

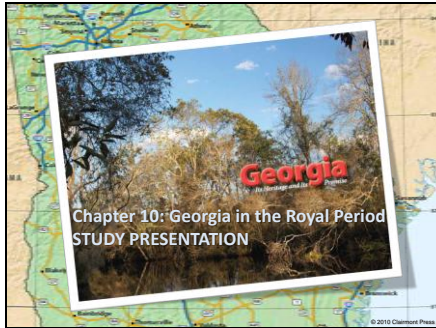
Georgia: Its Heritage and Its Promise

Chapter 10: Georgia in the Royal Period

QUICK NOTES

Name: _____

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Section 1: Government in Royal Georgia

➤ Essential Question:

- How did the Royal Governor differ from the Trustees in governing Georgia?




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Section 1: Government in Royal Georgia

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- French and Indian War
- parish
- vestry
- cede



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Section 1: Government in Royal Georgia

➤ Elements of a royal government included a royal governor who:

- called the legislature into session or dismissed it
- granted land; commissioned ships
- pardoned crime offenders; spent funds
- served as commander-in-chief of the colony


➤ The royal government included a 12-member council, appointed by the king, which:

- served as the upper house of a bicameral (two-house) legislature
- included prominent local leaders
- proposed and voted on laws

➤ Colony was to have an elected assembly called the Commons House of Assembly:

- considered to be lower house of legislature
- proposed and voted on laws
- initiated bills pertaining to money

Georgia's 1st assembly had 19 members elected from the settled areas of Georgia.





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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.





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James Wright

- Georgia's third and final royal governor, James Wright, was a good leader:
 - truly cared about the colony
 - worked hard to ensure Georgia grew in population and wealth
 - made Georgia his home (had 11 plantations and over 25,000 acres of land)
- Significant treaties for Georgia:
 - Treaty of Paris (1763): Georgia's borders now extended to the Mississippi River, not the Pacific Ocean.
 - Treaty of Augusta: Treaty opened over 3 million acres for settlement and led to the creation of 4 new parishes.




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Section 2: Economic Development in Royal Georgia

- Essential Question:
 - How did economic changes improve the lives of Georgia's colonists?




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Section 2: Economic Development in Royal Georgia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - naval stores
 - cash crop
 - headright system
 - tutor




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Georgia's Early Economy

- Georgia's economy was basically agricultural following the French and Indian War:
 - farmers grew subsistence crops (e.g., corn, garden vegetables, potatoes, beans, peas)
 - farmers also raised chickens, cows, and pigs
- Important cash crops of the period were rice and indigo.
- Georgians continued to make money from their native pine trees (valuable for timber and sap) and their fur and skin trade with the Indians.



Indigo plant used to make a purple-blue dye. Image: Public Domain.



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Land Policy

- There were three ways for settlers to acquire land in royal Georgia:
 1. buy it
 2. receive it as a gift or an inheritance
 3. receive it as a grant (gift) from the colonial government
- Grants of land were made by the governor and his council every Tuesday:
 - size of grant based on size of applicant's household (headright system)
 - grants issued to males and females (mainly spinsters and widows)




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The Growth of Towns

- Most Georgians were farmers or planters, but towns and villages supported other occupations:
 - professionals included doctors and lawyers
 - communities had artisans (e.g., coopers, cartwrights, blacksmiths, carpenters, tanners, bakers, tailors, and tutors)
- James Johnston made his living as the printer of the Georgia colony, founding the 1st newspaper, the *Georgia Gazette*, in 1763.
- Some men and a few women operated taverns (gathering places for people) and received their income in so doing.




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Section 3: Population Growth in Royal Georgia

- Essential Question:
 - How did colonial Georgia grow under the rule of the Royal Governors?




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Section 3: Population Growth in Royal Georgia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - immigrant
 - crackers
 - profit
 - slave code



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New Settlers for the Colony

- By 1760s and 1770s, settlers were moving into Georgia from many places:
 - New settlers included Puritans, Quakers, Scots-Irish, and **crackers**.
 - Puritans enhanced Georgia's economy, and many became successful planters.
 - Quakers believed violence against fellow humans was wrong.
 - Scots-Irish were recruited to populate the township of Queensborough (on Ogeechee River).
 - **Crackers** were farmers (often illiterate & uneducated) from the backcountry of the Carolinas & Virginia.




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Enslaved People in Georgia

- Indentured servants from Europe had been part of trustee Georgia, but they became less desirable in the royal period.
- Planters who grew rice and indigo relied on the labor of slaves:
 - Slaves were of African heritage.
 - More men, than women, were slaves as they were needed for physical work of clearing fields on new plantations.
- Until the 1770s, most slaves lived in the coastal areas and were on plantations rather than on farms.




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The Work of Slaves

- Georgia saw the growth of slavery to work rice and indigo plantations:
 - The work was dangerous due to infected waters, alligators, poisonous snakes, and mosquitoes.
 - Most rice plantation slaves worked under the "task system" – assigned a certain number of tasks per day.
 - The enslaved men and women received some food or clothing from their masters.
 - Slaves were not required to work on Sundays.
 - Some slaves learned special skills (e.g., carpentry) and could be hired out to make extra money for the owner.




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Slave Codes

- In 1755, Georgia passed a **Slave Code**:
 - Laws governed what slaves and masters could or could not do.
 - Laws were based on South Carolina's laws regarding slavery.
 - The code had restrictions, such as slaves could not be forced to work more than 16 hours daily, which were placed on slave owners.
 - Much of the code dealt with what slaves could and could not do.





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Section 4: Society and Culture in Royal Georgia

➤ Essential Question:

- How did society and culture change in Georgia under the Royal Governors?




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Section 4: Society and Culture in Royal Georgia

➤ What term(s) do I need to know?

- denomination



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Religion

➤ As Georgia increased in population and stability under the royal government, organized religion also grew:

- The Church of England was Georgia's "official" church.
- Lutherans practiced worship without much interference.
- Puritan Congregationalists made their own decisions; did not have to answer to church leaders from somewhere else.
- Presbyterians lived and worshiped in various places.
- Jewish numbers were few; met for the Jewish Sabbath in members' homes.
- Baptists gained converts in the backcountry; independent.

Many churches served both blacks and whites.



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Education


➤ Getting an education in colonial Georgia remained limited but did improve during the royal period:

- School masters sometimes taught for a fee.
- Many ministers, merchants and planters were learned men.

➤ The most effective schools included:

- Bethesda (founded by George Whitefield – burned down in 1773 – not rebuilt for many years)
- Ebenezer (maintained by the Lutherans for their children)

➤ Merchants and planters sometimes sent their sons to other colonies or England for an education.



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Social Life

- Georgians occasionally enjoyed or shared special events and times for coming together:
 - celebrations in honor of king's birthday
 - days honoring England's and Scotland's patron saints
 - parades of government officials, flag raisings, cannons and guns firing, and bonfires
 - weddings and funerals
- Clubs and organizations began to emerge in more urban areas, especially Savannah.
- By the end of the royal period, although not as strong or prosperous as the older colonies, Georgia had become more like the others.
- Idealism of the trustees was replaced by the reality of slavery and inequality of social classes among the free inhabitants.



Additional Notes:

