

Glossary

13th Amendment the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that outlawed slavery (13)

14th Amendment the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that made anyone born or naturalized in the United States a citizen; it ensured certain rights for citizens, kept former Confederate leaders from holding high office, and prohibited states from repaying Confederate debts or compensating former slaveholders (13)

15th Amendment the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that guaranteed voting rights regardless of race or color (13)

A

abolish to end something, such as slavery (12)

ad hoc committee a temporary legislative committee that is created for a special purpose (3)

adjudicatory hearing a step in the juvenile justice system that is somewhat like a trial (6)

amend to change, add to, or abolish a state law (3)

amendment a change or addition (to a constitution) (2)

antebellum pre-Civil war: “before War” in Latin (12)

antisemitism anti-Jewish hatred (14)

appeal to take a case to a higher level for rehearing (5)

appellate courts courts that hear cases decided by a court of original jurisdiction that are being appealed to a higher level for rehearing (5)

apportionment a mathematical calculation that determines how many constituents are represented in each legislative district (3)

archaeologist a scientist who uses artifacts from the past to try to understand the culture of prehistoric people (8)

archaeology the location and study of artifacts (8)

arraign to call an indicted person before a superior court judge who reads the charges and allows the suspect to plead guilty or not guilty (5)

arrest to take a suspect into custody (5)

article one of seven sections of the U.S. Constitution (2)

artifacts tools, pottery, remains of structures, and other items buried in the soil (8)

assimilate to adopt the customs of a different society (11)

Axis Powers the alliance of Italy, Germany, and Japan in World War II (16)

B

bankruptcy a legal process that involves a person or business that is not able to repay their debts (20)

barrier island one of the sandy islands that run parallel to the coast and are separated from the mainland by a lagoon or salt marsh (1)

bicameral having two houses or chambers, like the Georgia General Assembly (3)

bill a proposed law (3)

Bill of Rights the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution and Section I of the Georgia Constitution, which guarantee certain rights to the people (2)

blockade the use of naval forces to prevent ships from entering and leaving an area (13)

Bloody Sunday an incident during a 1965 civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery in which officers brutally attacked the marchers with tear gas, clubs, and whips, sending nearly 60 people to the hospital (18)

boll weevil a small beetle that attacked the cotton plant by eating the cotton bolls (15)

Bourbon Triumvirate a name given to three leaders of post-Reconstruction Georgia: Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, and John B. Gordon (14)

budget a plan for receiving and spending money (3)

buffer protection; a barrier between lands controlled by rival countries (9)

C

carpetbaggers a negative nickname given to northerners who came to the South after the Civil War (13)

cash-and-carry the policy that the United States instigated in 1939 that allowed Britain and other countries to purchase weapons as long as they paid in cash and transported them themselves (16)

cash crop a crop that is grown to be sold for income (9)

census a count of the U.S. population that takes place every ten years (3)

charter a written document that gives a municipality the authority to exist and function; a city's fundamental law (7); the document that granted Georgia to the trustees and set up the rules under which the trust would work (9)

checks and balances the system that gives each branch of government some ways to keep the other two branches from becoming too powerful (2)

chiefdom a social structure where a chief had power over his village and several others (8)

civic responsibility rights and duties of citizens (2)

civil law the type of law that deals with the relationships between and among individuals (5)

civil rights legal rights a person has simply by being a citizen (2)

Civil Rights Act of 1964 a law that made segregation in public places illegal (18)

colony a geographical area controlled by a distant country (8)

committee system a system that divides the workload among members of the legislative body (3)

commodity a raw material or agricultural product that can be bought and sold (20)

confederation a loose organization of states with a weak central government and powerful state governments (10)

conference committee a legislative committee with members from both the House and Senate who meet to work out differences in different versions of a bill (3)

consolidated government a government that has formally merged county operations and governance with one or more of the cities in the county (7)

constituent a person in a legislator's district (3)

constitution a government's fundamental plan of operation; it is also a written guarantee of citizens' rights (2)

continent a large continuous mass of land located on Earth (1)

convict lease system a system after the Civil War in which prisoners were leased to companies for their labor; companies were supposed to supply housing and food (13)

cotton gin a simple device, invented by Eli Whitney in 1793, that removed seeds from the cotton boll by brushing the fiber through slits too small for the seeds to go through (11)

county the name given to local governmental districts in Georgia and most other states (7)

county seat the city or town where the courthouse and the county government are located (7)

county unit system a method used by the Democratic Party that selected candidates for the Democratic primary not by popular vote but through votes from each county (14)

