

UNIT 1

SS8G1

GEORGIA'S GEOGRAPHY and CLIMATE



SS8G1 Describe Georgia's Geography and Climate.

- a. Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.**
- b. Distinguish among the five geographic regions of Georgia in terms of location, climate, agriculture, and economic contribution.**
- c. Locate key physical features of Georgia and explain their importance; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands.**
- d. Analyze the importance of water in Georgia's historical development and economic growth.**

SS8G1

Georgia is a state that has a diverse geography. With mountains to the north and the largest swamp in North America to the south, Georgia has quite a unique physical landscape. After studying this standard **YOU** 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 the importance of water in Georgia's historical and economic development.





SS8G1a

SS8G1a

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



Warm Up



How would you describe the location of Georgia to someone who lives in Japan?



Where in the World is Georgia?

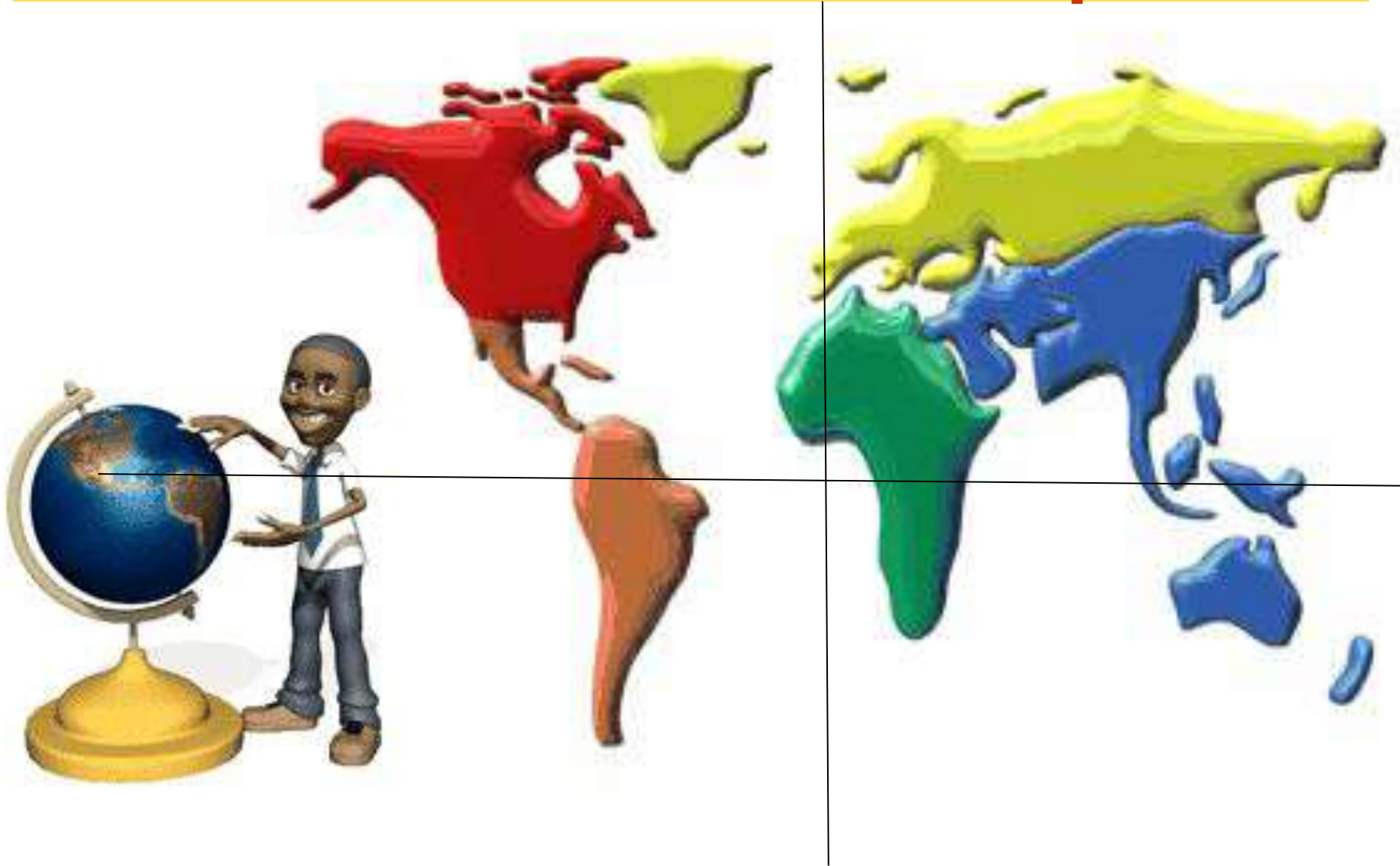
- Which hemispheres?
- Which continent?
- Which nation?
- Which region?



SS8G1a

- The state of Georgia is located in the southeastern United States. It is located on the continent of North America and it is in the Northern (latitude) and Western (longitude) Hemispheres.
- **Think:** Georgia is often referred to as a “Southern State”. Why would Georgia be considered a Southern state?
- **Explain:** What are some other ways you would describe the location of Georgia?

