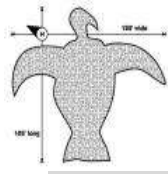
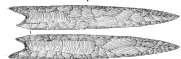


# SS8H1 SUMMARY: NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES and EUROPEAN EXPLORATION

SS8H1a Describe the evolution of Native American cultures (Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian) prior to European contact.

## PALEO before 10,000 BCE to 8,000 BCE

Before Europeans came to Georgia, prehistoric Native Americans experienced four stages of cultural development, or traditions. The Paleo Indian period was the first group of people to inhabit North America by crossing the Beringia land bridge during the Ice Age from Asia (where the Bering Strait is today) as long ago as 10,000 BCE. Paleo means "ancient or very old", and the Paleo Indians were so ancient that we know little about them. We do know that they got what they needed to survive from nature. Paleo Indians hunted animals that are extinct today, such as giant bison and elephant-like mastodons. Hunting provided meat food, bones for tools, and skins for clothing and blankets. They also ate wild fruits, and vegetables. Stones were used as tools and shaped into spearheads. Paleo Indians did not build permanent homes because they were nomadic. They moved around in bands, or groups of about twenty, in search of food. Very little of Paleo-Indian civilization has survived. The only artifacts that archeologists have found are stone spearheads like the clovis point and a few other stone tools. The Paleo Indians also lived in all five regions of Georgia.



## WOODLAND 1,000 BCE to 700

The Woodland Indian period of Georgia's prehistory, people lasted some two thousand years and began around 1,000 B.C. Unlike their ancestors, Woodland Native Americans were not as nomadic since they built villages. They also further developed agriculture. Woodland people cleared fields and planted seeds, growing corn and beans. Woodland hunters began using bows and arrows. Because of these changes, they had a bigger food supply than earlier Native Americans, so the population grew and tribes formed (large groups of people with similar languages and religions led by chiefs). They also began to build mounds of earth and stone in different sizes and shapes. Some mounds were parts of villages; others were religious or burial sites. Examples of Woodland period mounds are Rock Eagle and the Kolomoki mounds. These mounds suggest that the Woodland Indians used religious ceremonies to honor their dead and believed in an after-life because of the items buried in the mounds.

## ARCHAIC 8,000 BCE to 1,000 BCE

The second tradition of Georgia's prehistoric people was the Archaic Indian period. Around 8,000 BCE, the earth began to get warmer. The animals Paleo Indians hunted disappeared due to climate change or overhunting. Archaic Native Americans hunted smaller animals, such as deer and rabbits with a weapon called the atlatl, a sling like device used to throw spears. They ate a wider range of foods, including nuts and shellfish. Perhaps their biggest innovation was making pottery from clay. This suggests that they moved around less than their ancestors, since it would be hard to travel with many clay pots, however, they were still nomadic as they did not live in permanent villages, but instead moved during each season. Another common artifact from the period is the stone axe used to clear forests and plant seeds for crops. This was the earliest stage of agriculture that became more advanced in later periods (Woodland / Miss).



CLAY POTTERY



## Native American Cultures Georgia

## MISSISSIPPIAN 700 to 1500s

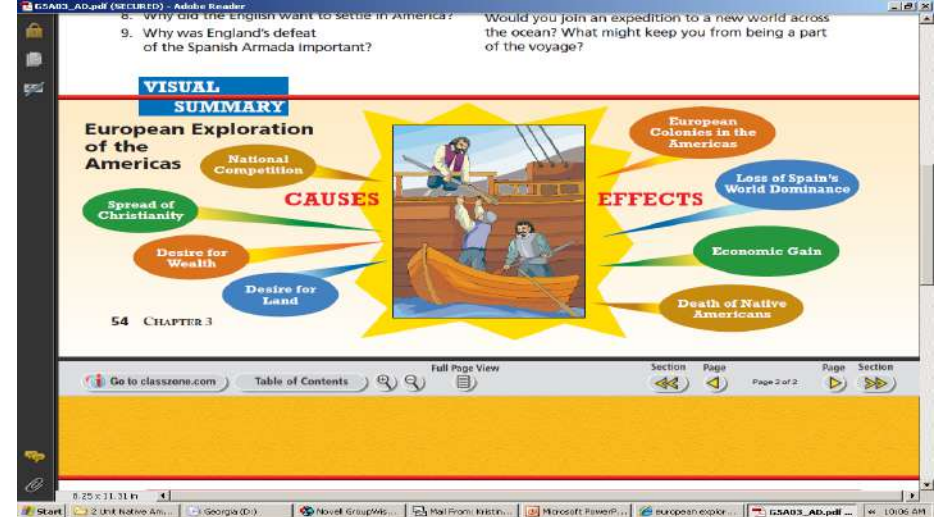
Mississippian period was the most civilized prehistoric culture in Georgia. Mississippians population increased due to better agriculture and raising of livestock. Permanent villages and cities with public squares and protective outer walls called palisades were built. Houses were made of wood and clay, a method called wattle and daub. Creek, Seminole, and later the Cherokee were tribes with more hierarchy and specialized roles for individuals. Within tribes, groups of relatives formed clans. Both Creek and Cherokee tribes were matrilineal (mother's side of family). Tribes from as far away as the Great Plains, Mexico, and Guatemala traded with the Mississippians. Artifacts such as pipes, instruments, and jewelry show that the culture was religious and artistic. Mississippians left behind many flat top mounds for buildings, houses, and temples. The mounds were also burial sites, holding shell and copper artifacts. Etowah Indian mounds in nearby Cartersville are examples. This period was the high point of prehistoric civilization in Georgia. When Europeans arrived in the 1500s, the germs they brought killed many Native Americans.



the

SS8H1b

interests of the French, Spanish, and British in the southeastern area. Evaluate the impact of European contact on Native American cultures; include Spanish missions along the barrier islands, and the explorations of Hernando DeSoto.



**HERNANDO de SOTO** - A Spanish born explorer and first European to set foot in Georgia, in 1540. De Soto led 600 conquistadors through the southeast region of North America in search of gold. His expedition failed as he did not find the gold he was looking for and died of illness near the Mississippi River.

Two social studies concepts: Conflict & Change, and Individual – Groups, help explain the impact Hernando de Soto had on Native Americans. Despite being outnumbered by the native people the Spanish conquistadors were militarily superior with horses, war dogs, and metal armor. Hernando de Soto often tortured, enslaved, and killed Native Americans along his path in his quest for gold and glory. The violence and diseases left behind by Europeans crippled Mississippian tribes and the population decreased so that several of de Soto's conquistadors kept journals that named many of the tribes in Georgia, which helps us learn about their history.

### SPANISH MISSIONS

The Spanish missions built on the barrier islands off the coast of Georgia were intended to convert the Native Americans to the Catholic faith, a branch of Christianity. This would allow the Spanish to settle and colonize the region and help future trade and exploration efforts, as well as protect the region from French and British settlement. Over time, the enslaved Indians died of disease or fled the area and the Spanish missions failed.

### SPANISH MISSIONS

The main Spanish missions were built on the barrier islands off the coast of Georgia were to convert the Native Americans to the Catholic faith, a branch of Christianity. This would allow the Spanish to settle and colonize the region and help future trade and exploration efforts. Over time, the Indians died of disease and eventually the British pushed the Spanish out of Georgia.

