

Georgia Studies: Exploring and Connecting - 8

Chapter 1: Georgia's Land and Location – Quick Notes

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SECTION 1: GEORGIA'S LOCATION

➤ Essential Question:

- What is Georgia's location in the world?

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SECTION 1: GEORGIA'S LOCATION

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- hemisphere
- Equator
- Prime Meridian
- continent
- nation
- relative location

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GEORGIA'S LOCATION

➤ The state of Georgia covers nearly 60,000 square miles.

➤ Located in the Northern and Western Hemispheres, Georgia is one of the fifty states that makes up the United States, which is in North America.

➤ These types of statements help describe the location of a place.

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LOCATING GEORGIA IN THE WORLD

➤ A globe is a model of Earth, and globes are divided into two halves called **hemispheres**.

- An imaginary line of latitude called the **Equator** divides the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
- An imaginary line of longitude called the **Prime Meridian** divides the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

➤ Seven **continents** (large continuous masses of land) exist on Earth, and many **nations** (a country with a common government and territory), exist on these continents.

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LOCATING GEORGIA IN THE UNITED STATES

- **Relative location** is where one location lies in relation to another location.
- Georgia is in the Southeast region of the United States, and this region borders both the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

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SECTION 2: GEORGIA'S GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

➤ Essential Question:

- What are the five geographic regions of Georgia?

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SECTION 2: GEORGIA'S GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- landforms
- faults
- elevation
- Fall Line

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GEORGIA'S GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

- Georgia is divided into 5 regions based on its **landforms** (natural features of a land surface):
 - Appalachian Plateau
 - Valley and Ridge
 - Blue Ridge
 - Piedmont
 - Coastal Plain
- Each has various aspects that have affected how and where people live in the past and today.

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APPALACHIAN PLATEAU REGION

- Located in the northwest corner of the state, it is on the western edge of the Appalachian Mountains.
 - This region is where the borders of Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama meet.
- Due to erosion of the limestone-heavy land, the region has many caves, and coal and iron deposits made mining a major occupation here.
- It has hot, humid summers and mild winters, and the region provides tourism and forestry for Georgia's economy.

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VALLEY AND RIDGE REGION

- East of the Appalachian Plateau, this region is made up of long mountain ridges and long valleys in between.
 - These ridges and valleys run in straight lines from the southwest to northeast.
- The valleys contain fertile farmland, and streams and roads run along the valleys.
- A **fault** system (break in the Earth's crust when parts of its surface collide) divides the region from the northeast part of the state.
- It has hot, humid summers and not-too-cold winters, and its main industries include farming, timber, and producing textiles and carpets.

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BLUE RIDGE REGION

- This region is in the northeast corner of the state and has the highest **elevation** (height above sea level) in Georgia.
 - Brasstown Bald, Georgia's tallest mountain, exists here.
- Many roads here wind around valleys and streams, where it's easier to build roads than high up on mountains.
- Rapid streams and waterfalls pepper the region, and it has warm summers, mild winters, and the most precipitation in the state.
 - Because of the increased rainfall, major rivers like the Savannah and Chattahoochee begin here.

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BLUE RIDGE REGION, Pt. 2

- Gold was found here in the 1800s, leading to the country's first gold rush, and marble was found later.
- Tourism has become a major income source, attracting those who enjoy hikes, rafting and canoeing, and observing nature.

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PIEDMONT REGION

- Many people live here, where rolling hills and flowing rivers characterize the region.
- Large granite deposits are found here, and the soil in some parts is red-colored clay due to iron oxide (rust).
- It has hot, humid summers and mild to cool winters, and fertile soil mixed with this climate makes the region perfect for farming.
 - Major crops grown here include corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

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PIEDMONT REGION, Pt. 2

- The **Fall Line** is the line where fast, narrow rivers leave the hard soil of the Piedmont and enter the softer soil of the Coastal Plain, creating waterfalls and rapids before spreading out and becoming slower.
- Many major cities are located along the Fall Line for easier shipping access, and craftsmen congregated in these cities.

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COASTAL PLAIN REGION

- This is the largest and southernmost region, which is divided into the Upper and Lower Coastal Plains.
- Porous limestone lies under the soil, which holds rainwater used for drinking, agriculture, and industry.
- It has hot, humid summers and cool winters.
- The fertile soil of the Upper Coastal Plain grows peanuts, peaches, Vidalia onions, corn, and cotton, while the Lower Coastal Plain is flat, low, and marshy, with deepwater ports along the coast.
- Contributors to the economy here include pulp and paper industries, commercial fishing, seafood processing, tourism, and recreation.

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SECTION 3: GEORGIA'S PHYSICAL FEATURES

- Essential Question:
 - What are the barrier islands and their uses?

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SECTION 3: GEORGIA'S PHYSICAL FEATURES

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- barrier island
- peat

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GEORGIA'S PHYSICAL FEATURES

➤ Georgia's rivers and streams provide water for drinking, recreation, irrigation, and industry.

- Some waterways flow southwest into the Gulf of Mexico, but most flow to the Atlantic Ocean.

➤ Georgia has 14 **barrier islands** (sandy islands that run parallel to the coast and are separated from the mainland by a lagoon or salt marsh).

- They have become popular tourist destinations, though only 4 are accessible by car.

➤ Georgia also has many swamps, including the Okefenokee Swamp.

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CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

➤ Georgia's longest river begins in the Blue Ridge Mountains, runs southwest through Florida, and empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

➤ This river is a major source of drinking water, agricultural irrigation, and industrial use in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

- This has led to long-term disagreements over how much water each state gets.

➤ The river offers activities like boating, rafting, kayaking, and fishing, as well as hiking and biking at the Chattahoochee Bend State Park.

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SAVANNAH RIVER

➤ The river forms Georgia's eastern boundary with South Carolina and is joined by many others on its way to the ocean.

➤ It generates hydroelectric power and cools nuclear plants for both Georgia and South Carolina, and it is a major source of drinking water for both Augusta and Savannah.

➤ Savannah is one of the busiest ports in the US, accepting huge ships from around the world.

➤ The river has influenced the state's history and progress since the beginning.

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BARRIER ISLANDS

- Sometimes referred to as the Golden Isles, this chain of islands forms a natural barrier that shelters the mainland from the Atlantic.
 - The beaches constantly erode as waves and storms move the sand, and stone walls have been erected in some places to slow erosion.
- These islands have been home to Native Americans, Spanish missionaries, wealthy northerners on winter retreats, and modern tourist destinations.
 - Jekyll Island, St. Simons Island, Sea Island, and Tybee Island can be reached by car, but the others require a boat to reach them.
- Small boats in Georgia's early history would use these waters to sail along the coast, but the government deepened the waters in the 1930s so larger boats could use them, too.

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OKEFENOKEE SWAMP

- Located in southeast Georgia, the Okefenokee is one of the largest swamps in the country.
- Trees here grow on floating islands of peat (decaying plant material that floats on water).
 - Some areas of the swamp have no trees but are covered with grasses.
- Okefenokee's water comes from tropical storms from both the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, which can sometimes cause swamp fires from lightning strikes.

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OKEFENOKEE SWAMP, Pt. 2

- The ecosystem supports a variety of life, including rare or endangered species.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated 80% of the swamp as a national wildlife refuge, and it received more protections in the 70s.

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