

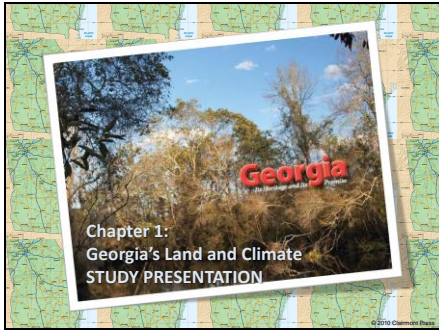
Georgia: Its Heritage and Its Promise

Chapter 1: Georgia's Land and Climate

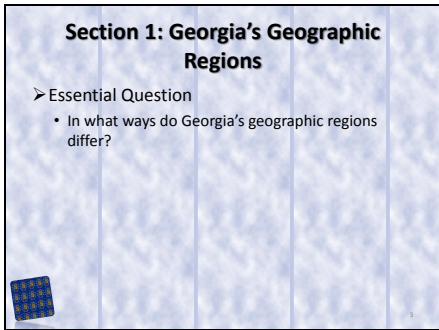
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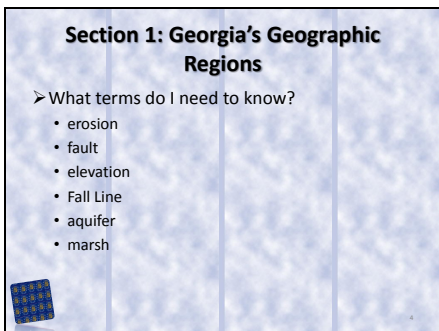
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Section 1: Georgia's Geographic Regions

- Georgia has five regions: Appalachian Plateau, Ridge and Valley area, Blue Ridge Mountains, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain.
- Soil, physical features, and climate differ in these regions.
- Differences affect the plant and animal life as well as the history of the region.
- Differences affect how people earn a living as well as where people live.



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Appalachian Plateau Region


- Appalachian Mountains stretch from north Georgia into Canada (over 2000 miles).
- Among the oldest mountains in the world; worn down by thousands of years of erosion.
- The **plateau region** is the western side of the Appalachian range. It is known for high, scenic bluffs of relative flat lands overlooking wide, beautiful valleys.
- In northwest corner of Georgia and part of the 80 mile-long Lookout Mountain.
- Many caves due to limestone underground.
- Coal and iron mined in the region.
- **Cloudland Canyon State Park** is in this region.



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Ridge and Valley Region


- The **Ridge and Valley** region has long ridges of mountains, separated by long valleys.
- Chickamauga, Armuchee, and Great Valley are important valleys.
- Valleys have fertile land good for farming.
- Roads and streams follow the valleys. A few roads cross the ridges to connect roads in the valleys.
- Region is divided from the mountains in the east by the Carter's Dam Fault.



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Blue Ridge Mountains Region

- The **Blue Ridge** range is a part of the larger Appalachian Mountains.
- The mountains are more rugged and the valleys randomly arranged as compared to the Ridge and Valley region.
- Most roads follow the winding valleys.
- Elevations of 1,600 to 4,700 feet above sea level give the region a cooler climate.
- Brasstown Bald (4,784 feet) is tallest mountain.
- Appalachian Trail begins here.
- Gold has been found in the region, and marble is an important natural resource.
- Tourists come to hike, view wildlife, canoe, raft, and enjoy trees in their fall colors.



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Piedmont Region

- The **Piedmont** is known for its rolling hills between the mountains and Coastal Plain.
- Plentiful granite and clay soil with fertile farms.
- Many Georgians live in the region.
- Rivers flow through the Piedmont, including the Chattahoochee and Savannah.
- Pine trees as well as hardwood forests (oak, elm, maple, hickory, etc.).
- Southern boundary is the **Fall Line**.
- Changes in rock type cause the ground to fall away, creating waterfalls at the "fall" line across the state.
- Cities grew along the Fall Line since ships could navigate from the Atlantic to this point (Augusta: Savannah River; Milledgeville: Oconee River; Macon: Ocmulgee River; Columbus: Chattahoochee River).




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Coastal Plain Region

- The **Coastal Plain** is in the southern half of state and is the largest region.
- Region has underground limestone and sandy soil.
- A part of the Floridan Aquifer (underground water storage region) which stores much fresh water.
- Lower coastal plain has Georgia's barrier islands, 100 miles of coastline, marshes, and the Okefenokee Swamp.
- Flatland makes for highways that are straight and level.
- Home to many types of wildlife.
- Farming is important to the region's economy.
- Longleaf pines grew above acres of wiregrass before the 1800s; railroads made it possible to transport large trees for lumber. There are few of these areas left.
- Loblolly and slash pines are grown in the region today for lumber.




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Section 2: Georgia's Climate and Weather

➤ Essential Question

- How do weather and climate affect the people of Georgia?




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Section 2: Georgia's Climate and Weather

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- climate
- weather
- precipitation
- drought
- tornado
- hurricane



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Section 2: Georgia's Climate and Weather

- **weather:** The day-to-day conditions in the atmosphere.
- **climate:** The average weather and patterns of weather over a long period of time.
- Climate affects the types of crops and industries in an area as well as peoples choice of clothing and housing.
- **temperate climate:** There are no extremes in climate; cool winters with warm and humid summers.




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Precipitation

- **precipitation:** rain, snow, sleet, hail
- 70-80 inches of precipitation per year in the mountains; 40-50 inches in the central Piedmont
- Rivers flowing from the mountains supply the state with water for irrigation, drinking, electric power, and transportation.
- **drought:** An extended time with little or no rain.
- Georgia is known to have periods of drought as part of its climate.





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Tornadoes

- Tornadoes are funnel shaped clouds with wind speeds 65 to over 200 miles per hour.
- Georgia has about 20 tornadoes per year.
- Fujita Scale used to rate wind speed and damage by a tornado.
- Lightning and hail may accompany storms with tornadoes.
- March – May have most tornadoes.
- Georgia's deadliest tornado killed 209 people in 1939 (Gainesville).
- Radar is used to warn Georgians of tornadoes today.



TOP: 2002 Tornado (Photo by Chris Wedel/Reuters, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, public domain)
BOTTOM: Tornado damage in Doraville, GA. (Photo by Mike Wolfe, Federal Emergency Management Agency, USFEMA, public domain)

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Hurricanes

- Tropical storms and hurricanes often hit Georgia with damage from wind and floods.
- Hurricanes are large storms that rotate around a central "eye."
- Storms begin in warm waters of the tropical Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean Sea.
- Tropical storm: winds of 39-73 mph
- Hurricane: winds of 74 or greater
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale is used to rate hurricanes' wind speed and damage.
- Georgia's coast has not had a direct hit by a major hurricane in over 100 years.
- Georgia's government has created evacuation routes to help coastal residents leave the region in case of a hurricane.

TOP: Hurricane Katrina 8/28/2005, NASA
BOTTOM: Hurricane Katrina, GA, flooded by Hurricane Dennis, FEMA, 2005, public domain photo.

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Other Weather Events

- Hurricanes and tropical storms can cause much damage to the coastline and beaches.
- Georgia is known to have minor earthquakes, and on occasion has had effects from earthquakes in nearby areas (example: Charleston 1886).




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Development and Climate

- Georgia's climate is good for deer; deer hides were an early Georgia industry.
- The climate is good for farming which has always been important to the state's economy.
- Mild winters encouraged tourists from the north.
- The invention of air conditioning has helped make the state more inviting and the population continues to grow.




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Section 3: Georgia's Physical Features

- Essential Question
 - How do physical features affect the lives of Georgians?




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Section 3: Georgia's Physical Features

- What terms do I need to know?
 - wetland
 - estuary
 - barrier island
 - swamp



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Section 3: Georgia's Physical Features

- Normally, Georgia gets plenty of rainfall to fill streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Water is used for drinking, recreation, industry, transportation, and irrigation.
- Some of the waterways flow to the Gulf of Mexico; most flow to the Atlantic Ocean.
- Sea Islands (or Golden Isles) are barriers that protect the coast.
- Georgia has many swamps and marshes – the largest is the Okefenokee.




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Rivers

- Major rivers are Etowah, Coosa, Chattahoochee, Flint, Chattooga, Savannah, Oconee, Ocmulgee, and Altamaha.
- Etowah-Coosa system flows into Alabama; scientists are trying to find ways to protect its wildlife.
- The **Chattahoochee River** system flows from the Blue Ridge Mountains, through Atlanta, to Columbus, along the Georgia-Alabama border, into northern Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.
- This river supplies water for much of metro Atlanta and people in Alabama and Florida. The people in these states have argued over the fairest way to use this river.




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Rivers

- The Flint River begins south of Atlanta and flows 200 miles to Lakes Blackshear and Chehaw, into Albany, then to the Chattahoochee River.
- The Chattooga, Tallulah, and Tugaloo Rivers in the northeastern part of Georgia flow into Lake Hartwell and then south into the Savannah River.
- The **Savannah River** forms the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina. This river, and the port at the city of Savannah, are important for transporting goods into and out of Georgia.




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Islands

- Georgia's coast is protected from the open ocean by barrier islands – Tybee and Little Tybee, Wassaw, Ossabaw, St. Catherines, Blackbeard, Sapelo, Wolf, Little St. Simons, St. Simons, Jekyll, Little Cumberland, Cumberland.
- The western side of the islands is **marshlands**; the eastern side has sandy **beaches**.
- Along the beaches are sand dunes and beyond them **coastal forests** of pine and **live oaks** draped with Spanish moss.
- To help larger boats, the Intracoastal Waterway was created (1930s) to keep a clear passage with deeper waters between the islands and the mainland.
- Wind and waves continually reshape the barrier islands.
- Islands have abundant wildlife and are an important part of the ecology of sea life (e.g. loggerhead sea turtles, shrimp, crabs, right whales, etc.).
- The warm climate and beautiful location have attracted some of America's wealthiest families to build homes (e.g. Sapelo Island, Cumberland Island, Jekyll Island).
- The climate and location have encouraged fishing, recreation, and tourist industries.





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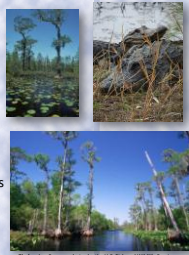
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Swamps

- Georgia has over 450 swamps (low, spongy lands covered with water).
- Most are located in the Coastal Plain, but a few are in the Piedmont region.
- The **Okefenokee Swamp** is the largest swamp. It is located in southeast Georgia. The peat soil is soft and spongy – Native Americans called it "land of the trembling earth."
- Swamps are home to many types of birds, fish, and reptiles (e.g. alligators, bears, frogs, storks, cranes, otters, beavers, etc.).



Okefenokee Swamp, photos by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Additional Notes:

