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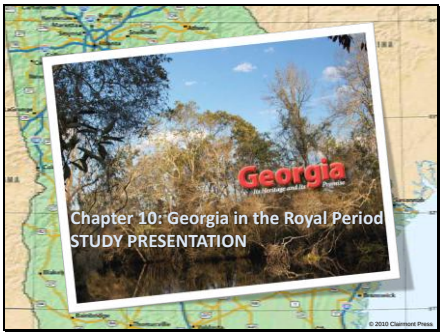

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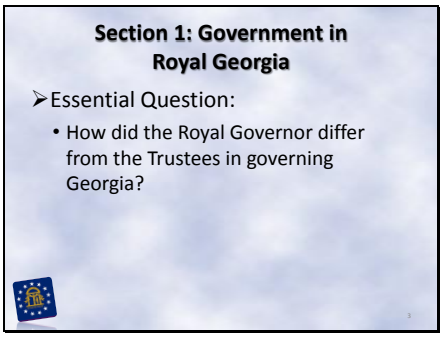

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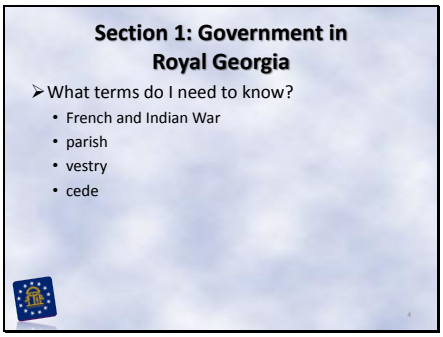

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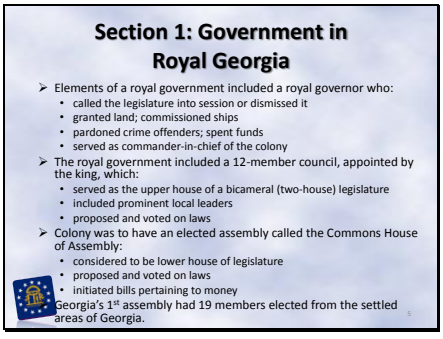

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John Reynolds

- On October 29, 1754, the first royal governor (John Reynolds – appointed by King George II) arrived from England.
- John Reynolds had been a captain in the British Royal Navy.
- Reynolds (serving as governor from 1754 to 1757) received a hearty welcome in Savannah, and colonists were happy to have a new beginning.

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The French and Indian War

- In 1754, conflict known as the **French and Indian War**, began in the Ohio River valley, far north of Georgia:
  - In January 1755, the Militia Act was passed by the new assembly to strengthen Georgia's defense in case the war came to its borders.
  - Georgia was not affected much by the war.
  - The southern border of Georgia was extended to St. Mary's River.

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A Tense Time

- Governor Reynolds tried to run the colony like the military:
  - The counsel and the assembly were dismissed by Reynolds.
  - William Little (governor's closest aide & advisor) was relied on, and council not consulted.
  - The resentment against Reynolds increased.
- In March 1756, the council asked the Board of Trade to remove Governor Reynolds.
- With the war ongoing, Reynolds left the colony in 1757.

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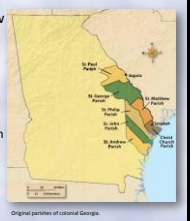
Henry Ellis

- In February 1757, Henry Ellis arrived in Savannah as the new governor and worked in various ways to improve the colony:
  - ordered that forts be built for better defense
  - held meeting with *micos* (head men of the Indians) during which pledges of friendship were renewed
  - Georgia divided into eight parishes - both government and religious districts.
- Ellis stayed in Georgia three years and had a positive impact on the colony.



Original parishes of colonial Georgia.