Georgia is in the Northern & Western hemispheres





Georgia is on the
North American continent

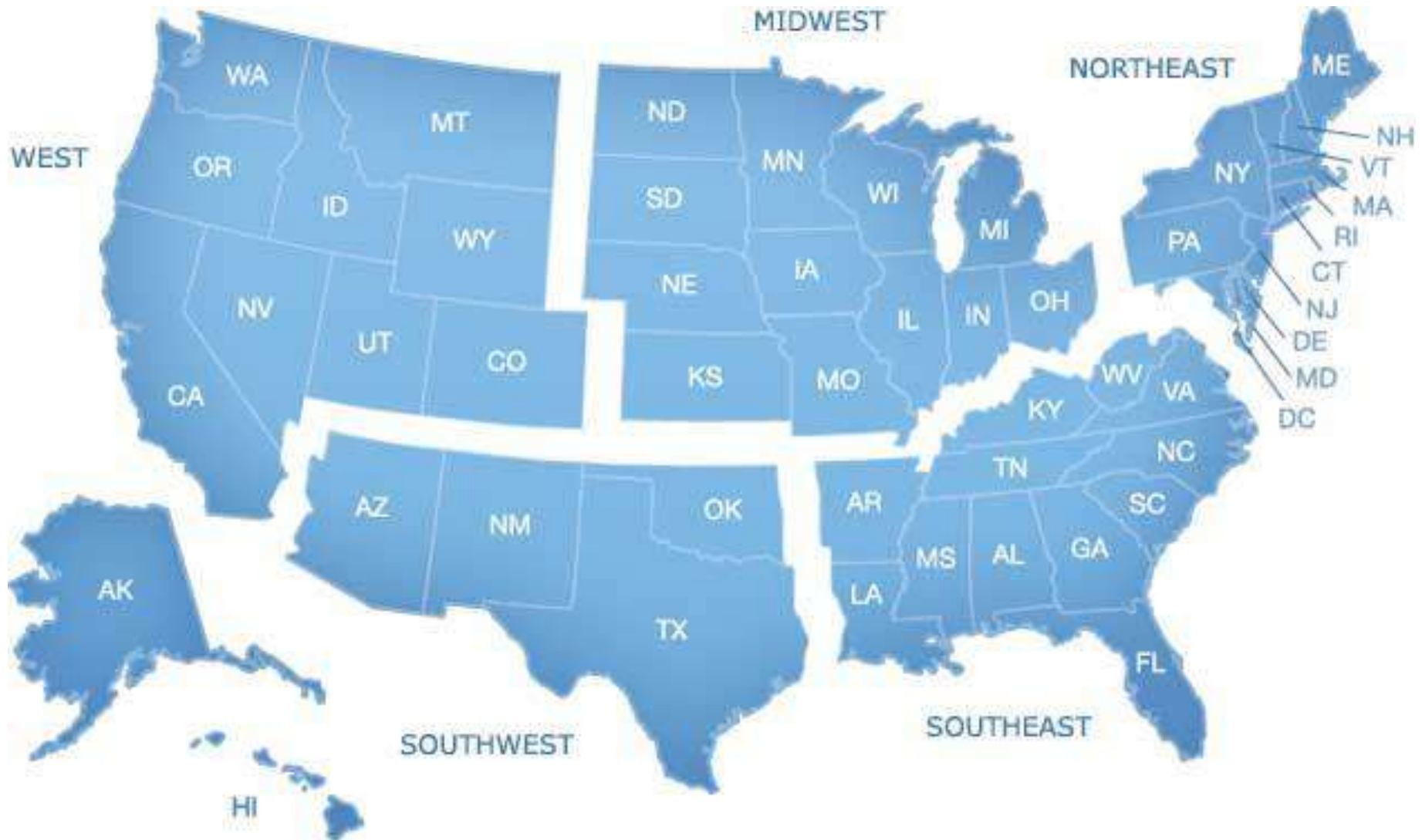


NORTH
AMERICA

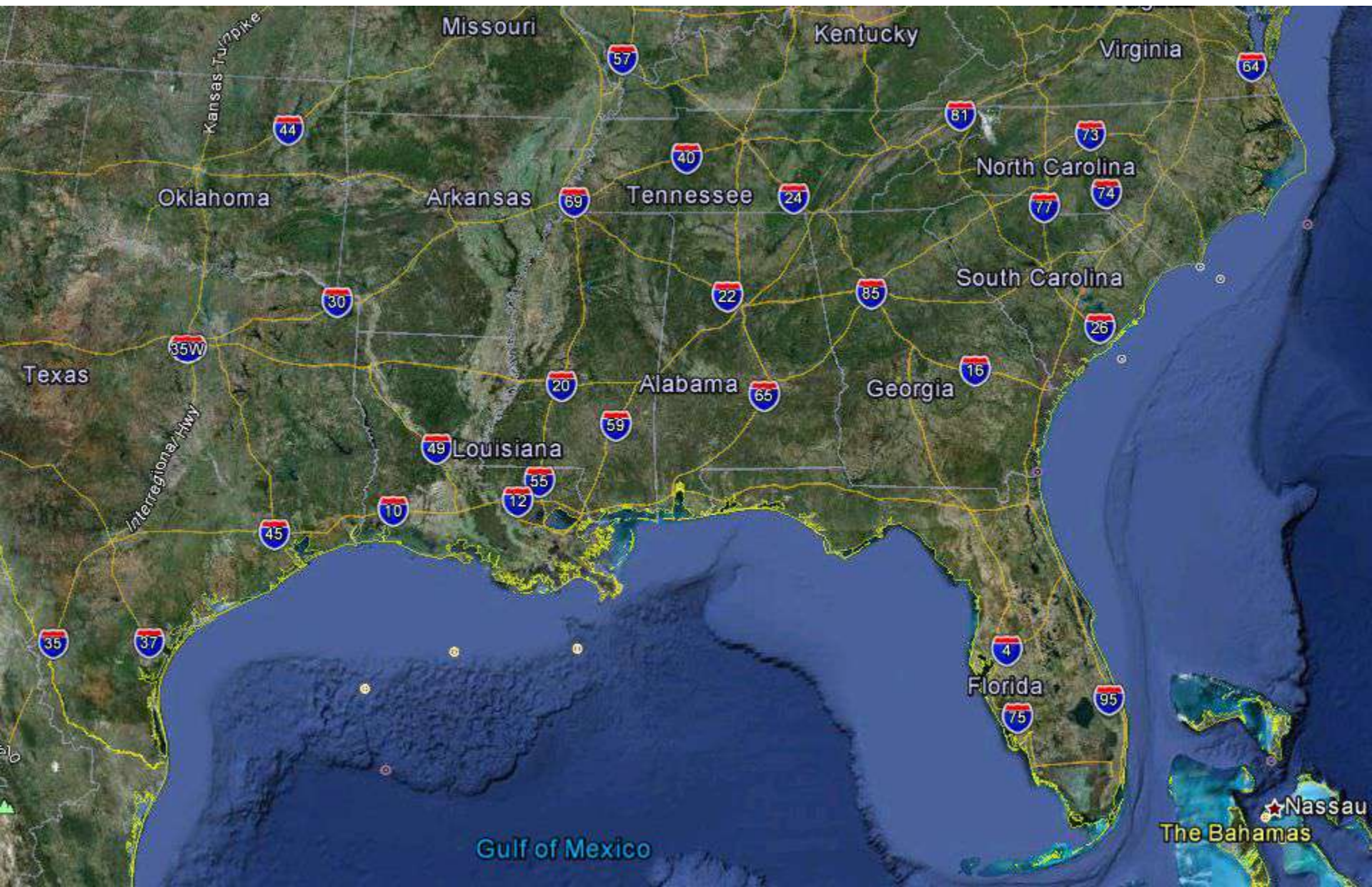
Georgia is one of the 50 states in the
United States of America



Georgia is in the Southeast region of the USA



SOUTHEAST REGION



Notes: #1

How would you
describe the
location of
Georgia?



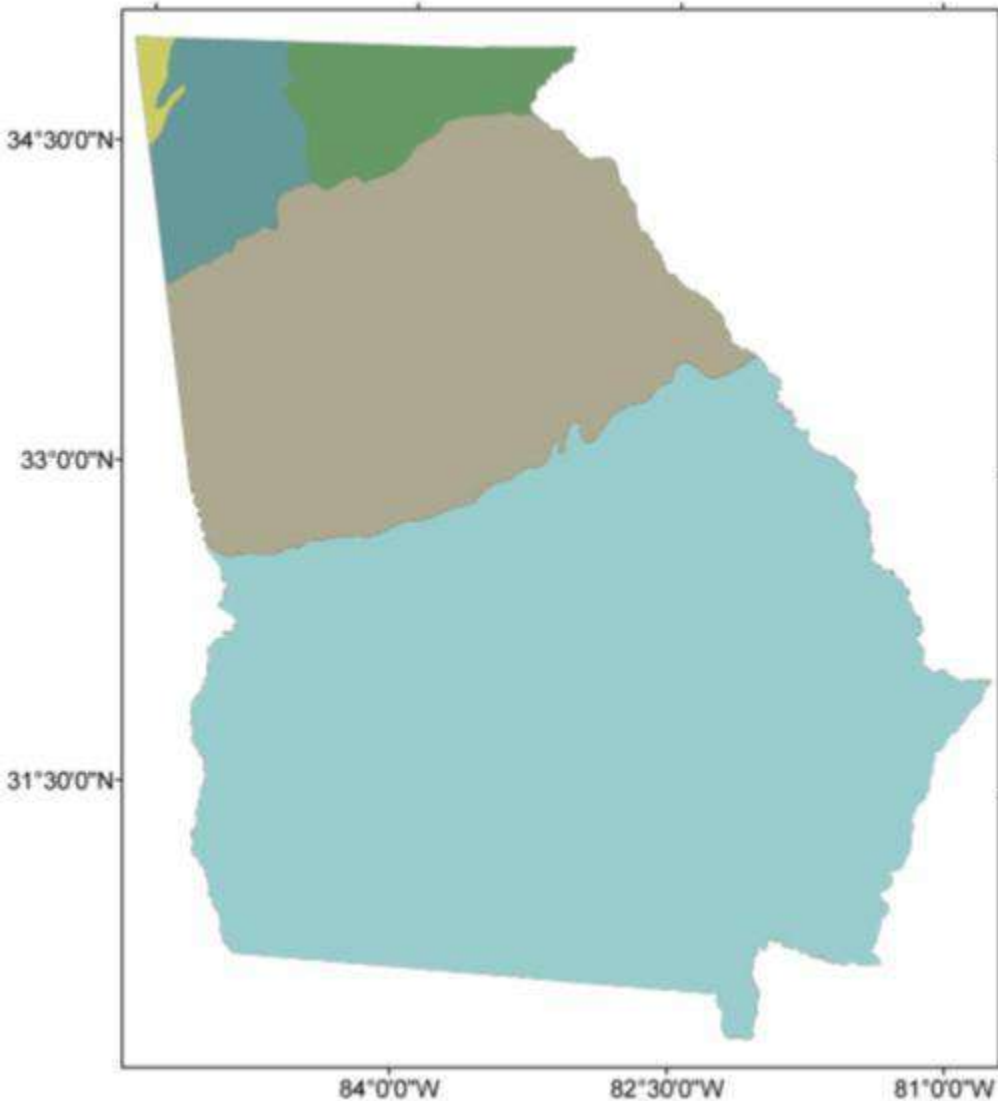


SS8G1b

SS8G1b

b. Distinguish among the five geographic regions of Georgia in terms of location, climate, agriculture, and economic contribution.





Essential Question:

WHERE ARE THE FIVE
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS
OF GEORGIA?

HOW ARE THEY
SIMILAR?

HOW ARE THEY
DIFFERENT?

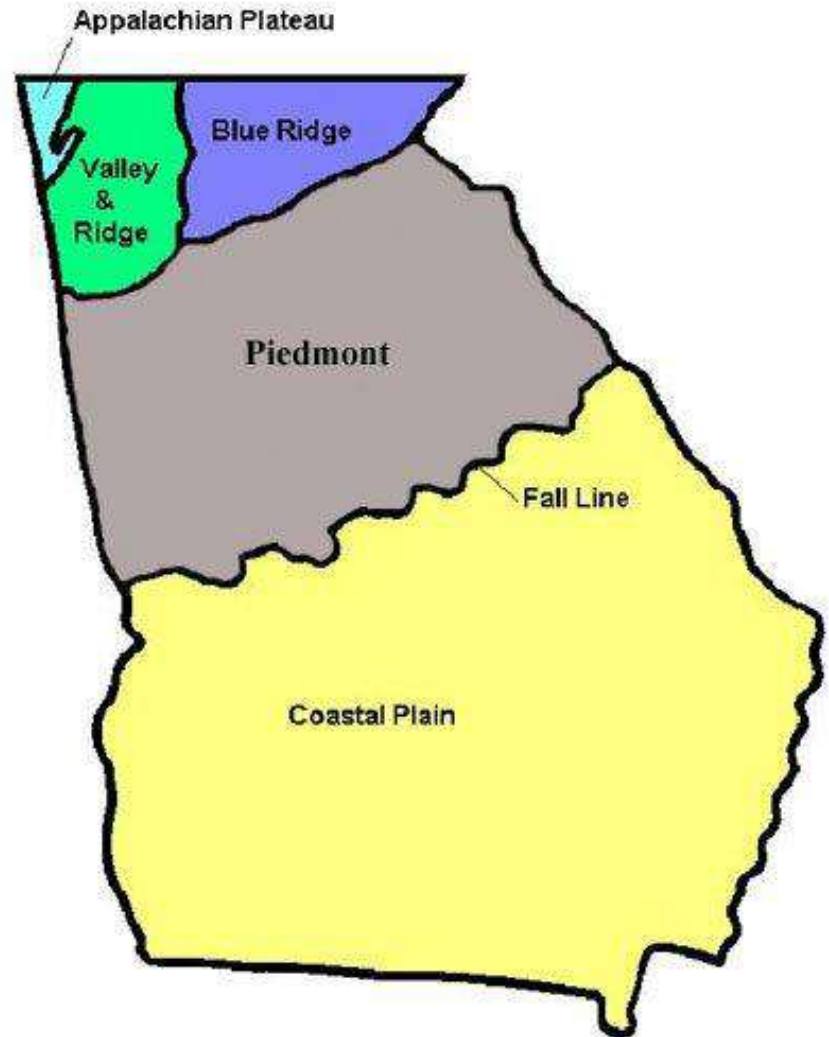
SS8G1b

The state of Georgia is divided into five geographic regions. In the north there are three small mountainous regions, each with a differing physical features and climates. In the middle of the state is the hilly Piedmont area which is home to many of Georgia's largest cities including Atlanta and Henry County. Finally, the state is dominated by the Coastal Plain region which takes up three fifths of Georgia. The Coastal Plain, which is divided into an inner and outer section, was actually covered by water millions of years ago.

Where are the five geographic regions of Georgia?

- Appalachian Plateau
- Valley and Ridge
- Blue Ridge Mountains
- Piedmont
- Coastal Plains

Notes: #2





APPALACHIAN PLATEAU

Notes: #3

The Appalachian Plateau is located in the northwestern corner of the state and is Georgia's smallest region. The region is sometimes called the "TAG" region, as the states of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia all connect at one point. The region has many scenic areas and is the location of Cloudland State Park. Lookout Mountain, the site of a major Civil War battle, is located in the region, though it is actually in the state of Tennessee.





CLOUDLAND CANYON



APPALACHIAN PLATEAU

As with the other mountain regions of Georgia, mining was an important economic activity in the region. In the case of the Appalachian Plateau, coal was the most important product. However, unlike the other two northern regions, due to poor soil, agriculture in the Appalachian Plateau is limited.

Notes: #3





VALLEY and RIDGE

The Valley and Ridge region is characterized by low open valleys and narrow ridges. The area was traditionally a mining region, with the valleys being used for agriculture. The region has several cities and towns, including Cartersville, Calhoun, and Dalton.

Notes: #4





VALLEY and RIDGE



Dalton is probably the Valley and Ridge's most important city due to its textile and carpet industry. Historically, this region was a major battle ground during the Civil War and is a major transportation route between Georgia and Tennessee.

Notes: #4





BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

The Blue Ridge region is located in the northeastern portion of the state. The region is home to Georgia's largest mountains, including Brasstown Bald the highest peak in the state and the southernmost point of the Appalachian Trail. Important cities in the region include Dahlonega, the site of America's first Gold Rush.

Notes: #5





BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

In the past, the primary industry of the region was mining (gold and marble). Today, due to the region's scenic beauty, it is tourism. The Blue Ridge receives the most precipitation in the state with over 80 inches of rain annually and is the starting point of most of Georgia's rivers.

Notes: #5





PIEDMONT

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. Many of Georgia's most important cities are located in the region including Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, and Macon.

Notes: #6

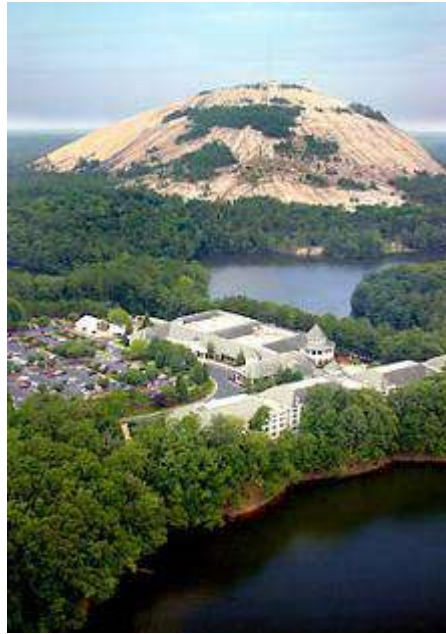




PIEDMONT

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 (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”).

Notes: #6





COASTAL PLAINS

The largest region in Georgia is the Coastal Plain. Making up three-fifths of the state, this region is actually divided into two areas: the Inner and the Outer 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.

Notes: #7





COASTAL PLAINS



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** was an important industry in the state. Today the trees are used in pulp and paper production. With its location on the Atlantic Ocean tourism, shipping, and seafood are all important industries in the region.

Notes: #7



Photo: Bill Allen



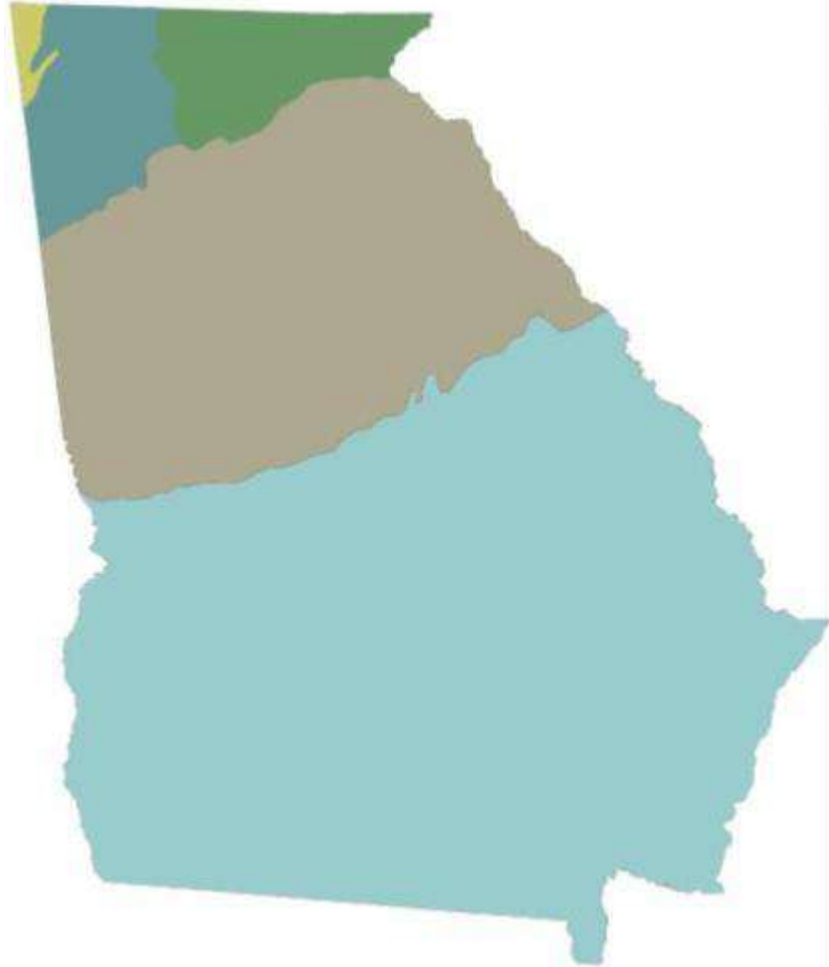


Look at the map key.

Which color represents the high elevation of mountains?

Which part of the state is highest in elevation?

What direction do many of the rivers flow?



LET'S REVIEW !

**HOW ARE THE FIVE GEOGRAPHIC
REGIONS OF GEORGIA SIMILAR?
DIFFERENT?**

APPALACHIAN PLATEAU?

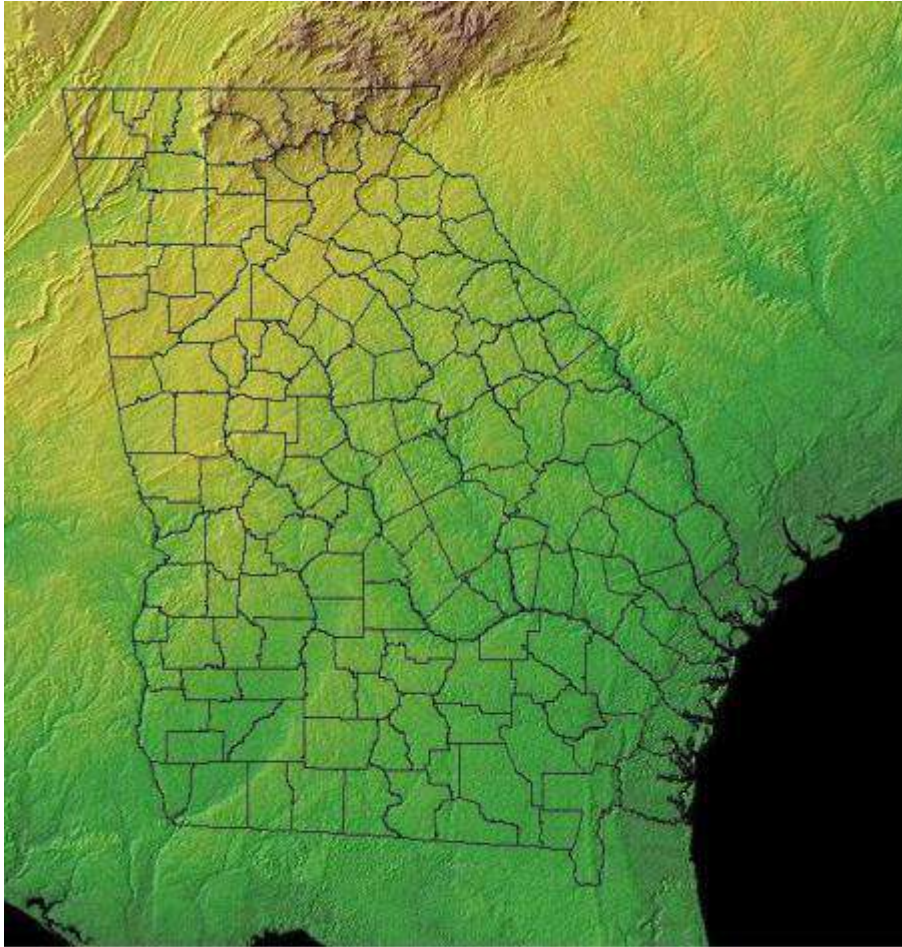
VALLEY and RIDGE?

