduction** – Either a senator or representative introduces the bill to the house s/he belongs to.
 3. **Committee Consideration** – The committee studies the bill and decides whether or not it should become a law.





Bill to Law

- 4. Floor Consideration** – The bill is read aloud in either the House or the Senate and members vote on the bill. If the majority votes “no”, then the bill dies. If the majority votes “yes”, then the bill goes to the other house where the process is repeated.
- 5. Governor Consideration** – A bill that passes both houses is sent to the governor. The governor can sign the bill and it becomes a law, or veto the bill. It then goes back to the General Assembly for reconsideration. They can override the governor’s veto with a two-thirds vote in both houses



How a Bill Becomes a Law



1. Citizens develop or suggest an idea for a bill.



3. The House and the Senate vote to approve the bill.



5. If the bill is vetoed, another vote can be taken. If more than 2/3 of the House and the Senate vote to approve it, the bill becomes a law.



2. Members of the House of Representatives or the Senate propose the bill.



4. The governor signs the bill. If he or she chooses not to sign the bill, it is called a veto.

TEACHER INFO:

- Print off the following slide for each student.
- They should complete the chart after discussing the presentation.
- Check answers as a class when finished.

Georgia's General Assembly

Directions: Complete the chart below with information that you learned during the presentation.

	Qualifications	Terms & Elections	Duties	Leadership	Committees
Senate					
House of Representatives					

Georgia's General Assembly

Directions: Complete the chart below with information that you learned during the presentation.

	Qualifications	Terms & Elections	Duties	Leadership	Committees
Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -25 years old -GA resident for 2 years -must live in district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 year terms -no term limits -56 different senate elections -elections every even numbered year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -making laws -passing GA's budget -amending Constitution -Only the Senate may determine the guilt or innocence of impeached officials or approve/reject appointments by the governor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lieutenant governor (elected by the people, 2nd in line to succeed governor -president pro tempore (serves when LG is absent) 	26 committees
House of Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -21 years old -GA resident for 2 years -must live in district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 year terms -no term limits -108 different House district elections -elections every even numbered year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -making laws -passing GA's budget -amending Constitution -only the House can introduce bills designed to raise revenue, appropriate funds, or impeach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Speaker of the House (elected by the House members, 3rd in line to succeed governor -Speaker pro tempore (serves when Speaker is absent) 	36 committees

TEACHER INFO: I 'Mustache' You Some Questions

- Print off the I 'Mustache' You Some Questions handout for each student and write the names of the General Assembly members from your area's district on the board.
- Have the students pick one of the members and write three questions that they would like to ask him/her about their duties, qualifications, election, term, committee work, etc., in the thought bubbles.
- On the lines, they will imagine that they are the person and write thoughtful responses from the member's point of view. (They should be able to craft their responses based on factual evidence about the General Assembly from the

presentation.)

I 'Mustache' You Some Questions!

Directions: Imagine that you are a journalist that is interviewing a General Assembly member from our district. Write three good, thought-provoking questions that you would ask this person. Next, write down what you think the person might say in response to the questions.



Question 1



Question 2



Question 2

TEACHER INFO: Venn Diagram

- Print out the Venn diagram page for each student.
- Have students work with partners to compare & contrast the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Check answers as a class when finished.

GA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Compare and Contrast

Senate

House of
Representatives

TEACHER INFO: Legislative Process Song

- Put the students into small groups. Each group will work together to create a song or rap about the legislative process.
- Have each group complete the Legislative Process brainstorm sheet. (Print front-to-back to save paper).
- The students can add instrumental music/beats and perform their songs for the class. OR you have the students film themselves in the hallway if they are too shy.

Legislative Process Song

- Work with your group to create lyrics for a song/rap about how a bill becomes a law in Georgia. (You should include information about all 5 steps in your song).
- Complete the brainstorm sheet first. When you're finished with your lyrics, choose instrumental music/beats to play in the background.
- Your group will perform the song for the class.

Legislative Process – Song Lyrics

First Verse

Chorus

Second Verse

Legislative Process – Song Lyrics

Third Verse

Fourth Verse

Fifth Verse

TEACHER INFO: Comprehension Check

- Print off the Comprehension Check for each student.
- After the lesson, have the students answer the questions. *This could also be used as a quiz.

General Assembly Comprehension Check

1. What are the two houses of Georgia's General Assembly?
2. Name the qualifications to being a senator or a representative in Georgia:
3. Name 3 duties of members of the General Assembly:
4. Describe the term of office for senators and representatives:
5. What state official is the president of the Georgia Senate?
6. Who is the presiding officer of the House of Representatives?
7. What does a speaker pro tempore do?
8. What is the purpose of committees?
9. List the 5 steps for a bill to become a law:
10. What power does the governor have in the legislative process?
11. What is required in order to override a governor's veto?

General Assembly

Comprehension Check - KEY

1. What are the two houses of Georgia's General Assembly?
Senate & House of Representatives
2. Name the qualifications to being a senator or a representative in Georgia:
US citizen, GA resident for 2 years, resident of district for 1 year, Senator = 25, representative = 21
3. Name 3 duties of members of the General Assembly:
Make laws, propose budget, amend constitution
4. Describe the term of office for senators and representatives:
Two years with no limit on consecutive terms
5. What state official is the president of the Georgia Senate?
Lieutenant governor
6. Who is the presiding officer of the House?
Speaker of the House
7. What does a speaker pro tempore do?
Serves in Speaker's place when s/he is absent
8. What is the purpose of committees?
To study bills before they are sent to a vote
9. List the 5 steps for a bill to become a law:
Drafting, Introduction, Committee Consideration, Floor Consideration, Governor Consideration
10. What power does the governor have in the legislative process?
Sign a bill into law or veto a bill
11. What is required in order to override a governor's veto?
A two-thirds vote of both houses

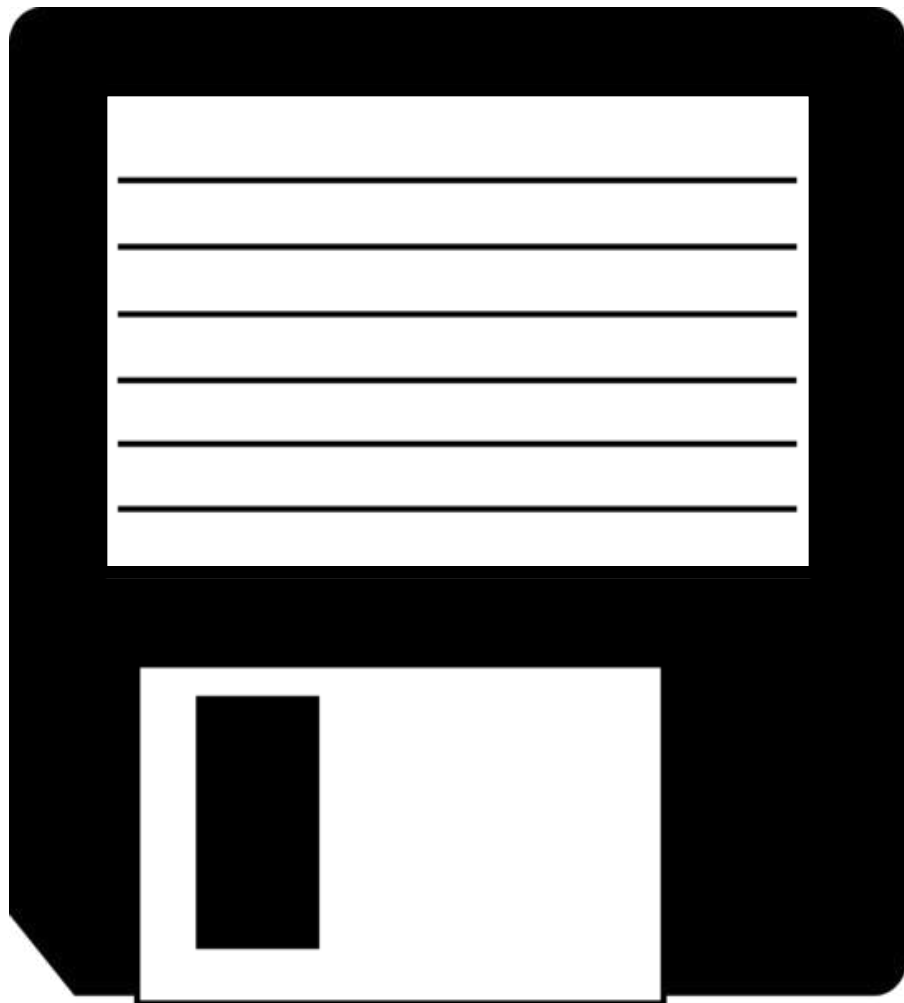
TEACHER INFO: Ticket Out the Door

- Print off the Save It Ticket Out the Door for each student (two-per-page).
- Have the students write down the most important thing that they want to remember (save) about the General Assembly.
- Collect these as students leave and read over them before the next class to see if anyone is missing the “big picture”.

Name:

Save It

What is the most important thing that you want to remember about the General Assembly? "Save it" on the disk below.

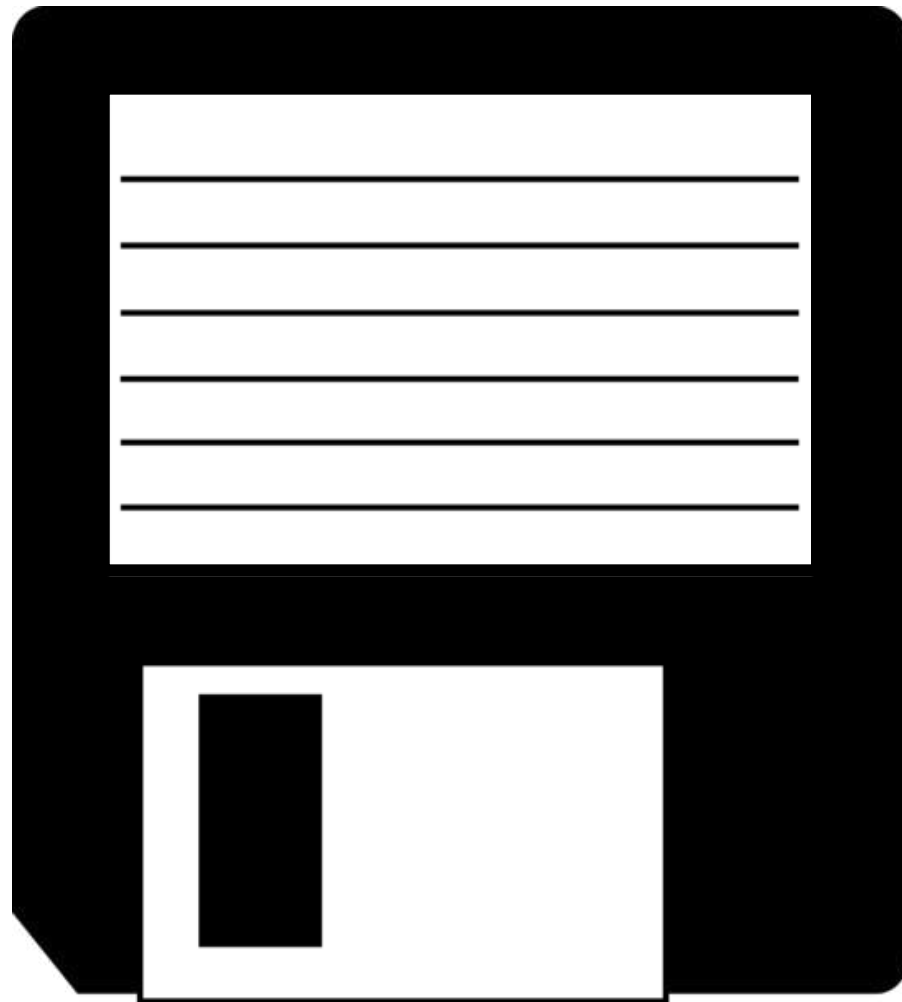


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Name:

Save It

What is the most important thing that you want to remember about the General Assembly? "Save it" on the disk below.

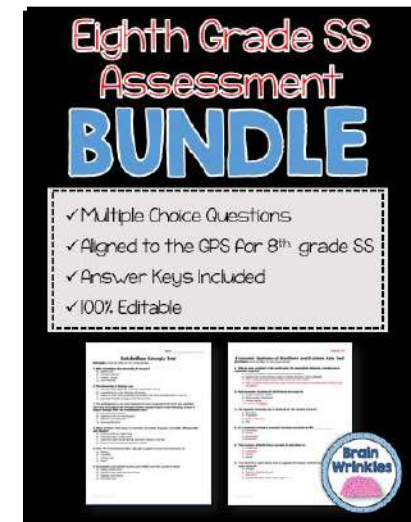
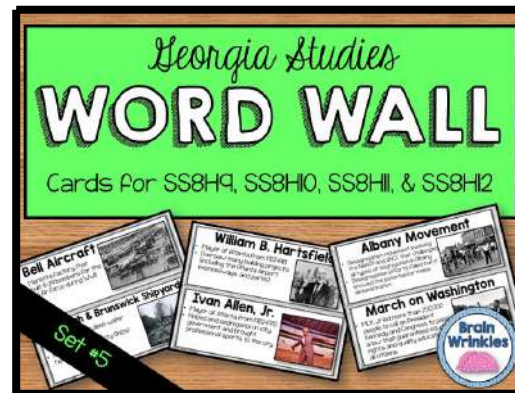
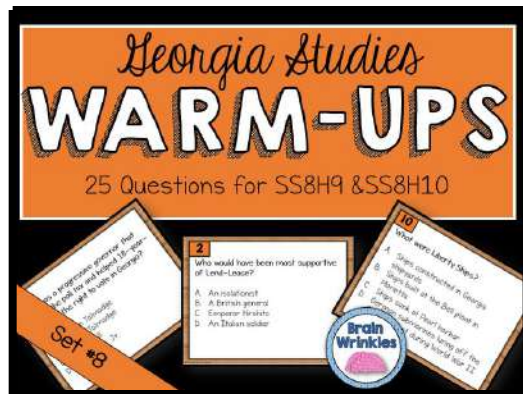


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Thank You!

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