Court of Appeals the second-ranking court in Georgia; it hears cases being appealed from lower courts (5)

credit an agreement allowing someone to buy something now and pay for it later, usually with added interest (20)

credit score a score that banks, businesses, and even some employers use to decide if they should lend you money or hire you (20)

criminal law the type of law that protects society from an individual's wrongdoing (5)

culture the beliefs, traditions, and way of life of a group of people (8)

D

debt money you owe someone, usually because you borrowed it (20)

declaration a document that explains the writers' reasons for their actions (10)

defendant the person who is accused of a crime or is being sued in a civil case (5)

delinquent behavior an act committed by a child that would be a crime if committed by an adult (6)

deprived child a child under eighteen without adequate food, shelter, or protection (6)

desegregation ending the practice of segregating the races (18)

detention hearing a step in the juvenile justice system in which a juvenile court judge reviews the intake officer's report and determines how to handle the case (6)

discrimination unfair treatment of a person or a group because of prejudice (13)

disenfranchisement taking the right to vote away from a person or a group (14)

dispositional hearing a step in the juvenile justice system that is similar to sentencing in adult court (6)

diversify increase the variety of products (17)

drought a prolonged period of dry weather (15)

due process legal steps, found in the 5th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, that ensure fair treatment under the law (5)

E

economic impact the effect that an event, business, or decision has on the economy (20)

elevation height above sea level (1)

Emancipation Proclamation a document issued by President Lincoln in 1862 that declared freedom for slaves in states "in rebellion"; it made it possible to free slaves as the Union army took control of areas in Confederate states (13)

entrepreneur an individual who starts and operates a business, who takes on the risks and responsibilities associated with making the business successful (20)

Equator the imaginary line of latitude that divides the Northern Hemisphere from the Southern Hemisphere (1)

executive branch the branch of government that carries out and enforces the laws (2)

expedition a journey for a specific purpose (8)

expenses money spent for various purposes (20)

F

Fall Line a natural boundary that separates the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions of Georgia (1)

Farmers' Alliances organizations that provided support for farmers and allowed them to work together; they created cooperatives to buy lower-priced supplies and boycotted products as a method of protest (14)

fault a break in Earth's crust that occurs when one part of Earth's surface folds or is thrust up over the surface next to it (1)

felony a very serious crime, punishable by a prison sentence of more than one year (5)

Fifteenth Amendment See 15th Amendment. (13)

formal powers powers of the governor that are outlined in the Georgia Constitution (4)

Fourteenth Amendment See 14th Amendment. (13)

fraud the intention of deception made for personal gain or to damage another person (11)

freedmen formerly enslaved people (13)

Freedmen's Bureau the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, which provided help to formerly enslaved people as they adjusted to their freedom and responsibility of taking care of themselves during Reconstruction (13)

free states states that no longer permitted slavery (12)

Fugitive Slave Act a law (part of the Compromise of 1850) that required the capture and return of runaway slaves to their owners, even if an enslaved person was found in a free state (12)

G

General Assembly the lawmaking body for the State of Georgia (3)

government an organization that has the power to make and enforce laws (2)

grandfather clause an exception to the literacy test that allowed men who had fought in a war for the United States or the Confederacy or their descendants to vote even if they could not pass the test (14)

grassroots campaign a campaign “from the ground up” that is focused on ordinary citizens rather than politicians or influential figures (19)

Great Depression a severe economic downturn that began with the stock market crash in 1929 and lasted until World War II (15)

Great Migration the period from 1910 to 1970 when an estimated six million black individuals left the rural South, including Georgia, and moved to cities in the North, Midwest, and West (17)

grievances basic reasons for deciding on an action, such as declaring independence (10)

H

headright system a system of distributing land by which each “head” of a household received 100 acres and 50 additional acres for each member of the household (9)

hemisphere half a sphere (1)

horticulture the planting and harvesting of food, rather than gathering what grows in the wild (8)

House of Representatives one of the two bodies of the Georgia General Assembly; it has 180 members (3)

