



# THIS IS GEORGIA



**Standard: SS8H1 Evaluate the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia.**

- a. Describe the characteristics of American Indians living in Georgia at the time of European contact; to include culture, food, weapons/tools, and shelter.
- b. Explain reasons for European exploration and settlement of North America, with emphasis on the interests of the Spanish and British in the Southeastern area.
- c. Evaluate the impact of Spanish contact on American Indians, including the explorations of Hernando DeSoto and the establishment of Spanish missions along the barrier islands.

## THIS IS...HISTORY, PART 1

**Prehistory refers to the time before the past was written down. Georgia's prehistory dealt with four American Indian (Native American) groups who lived in distinct time periods. The Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian were these four prehistoric cultures, and throughout time, these groups slowly evolved to become more advanced.**

**When the Spanish came to Georgia (we're going to call this Spanish contact, since...ya know...standards), they came into contact with the Mississippian Indians. Mississippians had tribes, a very distinct civilization, and had villages (called chiefdoms) with temple (flat-topped) mounds like the ones seen at Ocmulgee or Etowah. The chart below describes what the Mississippians were like at the point of Spanish contact. Historians, Archaeologists and Anthropologists (all people who study the past) have learned from these people based on their artifacts (or things from their lives) they left behind.**

### THE MISSISSIPPIAN AMERICAN INDIANS

Culture	Food	Weapons/Tools	Shelter
<p><i>Based on the artifacts left behind, most American Indians living in the South at the time of Spanish contact were living in large chiefdoms, or cities of several thousand people in a tribe, or group. These chiefdoms focused around a priest-chief and had a class system of elites (fancy people) and commoners (everyday people). These civilizations made temple mounds, flat-topped earth mounds used for the priest chief. They also had burial mounds, suggesting they believed in life after death. They built palisades, or wooden fences, which showed that they likely went to war with other tribes. Mississippians traded along rivers in advanced networks as well.</i></p>	<p>The Mississippian American Indians had many ways to get food. Throughout time, they and their ancestors learned to hunt for small animals - deer, turkey, rabbits and squirrels are some of the animals they hunted. They learned the art of horticulture (the science of planting) and the Mississippians rotated crops to keep the soil from losing important minerals. Corn, squash, pumpkins and beans were all important foods for Mississippians.</p>	<p>The Mississippian American Indians were very skilled with weapons and tools. They used animal bones for gardening and fishing hooks. They made advanced pottery to hold their goods foods and spices, and they also made pottery to adorn themselves with jewelry for ritual purposes. They crafted bows and arrows to hunt animals. They built axes to cut trees. They created palisades (or walls) to protect themselves and keep invaders out of their cities.</p>	<p>Over time, the American Indians in Georgia went from building small dome-shaped huts in the woods to larger huts made of mud and clay. The Mississippians made small huts made of thatch and daub (mud and sticks) and lived in these within the walls of their cities. These small huts kept them protected from the elements.</p>

## European Exploration

Eventually, explorers from Europe came to what is now known as the United States. Most of these Explorers came for three reasons - primarily God (religion), Gold (wealth), and Glory (recognition or fame).

There were many European countries that explored the “New World” (the “New World” means the continents of North America and South America).

**Our standards discuss Spain and Great Britain (Which contains England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland), because these countries explored and settled what is now known as the Georgia.**

The Spanish set up **colonies** (settlements away from a country that keep ties to their home country) in modern-day Georgia, Central America, and South America. Britain settled colonies on the east coast of the modern-day United States. Georgia became one of the British colonies in 1733. The map to your right shows where these countries explored (remember, we’re in the Northwest hemisphere!)



## SPANISH EXPLORATION

THE SPANISH WERE THE FIRST EUROPEANS TO EXPLORE WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS GEORGIA.

The first Europeans to explore Georgia were from Spain. A team led by Spanish conquistador (or conqueror) and explorer Hernando de Soto came to the area around 1540. DeSoto had one primary goal: gold. He wanted to find gold to increase his wealth and fame.