BLUE RIDGE?

PIEDMONT?

COASTAL PLAINS?

Warm Up



**HOW MIGHT PHYSICAL
FEATURES BE IMPORTANT TO
GEORGIA'S DEVELOPMENT?**



SS8G1c

Warm up!

Can you guess what physical features are labelled on the map?



SS8G1c

Locate key physical features of Georgia and explain their importance; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands.



Appalachian Mtns

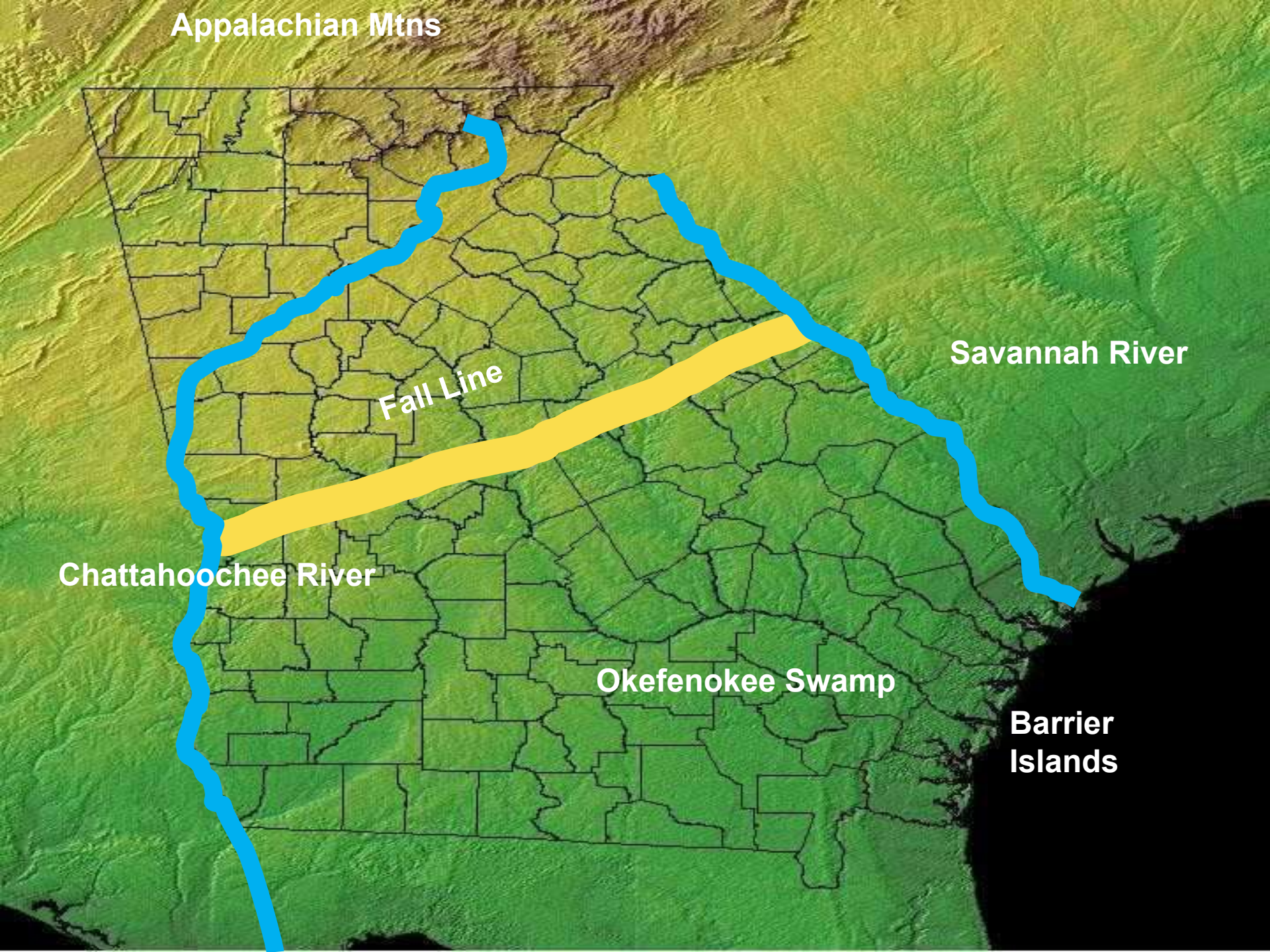
Savannah River

Fall Line

Chattahoochee River

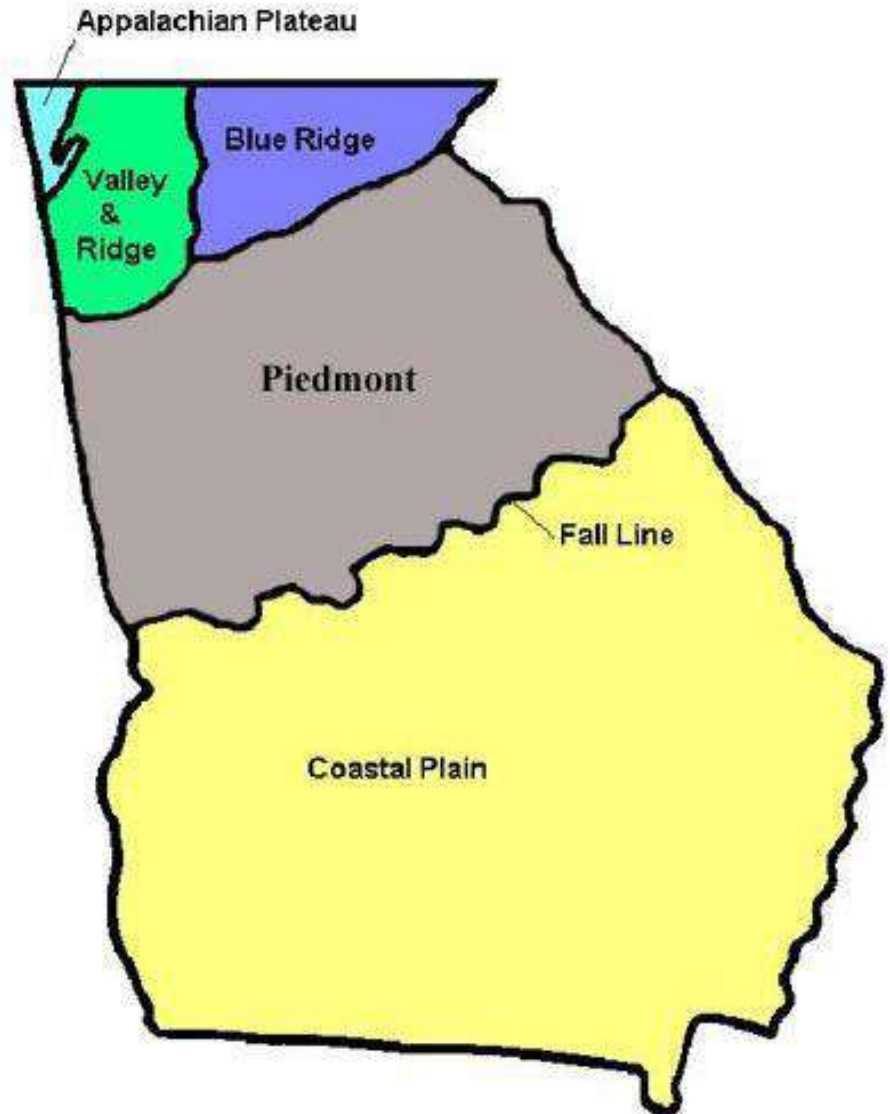
Okefenokee Swamp

**Barrier
Islands**



What and where is the FALL LINE?

The fall line is a natural boundary that separates the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain 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.

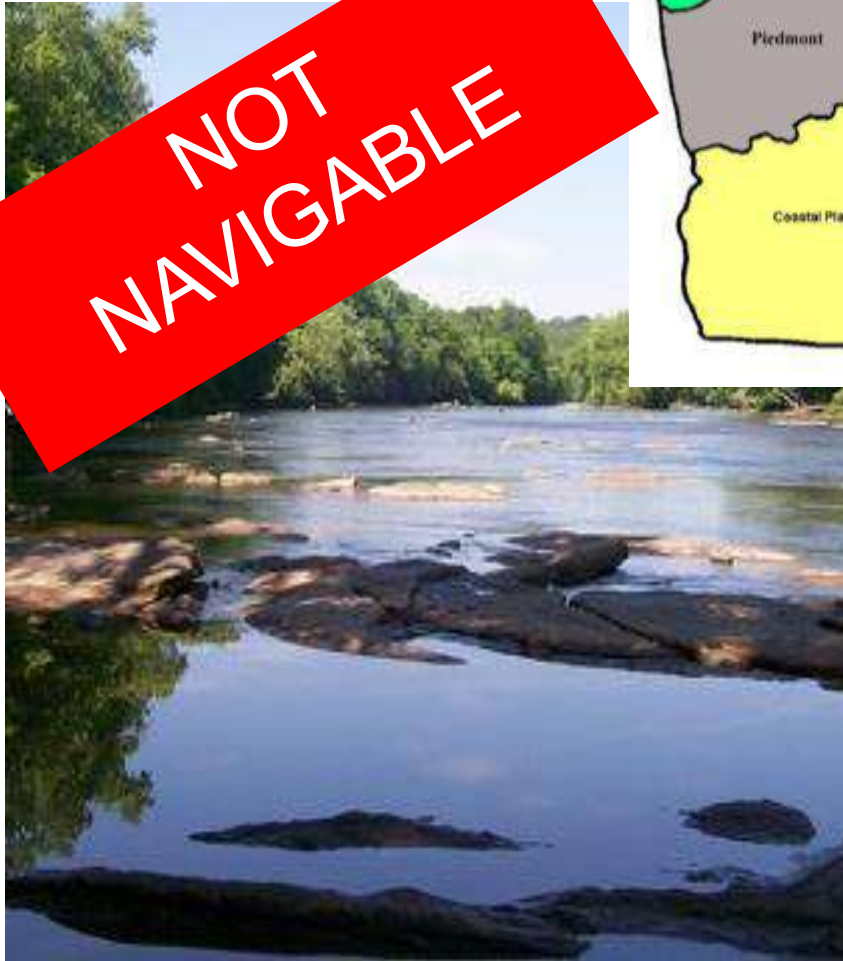


WHERE ARE RIVERS NAVIGABLE IN RELATION TO THE FALL LINE... NORTH OR SOUTH?

NOT NAVIGABLE



NAVIGABLE



What and where is the FALL LINE?

However, the waterfalls did offer sources of water power and many mills were located on the fall line. In addition, 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.