I

impressment the act of forcing American sailors to serve on British ships in the early days of the United States (11)

income money you make or receive, such as from a job, allowance, gift, or investment (20)

incorporated describes a municipality created by the Georgia legislature (7)

indentured servant a person who sold his or her labor for a period of years in return for passage to a new land and support during the period of servitude (9)

indictment a formal accusation of a serious crime (5)

indigenous refers to the first people living in a place (8)

informal powers powers of the governor, some of which are ceremonial, that come about through custom or tradition (4)

intake the process in the juvenile justice system in which a court officer investigates the charges and determines the next step (6)

integration bringing people of different racial or other groups into society or an organization as equals (18)

interest a fee paid or earned on an amount of money over time (20)

interest rate the percentage of a loan charged as interest to the borrower (20)

interstate highways limited-access, multilane, multistate highways with interchanges of on- and off-ramps (20)

investing using money to earn a profit over time, either in a financial investment or a real investment (20)

isolationism staying out of world affairs (15)

J

Jim Crow laws laws and ordinances passed in the South calling for segregation (14)

joint committee a legislative committee made up of members of the House and Senate (3)

judicial branch the branch of government that interprets how the laws apply to particular situations (2)

jurisdiction the authority of a court to decide a case (5)

jury citizens chosen to hear evidence in a legal case and decide based on that evidence (5)

juvenile a young person who is not yet an adult (6)

juvenile court a court that handles cases of deprived and neglected children under 18, delinquent or unruly juveniles under 17, and traffic violations committed by juveniles (5)

K

Ku Klux Klan a secret racist terrorist organization, formed in 1866, that worked to keep freedmen from voting after the Civil War; called the KKK (13)

L

landform one of the natural features of a land surface (1)

legislative branch the branch of government that makes the laws (2)

Lend-Lease Act an act that gave the president the authority to let countries fighting against the Axis Powers in World War II “borrow” military supplies (16)

line-item veto a method that allows the governor to veto specific spending proposals without vetoing the entire appropriations bill (3)

literacy test a requirement that people had to read and write a passage from the U.S. or Georgia Constitution to be eligible to vote (14)

lottery a plan to award something, such as land, based on chance (11)

Loyalists American colonists who remained loyal to Great Britain and King George; sometimes called Tories (10)

M

magistrate court a court in each Georgia county that issues warrants, hears cases of minor criminal offenses, and hears civil cases involving \$15,000 or less (5)

Malcontents complainers; those who were not happy with the Georgia colony rules (9)

mercantilism an economic policy in which a country exports more than it imports; colonies are expected to supply raw materials to the mother country and buy goods from the mother country (9)

metropolitan area a big city encircled by smaller towns (20)

militia a force of citizen soldiers (9)

misdemeanor a less serious crime that carries a punishment of one to twelve months in jail and/or a fine (5)

mission a place where priests could live and work in major American Indian towns in Spanish Georgia (8)

municipality a municipal corporation; a city (7)

N

nation a country with a common government and territory (1)

naval stores tar, pitch, and turpentine made from the sap of pine trees (9)

neutrality a policy of planning to stay out of the war by not taking sides (16)

New Deal programs initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression to bring relief to the poor and unemployed, help the economy recover, and put some permanent reforms in place to prevent future depressions (15)

New South a term coined by Henry Grady that described his goal for more industries, especially those that turned the South's crops and resources into finished products, which would put the South on a new economic path (14)

nullification the idea that a state could cancel or nullify a law it believed was unconstitutional (12)

O

overproduction when producers, like farms and factories, continue to produce more than people can afford to buy (15)

P-Q

Patriots American colonists who defied the British government; sometimes called Whigs (10)

peat a decaying plant material that absorbs water (1)

philanthropy the act of giving time, money, or resources to help others without expecting anything in return (9)

plural executive system the system of government in Georgia, called for by the constitution, in which voters elect the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state superintendent of schools, commissioner of insurance, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of labor, and five public service commissioners (4)

polling place the location where a registered voter is directed to vote (2)

poll tax a tax that had to be paid for a citizen to vote (13)

popular sovereignty the ability of the people of an area to decide upon an issue, such as whether they would allow slavery (12)

Populist Party the People's Party; a political party formed in the late 1800s that supported the rights of common people, especially farmers and workers, against the wealthy (14)

preamble an introductory statement to a constitution (or other document) (2)

precinct the district where a voter is registered to vote (2)

prejudice an irrational hostility toward another person, group, or race (14)

Prime Meridian the imaginary line of longitude that divides the Western Hemisphere from the Eastern Hemisphere (1)

probate court a Georgia court that deals with wills and estates, marriage licenses, and licenses to carry firearms (5)

probation a punishment served outside of or, in some cases, instead of confinement (6)

proclamation an official statement made by a person in power (10)

profit the money an entrepreneur earns after selling a product or service, minus the costs of producing or providing it (20)

progressivism a reform movement of the late 1800s and early 1900s that called for reforms to deal with the problems of industrialization and urbanization (14)

purchasing power the ability to buy goods and services, usually measured in terms of income (15)