DeSoto and his team did not find gold, but they encountered many American Indians. When DeSoto demanded gold, many of these Indians had none to offer - and DeSoto went to war with the Mississippian tribes. Mississippian weapons were no match for European guns. DeSoto and his men killed many American Indians. When DeSoto and his men left, others died from diseases they caught from the Spanish explorers.

DeSoto died on his journey, sick and goldless. The diseases DeSoto brought to the American Indians killed most of their population. The remaining Mississippians became our modern-day Creek and Cherokee Indians.



**Hernando DeSoto:  
Spanish Conquistador.  
Not very nice.**

**Over twenty years after the explorations of DeSoto, the Spanish returned to Georgia. This time, they went to the barrier islands of modern-day Georgia to establish missions. A mission in the past worked similarly to our mission trips work today - to convert people to a religion. The Spanish missions were created **convert people to Catholicism and Christianity**. Some of these missions saw success - and some of them saw failure. Some of the American Indians revolted, and some of them died from disease. Eventually, the Spanish abandoned the missions and moved south to Florida.**

**The Spanish exploration of Georgia greatly affected the American Indians. American Indian culture changed forever, and many American Indians died from attacks and from disease.**

After the Spanish left North America, the British came and explored and settled, followed by the French. The first British (English) colony of Jamestown was its first settlement. Eventually, 12 British colonies were settled along the east coast of what is now the United States. Then, a man got an idea for a new colony...

# The Colony of Georgia

## SS8H2 Analyze the colonial period of Georgia's history.

- Explain the importance of the Charter of 1732, including the reasons for settlement (philanthropy, economics, and defense).
- Analyze the relationship between James Oglethorpe, Tomochichi, and Mary Musgrove in establishing the city of Savannah at Yamacraw Bluff.
- Evaluate the role of diverse groups (Jews, Salzburgers, Highland Scots, and Malcontents) in settling Georgia during the Trustee Period.
- Explain the transition of Georgia into a royal colony with regard to land ownership, slavery, alcohol, and government.
- Give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced and traded in colonial Georgia.

**James Oglethorpe was a British man who was concerned with helping poor people. During this time period, if a person could not pay debts, that person went to jail. Oglethorpe had an architect friend, Robert Castell, who died in debtor's prison. This inspired James to help debtors. Oglethorpe asked King George II (the colony is named after him), for permission to start a new colony. The king granted permission, and the colony of Georgia was established with its charter in 1732. It was the 13th and last British colony.**

I'm James Oglethorpe. I love helping poor people, yo!



## The Charter of 1732

The Charter of 1732 was the document that created Georgia. It named Georgia (after King George II). It created Georgia and its rules, regulations, and its boundaries.

Georgia was created as **Trustee colony** - it was different from the other colonies, called royal colonies. As a Trustee colony, Georgia was governed by James Oglethorpe and the 20 Trustees instead of a royal governor. The Georgia colony could not have liquor, lawyers, Catholics or slaves. Georgians had to work to grow certain crops (indigo, mulberry trees, grapes) and had to pass land down to the oldest male in the family. These regulations made the Trustee colony stricter than the other royal colonies.

Georgia's boundaries at this time went from the Savannah River, to the Altamaha River, to the "south seas" (or basically, the Pacific Ocean!).

The colony of Georgia was settled for three main reasons. These are:

**PHILANTHROPY (OR CHARITY)**– Oglethorpe originally wanted Georgia to be a colony to help debtors and poor (although no debtors went to the colony).

**ECONOMICS** – King George II wanted Georgia to produce rice, silk (through mulberry trees) and vineyards for wine.

**DEFENSE** –Georgia was supposed to serve as a buffer (protective barrier) between the rest of the British colonies and Spanish Florida.

