

**Readings and Assessments**  
**8TH GRADE GEORGIA STUDIES**  
Teaching the Georgia Standards of Excellence

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## HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDINGS

### SS8H1 Assess the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia.

- a. Identify the culture, food, weapons/tools, and shelter used by the American Indians living in Georgia.

## AMERICAN INDIANS LIVING IN GEORGIA AT THE TIME OF EUROPEAN EXPLORATION

A rough estimate of the number of Indians scattered across what is now the United States in 1492, when Columbus arrived, is around ten million. They were divided into hundreds of tribes and language groups. Each of these tribes had adapted to the environment in which the group lived. The people developed lifestyles satisfying the tribes' needs.

The Indians found in the Southeast were quite different from those found in the Great Plains. Some of the tribes found in Georgia when the Europeans arrived included Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, Muskogee and Yucci. The clan was the primary unit of social organization. Each clan was a matrilineal society because it was identified through the ancestry of the mother. The overall organization was the tribe which was composed of many clans.

Because there were no wheels or horses before the Europeans came, transportation was by foot or water. That is one of the reasons most Indian villages were near rivers. The main transportation on water was provided by dugout canoes. The canoes were important for the extensive trade among various tribes. There were also, however, an impressive number and length of foot trails, indicating that much travel and trade occurred on foot. Many of these trails became roads and highways.

Indians in the Southeast lived in villages that differed according to tribe and area. One of the most common dwellings was a circular or oblong house made of long saplings and covered with bark. Many of the houses were of "wattle and daub" construction. The wattle was the posts of the walls, interwoven with smaller twigs. The daub was the clay or mud used to fill in the gaps in the wattle to form a smooth surface inside and out, making for a very warm and cozy cabin. The roof was usually made of thatch (straw or grass) or bark. Another substantial building, later adopted by white settlers, was the log cabin. The Cherokee favored this type of house. The walls were made of thick logs, stripped of bark and notched at both ends so they would fit tightly together. The log walls were covered with clay mixed with grass inside and outside. The roof was made of bark or large shingles. These cabins were often large and divided into rooms. Every village had a public building, constructed with similar techniques as the individual houses, but much larger. This was the council house or town hall. Here the leaders met to discuss and decide issues of importance to the community. The building was also used for social and recreational activities.

Indians in the Southeast were farmers and hunters who lived in settled communities. Agriculture was a very important part of the economy. The men planted the crops, which included maize (corn), beans, peas, squash, and pumpkins. After the crops were planted, they were cared for by the women and children. To supplement their diet, they searched for wild crops such as strawberries, herbs, roots, bulbs, and hickory nuts, which were used for cooking oil. The Indians supplemented their diet with meat which they acquired as a result of hunting deer, elk, bear, wild turkey, raccoon, geese, ducks, and a variety of smaller game. Bows and arrows were their most common weapon for hunting. Other weapons, however, included war clubs, maces, and knives. Along the seacoast, shellfish became part of their diet. A non-food crop that was important to the Indians was tobacco, which they traded and smoked in clay pipes.

Much of the Indians' clothing came from the animals they hunted, such as deer and bears. The skins were processed until they were formed into a soft, pliable leather which was sewn with deer sinews (tendons). Cloth was handwoven from animal hair, usually bear or opossum, and from various

plan fibers. Any of the clothing might be decorated with woven geometrical designs, dyes, feathers, or belts. Jewelry was also used to adorn the body and clothes. Earrings, necklaces, headbands, and armbands featuring animal teeth or claws, stones, copper pieces, and shells were some of the accessories made by the Indians.

While Indians believed in many good and evil spirits, they believed in one Creator or Great Spirit. Indians' spiritual life was combined with their nature. The sun and fire symbolized the Great Spirit. Many rituals were concerned with purity and some with new beginning. One of the most important ceremonies in many tribes was the Green Corn Ceremony. It celebrated the new corn crop and the villagers used it as an occasion for washing away all impurities and getting a new start. Houses were cleansed, worn-out clothing were burned, old cooking pots were replaced with new ones. All fires were put out and the priest kindled a new one. Each family relit its fires from the priest's fire.

Music and dance often had religious meaning. They were performed to call forth magical powers or visions, to heal the sick and to ensure a good harvest. They were also used to observe the rites of passage. Drums, cane flutes, clappers, rattles, and whistles accompanied the singing and chanting. Storytelling was also an important part of ceremonies. Storytelling was also a way to pass on the history, legends, and myths of a tribe.

Indians also knew how to have fun. They were great game players and athletes. Running and racing were popular among children and young men. Ball games were popular, especially one played with a racket that is the forerunner of today's lacrosse game. Warriors enjoyed playing chunky. Every village had a chunky yard long enough to roll a disc-like stone a good distance. Players would throw javelins to where they thought the stone would stop.

\_\_\_\_\_ **1. Why did many Indians build their villages near rivers?**

- A. the land was flat
- B. to make trade easier
- C. their families enjoyed fishing
- D. the rivers were good drinking water

\_\_\_\_\_ **2. What was the diet of the Southeastern Indians?**

- A. deer and turkey only
- B. vegetables and water
- C. fruit and desserts
- D. vegetables, meat, and fruit

\_\_\_\_\_ **3. What were the most common weapons used by the Southeastern Indians?**

- A. guns
- B. atlatl
- C. muskets
- D. bow and arrow, war clubs, and knives

\_\_\_\_\_ **4. What were the houses of the Southeastern Indians like?**

- A. oblong tepees
- B. circular grass huts
- C. circular houses made of saplings and covered with bark
- D. open structures with leather flaps for doors

**SS8H1 Assess the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia.**

b. Evaluate the reasons for European exploration and settlement of North America.

**EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT**

For most of the 1500s, Spain's hold over the missions and its colonies made it an important player in the race for control of the New World. As a result of the gold it took from the New World, Spain became rich and powerful. As Spain fought to hold onto its gains, the English and the French tried to gain a share of the treasures.

By the end of the 1500s, the conflict between Spain and England had turned into an undeclared war at sea. English sea captains captured Spanish treasure ships filled with gold, silver, and other valuable goods. They also attacked and burned Spanish settlements in the New World.

To counter these attacks, Spanish King Phillip II plotted to invade England, using a huge fleet of ships that the Spanish called the "Invincible Armada." The plot failed as the English destroyed or ran off much of the Armada in 1588.

England then gained control of the seas and was ready to pursue its interest in the New World. Like most Europeans, the English believed there were large amounts of gold, silver, and exotic foods in the New World. They thought the country that claimed this new land would become even more powerful.

In the 1600s, the English began permanent settlements along the coast of the New World. Their first permanent settlement was Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. By the close of the 1600s, England had established twelve colonies along the Atlantic coastline.

Although Spanish explorers had moved out of Guale by 1686, more than one country claimed the land. France was establishing colonies along the Gulf Coast and in northern Alabama. Both the French and the Spanish posed a threat to the British colonies. Settlers in South Carolina asked that a fort be built at the mouth of the Altamaha River to serve as a "warning point" for invaders. In 1721, Fort King George was completed. The fort established the English presence in Georgia.

**5. The main reason the Spanish explored North America was to**

- A. fight the British.
- B. spread Christianity.
- C. find gold and riches.
- D. build permanent settlements.

**6. Which country was NOT a major colonizer of North America?**

- A. Spain
- B. France
- C. Portugal
- D. Great Britain

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. **The first permanent British settlement in the New World was built at**  
A. Jamestown.  
B. St. Augustine.  
C. Roanoke Island.  
D. Massachusetts Bay.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. **The first permanent Spanish settlement in the New World was established at**  
A. Jamestown.  
B. Los Angeles.  
C. St. Augustine.  
D. Yamacraw Bluff.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. **What was the name of the first British fort constructed in Georgia?**  
A. Fort Guale  
B. Fort Frederica  
C. Fort King George  
D. Fort Santa Catalina

## REASONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF GEORGIA

James Edward Oglethorpe, born in London in 1696, was well educated and wealthy. He cared greatly about people in trouble and tried to find ways to help them. In 1722, he became a member of Parliament's House of Commons.

During that time, Great Britain was faced with many problems. Many citizens could not pay their debts. Laws concerning debtors were strict and harsh, and those who could not pay went to jail. Among those jailed was Oglethorpe's friend, architect Robert Castell.

Oglethorpe was on a committee studying prison reform when he learned that Castell had died of smallpox. Oglethorpe was angry because he believed debtors should not have to go to jail. He believed that his friend had died needlessly in a dirty prison. Oglethorpe worked to get laws passed that both improved prison conditions and let thousands of prisoners go free.

Unfortunately, just letting people out of prison did not help them. There were no jobs for them, and without work, they still could not pay their debts. Dr. Thomas Bray, a clergyman, proposed that a colony be founded to help these people. Bray died, but James Oglethorpe and twenty other men developed a plan that promised a fresh start in the New World to "unfortunate but worthy individuals."

In the summer of 1730, Oglethorpe's group asked King George II for a tract of land "southwest of Carolina for settling poor persons of London." The group knew Great Britain's two main reasons for beginning new colonies were (1) a balanced trading policy to make Great Britain self-sufficient and (2) defensive buffers to protect British colonies from the French, Spanish, and Native Americans. They proposed ways for their new colony to carry out those goals.

The new settlement could defend the Southern Carolinas from Spanish Florida. It could also provide protection from the French, who were pushing east from the Mississippi River valley. Oglethorpe's group also listed economic reasons for the settlement. France and Spain made money trading with the Native Americans who lived between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mississippi River. Great Britain could share in this. Oglethorpe and his supporters also said the new colony could

produce silk, cotton dyes, and wine— three items Great Britain was importing from France, Russia, and Spain. They promised to send spices and semitropical fruit to Great Britain. British merchants were pleased with the idea of getting a good supply of raw materials while having a new market for their manufactured goods. Georgia, like other American colonies, would also offer religious freedom to protestants who were being mistreated by the Catholic church in Europe. The king also liked the idea of more land and greater power for Great Britain.

- \_\_\_ 10. **One of the reasons given for the colonization of Georgia was to serve as a buffer colony. This meant that Georgia was**
- A. a colony for settlement by the poor.
  - B. an outpost for pirates attacking Spanish galleons.
  - C. a military protective zone between English and Spanish settlements.
  - D. an agricultural station experimenting with new strains of cotton plant.
- \_\_\_ 11. **What was one of the major reasons for the king wanting to create the colony of Georgia?**
- A. to help pay royal debts
  - B. to civilize the native Indians
  - C. to release debtors from prison
  - D. to create a balanced trade policy
- \_\_\_ 12. **Why did James Oglethorpe suggest forming a colony for the poor?**
- A. England wanted to get rid of debtors permanently.
  - B. The homeless would readily come to the New World.
  - C. Oglethorpe had a friend who died in a debtors' prison.
  - D. The poor were mostly well-educated people who had fallen on hard times.
- \_\_\_ 13. **What items, which Great Britain had to import from France, Russia, and Spain, did Oglethorpe promise to produce in Georgia?**
- A. cotton dyes and silk
  - B. wheat and rice
  - C. tropical fruit and spices
  - D. white potatoes, yams, and corn
- \_\_\_ 14. **Which term BEST describes the kind of people Oglethorpe and his associates wanted to bring to Georgia?**
- A. well educated
  - B. former convicts
  - C. deeply religious
  - D. poor but worthy

## REASONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT

A search began to find settlers for the newest colony. Newspapers told of a land with mild temperatures and rich soil and the promise of a new start in life. Sir Robert Montgomery's description of it as the "most delightful country of the Universe" was widely accepted as fact. Clergymen preached sermons, wrote religious books, and raised a great deal of money by talking about the goodness of the proposed colony.

The trustees talked with applicants and planned for the voyage and settlement. Unfortunately, debtors and former prisoners did not get to go. This meant the humanitarian reasons for the colony were all but forgotten. The applicants chosen were promised fifty acres of land, tools, and enough food for one year. Potential colonists who could pay their own way received five hundred acres of land and permission to take ten indentured servants.

In exchange, colonists had to agree to the following: (1) each man was to defend the new colony against all enemies; (2) land given to colonists could not be sold, and no money could be borrowed on it. It could, however, be passed on to a male heir; (3) each colonist was to receive seeds and agricultural tools and was to use them in cultivating the lands of the new settlement; (4) colonists were to use a portion of their land to grow mulberry trees so that silkworms would eat the leaves and make cocoons for the production of silk; and (5) each colonist was to obey all regulations established by the trustees.

\_\_\_ **15. Which original reason for settling the new colony was forgotten about?**

- A. settling debtors
- B. searching for gold
- C. establishing schools for orphans
- D. growing vegetables and fruits to ship back to England

\_\_\_ **16. Those who were selected to settle the colony of Georgia were required to**

- A. have served time in a debtors' prison.
- B. bring their own farm tools with them.
- C. only sell their land to another Englishman.
- D. use a portion of their land to grow mulberry trees.

\_\_\_ **17. The trustees gave the first settlers in Georgia the right to**

- A. vote.
- B. own land.
- C. collect taxes.
- D. hold elections.

**SS8H1 Assess the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia.**

c. Explain the impact of Spanish contact on American Indians.

**THE IMPACT OF HERNANDO DE SOTO**

In 1539, the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto left Havana, Cuba, with a huge group of men and animals. They landed in Florida and marched north. In 1540, they entered the southwestern part of Georgia, close to present-day Albany. De Soto and his army wanted one thing as they moved across the state: to find gold.

When de Soto arrived in Georgia, the native tribes saw white men and horses for the first time. De Soto had only a small number of men to face thousands of American Indians, but his weapons were better. The Spanish also wore plated armor, which arrows could not pierce.

During de Soto's search for gold in Georgia, his soldiers killed thousands of American Indians. Many more Indians died from diseases brought to the New World by the Spanish and other explorers. Some historians believe almost half the Native American population died from measles, smallpox, influenza, and whooping cough.

De Soto's expedition into North America was a failure, however. He found no gold or treasure. Most of his army was lost to starvation and disease. De Soto himself died somewhere along the Mississippi River. However, his march through Georgia changed the lives and culture of the American Indians forever.

**18. Why did Hernando de Soto explore much of Georgia in 1540?**

- A. He wanted to build forts and missions in the state.
- B. He was attracted by rumors of large gold deposits.
- C. He was searching for the magical Fountain of Youth.
- D. He believed that he would find a passage to Asia through Georgia.

**19. Besides white men, what did the Indians see for the first time?**

- A. Buffalo
- B. Horses
- C. Pigs
- D. Cattle

**20. Why was DeSoto's small band of men able to defeat thousands of Indians?**

- A. De Soto's men died of disease.
- B. De Soto added allies as he traveled.
- C. De Soto had more food than the Indians.
- D. De Soto had better weapons.

**21. How did de Soto's march through Georgia change the lives and culture of Native Americans?**

- A. The expedition introduced Native Americans to new types of food.
- B. The expedition resulted in the death of thousands of Native Americans.
- C. The expedition set up new trading opportunities for Native Americans.
- D. The expedition was responsible for converting Native Americans to Catholicism.

## SPANISH MISSIONS

In 1565, Spain sent Captain General Pedro Menéndez to found a colony in St. Augustine, Florida. A **colony** is a group of people who settle in a new land but who keep their ties to their homeland. In 1566, the Spaniards moved up the coast to St. Catherines and Cumberland islands. That year, the Spanish founded a mission—Santa Catalina—on St. Catherines Island. The Spanish named the region Guale (pronounced “Wallie”) for the Indians living in the area. About thirty men were left to establish the first Spanish post on Georgia soil. The Spanish later established missions on St. Simons Island and at Sapelo at the mouth of the Altamaha River.

The main purpose for the missions was to convert the Indians to the Catholic faith. At the same time, the fact that there were missions and a few soldiers to guard them established a Spanish claim to the land. The missions were also a place where trade took place between the Indians and the Spanish.

For a time, the missions did well. There were tensions between the Spanish and the Indians as the missionaries tried to force the Indians to conform to their ideas of faith and village life. There were occasional uprisings, and some of the Indians moved away from the missions. The Indian population also decreased because of the diseases brought by the Europeans.

Tensions increased further when the British settled in present-day Charleston, South Carolina, around 1670. The British established trade routes with the local tribes and encouraged the disagreements between the missionaries and the Indians. The British also probably encouraged pirates to raid the Spanish missions. All of these problems led the Spanish to gradually withdraw from the missions along the Georgia coast. By 1685, all of the missions had been abandoned.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Which of the following nations built missions along Georgia’s barrier islands?
- A. Spain
  - B. France
  - C. England
  - D. Portugal
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. The main purpose of the Spanish missions in the barrier islands was to
- A. claim land for Spain.
  - B. establish trade with Spain.
  - C. convert the Indians to Catholicism.
  - D. provide protection for the area’s European settlers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Which is NOT a reason for the decline of the Spanish missions?
- A. Pirate raids along the coast destroyed many missions.
  - B. Some Indians resettled in areas that were not served by the missions.
  - C. Some missions were raided by Indians who were allied with the British.
  - D. Once the Indians adopted Catholicism, the missions were no longer needed.