R

ratification official approval (10)

reasonable suspicion a legal standard that is more than a "hunch" but less certain than probable cause (6)

recession a less harmful economic slowdown than a depression (15)

Reconstruction the process that aimed to rebuild the country after the Civil War (13)

Redeemers Democrats who, in the immediate period after Reconstruction, worked to "redeem" the state from the North's Reconstruction policies (13)

region one of the five geographic areas of Georgia, which share common characteristics such as soil, vegetation, climate, landforms, and recreational or economic opportunities (1)

regional youth detention center a holding facility for juveniles (RYDC) (6)

relative location where an area lies in relation to another location (1)

resolution an act of the legislature that is not a law but a way to express the opinion of the legislators (3)

responsibilities obligations that individual citizens are expected to carry out (2)

revenue income the state receives from taxes and fees (3)

rights the guarantee of certain individual freedoms and protections granted by the government (2)

royal colony a colony under the control of the king (9)

S

saving money set aside as income for the future (20)

scalawags a negative nickname given to southerners who supported Republicans during Reconstruction (13)

secede to withdraw from something, as from the Union (12)

sectionalism emphasis on policies good for one's region over others and the tensions that emerged over these differences (12)

Senate one of the two bodies of the Georgia General Assembly; it has 56 members (3)

separation of powers the division of powers among the three branches (legislative, executive, and judicial) of government (2)

settlement a place where people began to live permanently (8)

sharecropping an agricultural system in which a landowner supplied a house, tools, animals, seed, and fertilizer to a landless tenant, who paid the landowner with a share of the crop (13)

siege the action that occurs when military forces try to capture a fort or town by surrounding it and preventing supplies from reaching it (10)

sit-in a type of protest in which people refuse to leave a public place until their demands are met (18)

slave code laws that explained slaves' status as property and restricted their rights and freedoms (12)

slavery the practice of owning people as property (9)

slave states states that allowed slavery (12)

special-purpose district a "mini-government" created for a particular purpose or service area (7)

standing committee a permanent committee of the legislature; one that "stands" from one session to the next (3)

state agencies departments of the executive branch in Georgia (4)

state-chartered founded by the state (such as a college) (11)

state court a court that has limited jurisdiction within one county (5)

states' rights the belief that all powers not specifically given to the national government in the U.S. Constitution or denied to the states remain with the states (12)

stock market the place where shares of ownership in corporations (stock) are bought and sold (15)

subsistence crop a crop that is used to meet the needs of farmers and their families (9)

suburbs residential areas around cities (20)

superior court the top level of trial courts in Georgia; it hears both criminal and civil cases (5)

Supreme Court the highest court in Georgia; it reviews decisions of lower courts, must review all cases involving the death penalty, and outlines the code of conduct for judges (5)

suspect a person who is thought to have committed a crime (5)

syllabary a group of symbols that stand for whole syllables of a language (such as the Cherokee language) (11)

T

tenant farming an agricultural system in which a tenant often had some agricultural equipment and farm animals but rented land or living space from the owner (13)

Thirteenth Amendment See 13th Amendment. (13)

Treaty of New York a treaty President George Washington signed with Alexander McGillivray and other Muscogee (Creek) chiefs that returned land claimed by Georgia to the Creek, guaranteed federal protection for the Creek from settlers, and included other benefits for the Creek (11)

trial courts courts that have original jurisdiction and the authority to hear a case for the first time (5)

trustee colony a colony governed by trustees (9)

U

unincorporated area an area of the county that is not included in any city boundary (7)

unruly behavior an act committed by a child that would not be considered a crime if committed by an adult (6)

urban decay a situation in which older areas of a city are run-down and poorly maintained (19)

urban revitalization the building of new living spaces and improved parks and infrastructure in a city (19)

V

verdict the decision in a trial (5)

voting formally expressing one's opinion or choice by casting a ballot (2)

Voting Rights Act of 1965 a law that prohibited discriminatory voting practices, granted the federal government oversight of elections in states with a history of discrimination, and led to a significant increase in black voter registration and political participation (18)

W-X-Y-Z

white primary the Democratic Party's rule in 1900 that its primaries for statewide offices would be open to whites only (14)