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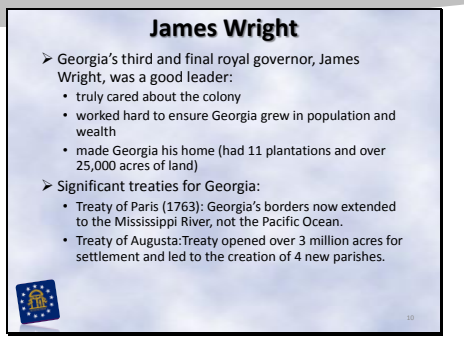

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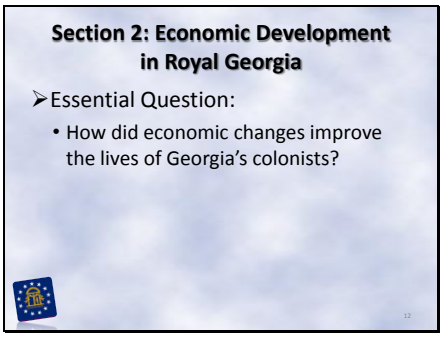

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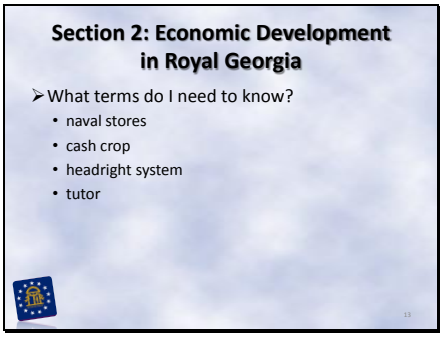

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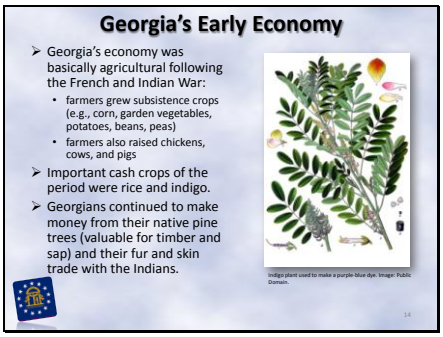

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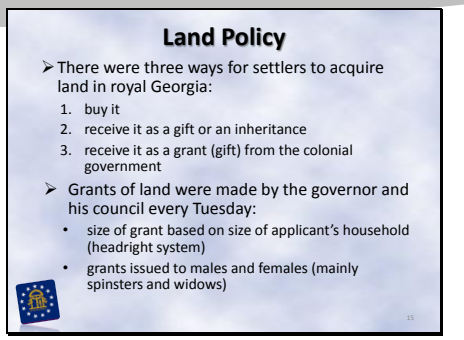

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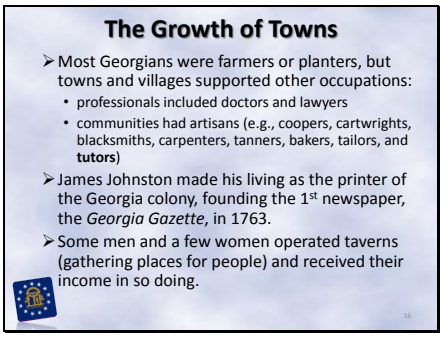

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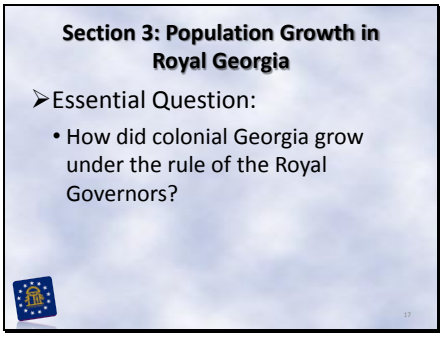

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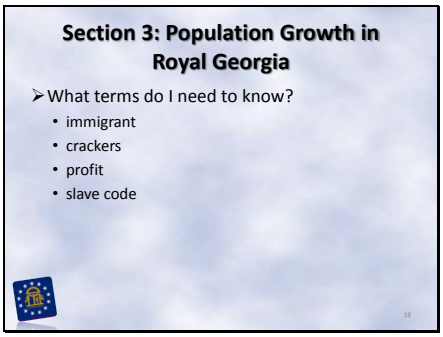

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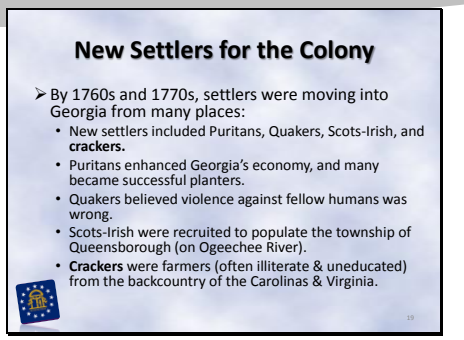

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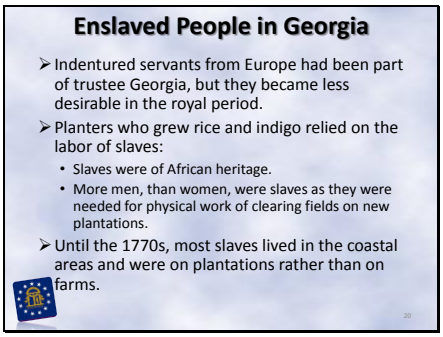

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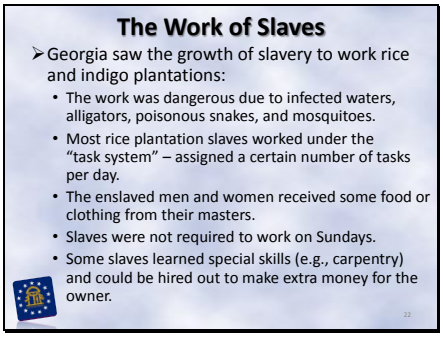

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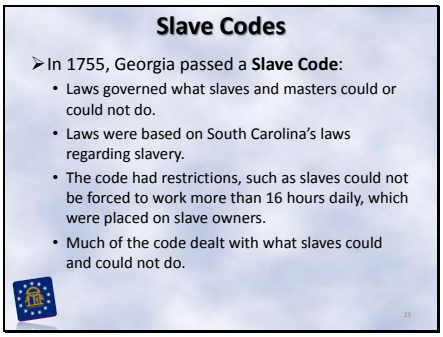

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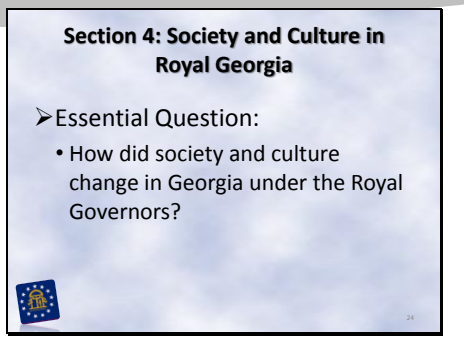

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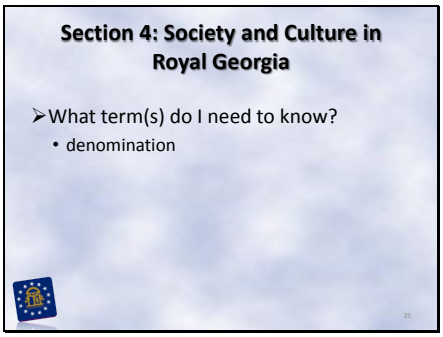

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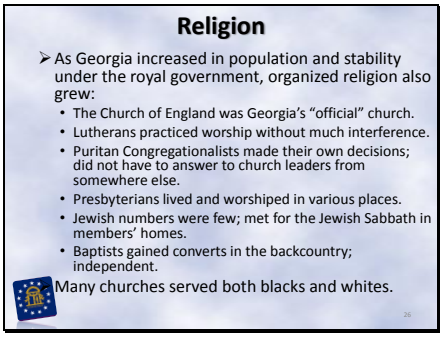

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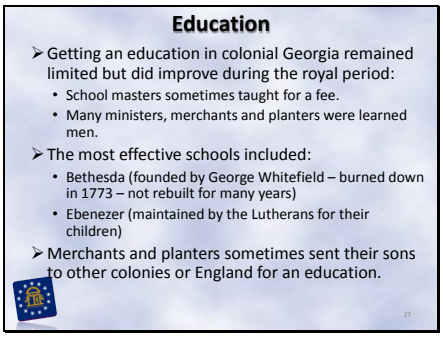

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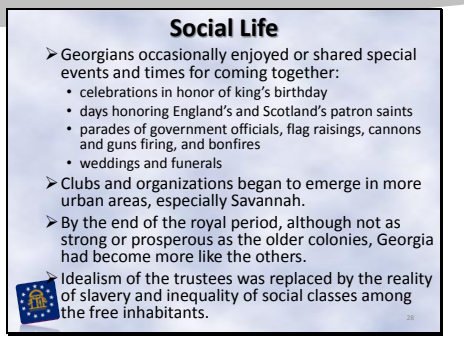

Additional Notes:

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