**After getting permission from the king and establishing the Charter of 1732, James Oglethorpe and the first Georgia colonists (none of them were debtors - sad day) went on the ship Ann in late 1732. They arrived at a place called Yamacraw Bluff in February of 1733. Oglethorpe wanted negotiate peacefully with the American Indians before he and the colonists settled.**

Two American Indians helped Oglethorpe settle peacefully on the colony of Georgia and establish the city of Savannah. These two are **Chief Tomochichi**, who was the chief of the Yamacraw (Creek) Indians. The chief allowed Oglethorpe to settle peacefully on a piece of land called **Yamacraw Bluff** (which later became Savannah). **Mary Musgrove**, who was half-Creek, ran an important trading post. She was also a translator for Oglethorpe and Tomochichi. **The colony of Georgia became successful because of these two and their willingness to keep relations peaceful.**

Oglethorpe and the colonists built the City of Savannah, which is allegedly built on the original design by Oglethorpe and his friend Castell. The city is designed with a tything/ward system with a grid and several town squares. Savannah still retains all all but two of its squares and many of its original buildings, which is a testament to its design (that means it was a well planned city, fam).

# GEORGIA'S SETTLERS

This is Georgia - Dana Farr

After the British settled in Savannah, settlers from different countries and settlement in Europe came to Georgia to settle. Most came for religious freedom, a chance at a new life, and economic opportunity. All of these groups brought successes to Georgia and added to its culture.

## Jewish Settlers

Where they came from: Many of the Jewish settlers came from the continent of Europe, and many were from the countries of Portugal and Spain.

What they wanted in Georgia: The Jews wanted a place to settle freely. It was debated that they violated the Charter of 1732 due to religious differences. But with a doctor (Samuel Nunes) and others who could help the colony, James Oglethorpe allowed them to settle.

Where they settled in Georgia: The Jews settled in Savannah.

How they helped the colony: The Jews helped Georgia by saving many of the first colonists who were sick during Georgia's first few months.

## Salzburgers

Where they came from: The Salzburgers came from the City of Salzburg in modern-day Austria.

What they wanted in Georgia: The Salzburgers were kicked out of their settlement because they were Protestants who wanted religious freedom.

Where they settled in Georgia: They settled in Ebenezer, then when it was determined to be too swampy, they settled in New Ebenezer.

How they helped the colony: They produced goods for Georgia's economy (like silk). They brought the first Sunday School and Lutheran Church to the modern-day US.

## Highland Scots

Where they came from: The Highland Scots are from Scotland. (This should not surprise you.)

What they wanted in Georgia: The Highland Scots were specifically recruited to come to Georgia due to their fighting abilities.

Where they settled in Georgia: The Highland Scots settled in the city of Darien, which exists to this day.

How they helped the colony: The Highland Scots helped Georgia be that "defensive buffer" against the Spanish - they fought for Georgia and Britain in many battles, including the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

The **malcontents** were a group of British settlers who were not happy with the Trustee Period. They wanted to be a royal colony and often complained about Oglethorpe. Their biggest complaint was about the ban on slavery and alcohol. As a Trustee, Oglethorpe hated slavery and liquor and would not budge on these regulations.

The Georgia colonists found themselves involved in a war with Spain called the War of Jenkins' Ear (I do not name these wars, people). After the victory, the Spanish went to Florida, but the Georgia colonists were ready to become a royal colony. James Oglethorpe went to Britain to discuss the war, and he never returned to the colony of Georgia.

## Georgia as a Royal Colony

Georgia's Trustee Period lasted 21 years. It ended a year early, and Georgia became a royal colony. It dropped the charter regulations and allowed alcohol and slavery into the colony.

Land Ownership in Royal Colony Georgia:

- If you could pay for your ticket overseas: **500 acres of land**
- If you could not pay for your ticket: **50 acres of land**

Land ownership was important to survival in the colony of Georgia. Those who could afford to come to Georgia by boat received 500 acres of land, and those who did not received 50 acres of land. Later, Georgia would use the **headright system** and **land lotteries** to solve land issues.

Georgia's Royal Government:

Georgia's royal government was initially set up to include the concept of self-government, where the landowners could have choices. This system worked well.

- To vote, you had to own 50 acres.
- To hold office, you had to own 500 acres. the colony.

The royal governor was the head of the colony (apart from the king) and was chosen by the king. The government had a **Court of Conscience** that could settle disputes, a **Governor's Council** (upper house), and a **Common's House of Assembly**. This government had three branches, just like our government today.

**In the Trustee Period, Georgia's colonists were not allowed to have slaves (they were not allowed in Georgia's charter). Some brought in slaves illegally, but when Georgia became a royal colony, slaves started coming into the colony in large numbers. Even though there were some groups opposed to slavery (like the Salzburgers and Highland Scots), most of the plantation owners and farm owners in Georgia became owners of slaves. Georgia's slave decision affected it for decades.**

# Economics in the Georgia Colony

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>During the Trustee Period:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Slavery allowed</li> <li>• Grew indigo plants (for dye), grapes (for wine), and mulberry trees (for silk).</li> <li>• The colonists did not profit much from these crops</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>During the Royal Colony Period:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slavery was allowed</li> <li>• Grew tobacco and rice on plantations (or large farms)</li> <li>• The colonists profited from a plantation economy</li> </ul>
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Since Georgia was successful as a royal colony, and was a fairly new royal colony, it took time for many Georgians to join the rest of the colonies in fighting the American Revolution.

## SS8H3 Analyze the role of Georgia in the American Revolutionary Era.

- Explain the causes of the American Revolution as they impacted Georgia; include the French and Indian War, Proclamation of 1763, and the Stamp Act.
- Interpret the three parts of the Declaration of Independence (preamble, grievances, and declaration) and identify the three Georgia signers of the document.
- Analyze the significance of the Loyalists and Patriots as a part of Georgia's role in the Revolutionary War; include the Battle of Kettle Creek and Siege of Savannah.
- Analyze the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and explain how those weaknesses led to the writing of a new federal Constitution.

**Soon after Georgia's transition to a royal colony, talk of separation from Britain became a popular topic. The American Colonies and Great Britain were often frustrated with one another. Georgia, as a new royal colony, was (at first) a reluctant participant in the Revolution. One of the things you need to understand about Georgia is that it was the thirteenth – and LAST – colony. Georgia still had first generation ties to Britain and was connected - unlike some of the northern colonies. Also, Georgia's crops were economically successful and Georgia was also the most southern colony. Because of these reasons, it was somewhat isolated (set apart) from the other colonies. Keep this in mind when we are discussing the causes of the American Revolution.**

It's a little strange to think of a war causing a war, but it happened. The **French and Indian War**, fought from 1754 to 1763, was a cause of the American Revolution. In this war, the **French and Indians teamed up against the British and the American Colonies** (including Georgia). This war was won by the British and the American colonies, but it caused a **huge war debt for Britain**. (Debt means that money was owed.) Because of the war debt, the British **TAXED** the colonies to make up for the money that was owed. The colonists were not happy about the taxes, and this fueled angry feelings between the colonies and Britain. The colonists angry about **taxation without representation**, meaning that they were being taxed without a representative in the British government.

Speaking of taxes, the **Stamp Act** was another cause of the Revolution. This act was passed by the British - it taxed the colonies with a tax on paper goods. The colonies **HATED this!** They refused to purchase the stamps. **The only colony that purchased stamps was Georgia.** Georgia also did not send a representative to the **Stamp Act Congress**, a group of the colonists who met to discuss the Stamp Act. This further infuriated the the patriots.



The Proclamation also changed Georgia's southern boundary to the St. Mary's River. This river makes Georgia's "tail!"

**The Proclamation of 1763 was another cause of the American Revolution. This was a proclamation from the king of Britain that said that the colonists could not pass the Appalachian Mountains (for fear that the Native Americans would kill them). Colonists were crossing the mountain range and getting killed by the Natives. This made the colonists angry, because they wanted to settle where they chose, and do so with the king's protection. This Proclamation angered the colonists.**

As the colonists were venting their frustration with Britain, most found themselves on the side of Britain or the American Colonies.