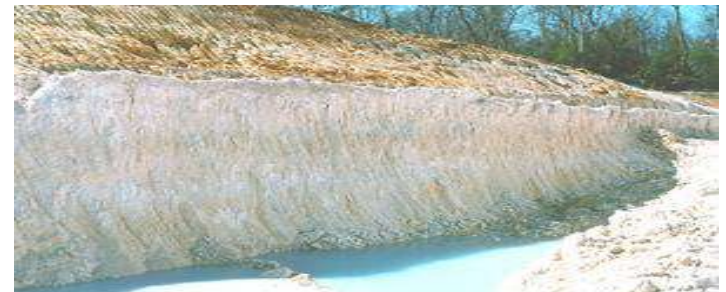
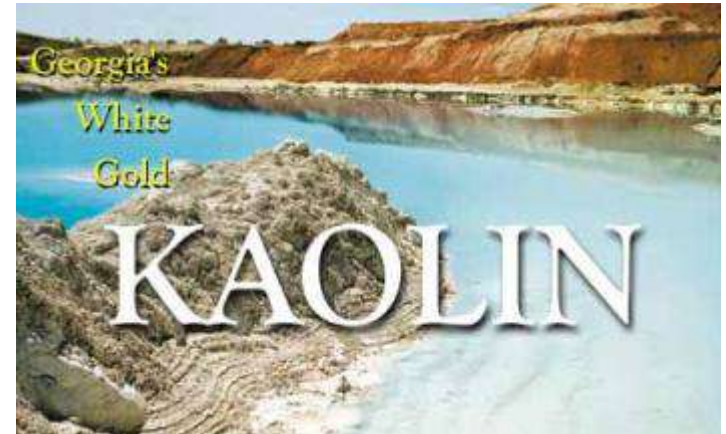
THE FALL LINE'S MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE

Kaolin is one of Georgia's largest natural resources. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, more than 8 million metric tons of kaolin are mined from Georgia each year, with an estimated value of more than \$1 billion. Georgia is by far the leading clay-producing state in America and is recognized as a world leader in the mining, production, processing, and application of kaolin products.

Kaolin in Georgia is generally found in a northeast to southwest band of deposits extending from Augusta to Macon to Columbus. This belt parallels the fall line, which marks the boundary between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain.

Kaolin is most commonly used in the paper-coating industry. It is also used as a filler (added to plastics, for example, and rubber compounds), as a pigment additive in paints, in ceramics (tile, chinaware, and bathroom toilets and sinks), and in pharmaceuticals such as toothpaste.

- New Georgia Encyclopedia



What and where is the OKEFENOKEE SWAMP?

The Okefenokee Swamp covers 700 square miles and is the largest swamp in North America. Located in southeastern Georgia, the swamp can be found in four Georgia counties. Native Americans lived in the swamp dating back to the Archaic period. 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.



What and where is the OKEFENOKEE SWAMP?

White families began settling in the area in 1805. 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, over hundreds of animal species live in the area, the most well known being the American alligator.



What and where are 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. In the southern states these mountains are often called the Blue Ridge due to the blue haze that appears around their peaks.



What and where are the APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS?

Long ago, the Appalachians were some of the tallest mountains in the world, though millions of years of erosion have weathered them tremendously. 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 which is almost 14,500 feet.



What and where is 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 border between Alabama and Georgia. Native Americans long used the river as a food and water source, as did Georgia's European settlers. 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.



What and where is the SAVANNAH RIVER?

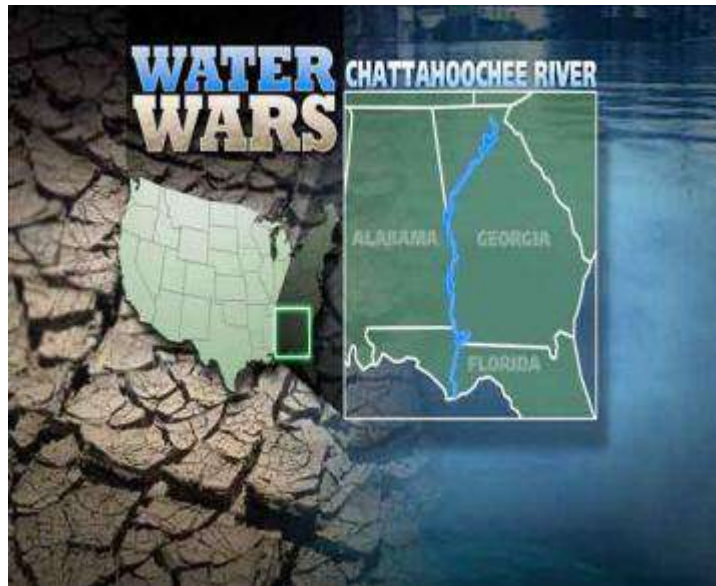
- The Savannah River forms the border between Georgia and South Carolina. One of Georgia's longest waterways, the Savannah River begins in Hart County, forms Lake Hartwell, and then flows to the Atlantic Ocean. The river has been a source of water, food, and transportation for thousands of years. Paleo Indians lived around the river and Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto was the first European to cross it.



What and where is the CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER?

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

Note: The states of Florida and Alabama have sued Georgia due to its unrestricted rights over the use of the river. Should Georgia be allowed to have unrestricted rights to the river? Where else have we seen conflict over water?



What and where is 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 city of Savannah and Augusta. 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.





What and where are 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. 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 national or state parks. Others, like St. Simons, have been developed and three (Little Cumberland, Little St. Simons, and St. Catherine's) are still privately owned.





What and where are the BARRIER ISLANDS?



People have lived on these islands for thousands of years. Native Americans lived on them and 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. Today, the islands are mainly tourist and recreation destinations though the fishing and paper industries are still important economic enterprises.



Appalachian Mtns

Savannah River

Fall Line

Chattahoochee River

Okefenokee Swamp

**Barrier
Islands**