## THE IMPACT OF EUROPEANS ON AMERICAN INDIANS

After the arrival of Europeans in the Southeast, the lives of the Indians were changed dramatically. In addition to killing thousands of Indians whom they encountered, Europeans increased the number of settlements in the Southeast, they found that growing economically profitable crops required constant and intensive work which required more slaves to provide free labor.

Many of the white explorers and settlers saw nothing wrong in capturing Indians and selling them

as slaves. Even more common than capturing them was the purchase of slaves from other Indians. They paid for the human beings with English cloth, tools, trinkets, and rum. The Indians captured men and women (and some children) from other tribes with which they were at war. Sometimes they would pick a quarrel with another tribe in order to capture more slaves. Before Europeans came, Indians had made slaves of captives in war, but they were not permanent slaves. Under European influence, both the whites and the Indians made a business of capturing and selling slaves into a lifetime of bondage.

After the Europeans came, there were also frequent wars between Indian tribes and white settlers who were taking their land. The guns brought by the Europeans made war much deadlier than wars fought with more primitive weapons. The result was the death of many more Indians in wars than before the white man came.

Perhaps the most dramatic impact of white settlers on the Indians resulted from diseases they brought with them from Europe. Indians had been isolated from the rest of the world for twenty or thirty thousand years. They had not been exposed to the diseases to which the Europeans had developed resistance. Indians died by the millions from smallpox, tuberculosis, measles, typhus, scarlet fever, and influenza.

- \_\_\_ 25. **What was the main cause of the decline in the Indian population after the arrival of Europeans?**
- A. warfare
  - B. disease
  - C. migration
  - D. slavery
- \_\_\_ 26. **Why did the Europeans encourage Indians to make slaves of opposing tribes?**
- A. to provide more workers for the Europeans
  - B. to weaken the tribes
  - C. to remove Indians from their land
  - D. to reduce the number of tribes
- \_\_\_ 27. **Which answer BEST explains why so many Indians died from disease after coming of the Europeans?**
- A. The Indians did not have medicine to fight the disease.
  - B. The Indians did not know how to treat the disease.
  - C. The Indians had no prior exposure to the disease.
  - D. The Indians relied on medicine men instead of doctors.

**SS8H2 Examine the colonial period of Georgia's history.**

- a. Identify the importance of the Charter of 1732.

**CHARTER OF 1732**

On June 7, 1732, King George II granted a **charter** to Oglethorpe's group as trustees for establishing the colony of Georgia and for managing it for twenty-one years. A **charter** is a legal document that grants special rights and privileges. **Trustees** are people who hold responsibility on behalf of others. The reasons Georgia was founded was for charity, economics, and defense. The Georgia charter granted an area of "all those lands, Countries, and Territories" between the Savannah and the Altamaha rivers

extending westward “to the South Seas” (the Pacific Ocean).

In the charter, the king stated that the trustees could not own land, hold political office, or be given money for their work. “Papists” (Catholics), blacks, liquor dealers, and lawyers could not become colonists. Catholics were excluded because of a longstanding division between the Catholic Church and the Church of England. Blacks were not admitted so as not to introduce slavery to the colony. The trustees feared settlers would not work if liquor was permitted. They wanted colonists to settle their differences out of court and did not think lawyers would allow them to do this.

The colony belonged to the Crown, so the trustees were to get instructions from King George II. They could pass no laws unless the king agreed. The trustees worked around some of the rules by not having a governor and by using regulations, or government orders, instead of laws.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **28. Georgia’s Charter of 1732 did NOT include a provision that**
- A. banned liquor in the colony.
  - B. prohibited Catholics from becoming colonists.
  - C. gave the king of England control of the colony.
  - D. guaranteed every settler his day in court to settle differences.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **29. When did King George II grant Oglethorpe and his group a charter for the colony of Georgia?**
- A. 1492
  - B. 1607
  - C. 1732
  - D. 1776
- \_\_\_\_\_ **30. According to the charter, what religious group was not allowed to settle in Georgia?**
- A. Jewish
  - B. Baptist
  - C. Catholic
  - D. Methodist
- \_\_\_\_\_ **31. According to Georgia’s Charter of 1732, which group of people was forbidden to enter Georgia?**
- A. blacks
  - B. women
  - C. soldiers
  - D. preachers
- \_\_\_\_\_ **32. What policy did the king make to ensure that the trustees did not take personal advantage of their position?**
- A. The trustees could not hold office.
  - B. The trustees could not serve more than one year.
  - C. The trustees had to break off all ties with Great Britain.
  - D. The trustees had to donate their own money to provide food for the colonists.