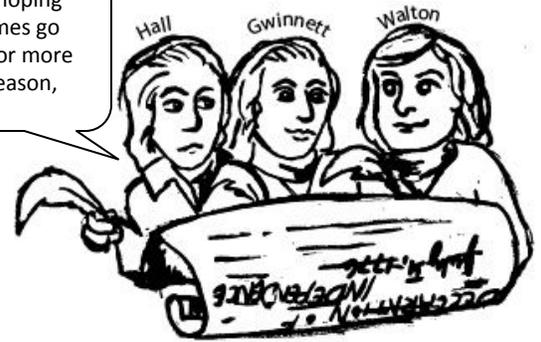
1. **Loyalists** were colonists who remained loyal to King George III (the king at that time period) and Great Britain.
2. **Patriots** were colonists who wanted to seek independence from the colonies.

# The American Revolution

The **Declaration of Independence** was a written statement to King George III (signed on July 4, 1776). It explained the fundamental rights of men, described why the colonies needed to permanently separate from the British, and declared freedom for the American Colonies. It contained three parts.

- 1. Preamble** - This part of the Declaration states the need for men to have rights (such as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness") and that these rights are given to men by God.
- 2. Grievances** - The second section of the document lists the complaints against King George III. There were several complaints - about everything from unjust taxes to colonists having to house and feed soldiers.
- 3. Declaration** - The end of the Declaration of Independence is where (unsurprisingly) the colonies proclaim their independence from Britain and King George III, and state they are "free and independent" states. **This document is considered one of the founding documents of the United States.**

Here's hoping our names go down for more than treason, boys.



Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett, and George Walton were all three signers of the Declaration from Georgia.

The Declaration was signed after the first two battles of the American Revolution, Lexington and Concord. Despite this, some historians consider it a cause of full-blown war. Georgia patriots showed their support of the Colonies by sending the three signers.

## The War

The two major Georgia battles:

Kettle Creek  
Siege of Savannah

Famous Georgia Patriots:

Elijah Clarke  
Austin Dabney  
Lyman Hall  
Button Gwinnett  
George Walton

The **Battle of Kettle Creek** was fought in Washington, Georgia on February 14th, 1779 (which made for an interesting Valentine's Day). This was a very small battle - and put Georgia's Loyalists against its Patriots. The Patriots, led by Elijah Clarke and John Dooly, defeated the Loyalists (the British supporters) with the help of Georgia's militia - and fighters like Austin Dabney, a slave fighting in place of his master. The Georgia militia won the battle - and gained much-needed ammunition and goods to keep fighting. This battle also boosted the morale (or spirits) of the troops.

*During the American Revolution, Savannah was overtaken and occupied by the British. The Siege of Savannah was a battle where the colonies fought to regain Savannah back from the British. The colonists teamed up with the French to try to take Savannah under siege. This was called the **Siege of Savannah**. The colonies and the French tried to take Savannah back, but their mission failed terribly. Approximately 1,000 colonial troops died within forty-five minutes (that's an epic fail)! Many French/Colonial soldiers died in the battle. After the battle, Savannah was held under British control for **3 1/2 more years** - until the end of the war.*

It took several years, many battles, and numerous lives for the American Colonies to gain their independence. With the help of the French, the American Colonies succeeded and were able to maintain their independence. A new nation was forged (or created) - the United States of America!

After the war, the free United States ran a government on a document called the **Articles of Confederation**. This government had many weaknesses - **no courts, no leader, no taxes, no national money, and states running like individual nations**. Finally, the states met to determine if this government needed revision. This meeting was called the Constitutional Convention. It was held in Philadelphia in 1787, and made the **US Constitution**, which created a new government. This document, **our current government, has three branches of government - a president (executive), a court system (judicial) and lawmakers (legislative)**. Georgia was the fourth state to ratify (or approve) this Constitution. In the span 250 years, Georgia went from being a home for American Indians, to a Spanish expedition, to Oglethorpe's dream, to one of the thirteen United States.