



# Georgia Studies

**Unit 1: Geography of  
Georgia/Georgia's  
Beginnings**

**Lesson 2: Regions and  
Features**

**Study Presentation**



# **Lesson 2: Regions and Features**

- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**
  - What are the significant geographic regions and features of Georgia and how have they impacted Georgia's growth and development?

# GA's Physiographic Regions

- Georgia is divided into 5 Physiographic Regions: Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateau.
- Each of these regions differ from each other in location, size, population, climate, resources, and numerous other areas.

# The Blue Ridge Region

- Northeastern part of state
- Contains state's highest and largest group of mountains
- **Brasstown Bald**, Georgia highest mountain (4,786 feet above seal level) is located here
- Mountains provide much precipitation (water) for the state
- Sandy loam and clay soils
- Hardwood forests, vegetable farming, and apples

# The Valley and Ridge Region

- Between Blue Ridge Mountains and Appalachian Plateau
- Low open valleys parallel to narrow ridges
- Elevations ranges from 700 to 1600 feet above sea level
- Forests and pastures dominate the region
- Limestone and clay soils in the valley
- Shale and sandstone on the ridges
- Dalton, the “carpet capital of the world”, is located in this region



# The Appalachian Plateau Region

- Georgia's smallest physiographic region
- Located in the Northwestern part of the state.
- Many limestone caves, deep canyons, rock formations
- Cumberland Plateau (Lookout Mountain and Sand Mountain separated by limestone ridges)
- Limestone, shale, and sandstone soils

# The Piedmont Region

- Begins in mountain foothills and goes to state's central part
- Contains many of the large cities of Georgia (Atlanta, Marietta, Athens, etc.) and most of the state's population.
- Gently sloping hills in north, flatlands in the south
- Hardwood timber, pine, and agriculture
- Red clay and granite base
- **Chattahoochee**, Flint, Ocmulgee, and Oconee rivers

# The Coastal Plain Region

- Largest region, three-fifths of state (60%)
- Inner Coastal Plain: Mild climate, good underground water supply, state's major agriculture region
- Outer Coastal Plain (southwest corner): rich soil for peanuts, pecans, corn, and pulp production
- Low-lying freshwater wetlands (including the **Okefenokee Swamp**) are located in the southern portion of the state.



# The Fall Line

- Located where the hilly or mountainous lands of the Piedmont region meet the coastal plain region.
- Runs from Columbus (west) through Macon to Augusta (east)
- Many waterfalls caused by water from the hills cutting channels into the softer soil of the plains
- Fall Line waterfalls provide power source for several Georgia communities

# The Okefenokee Swamp

- Named for the Seminole Indian word which means “land of the trembling Earth”
- Largest swamp in North America (681 square miles)
- Freshwater (not salt water) wetland
- Located south of Waycross
- Home to more than 400 species of animals
- Water lies close to the surface
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge which protected land and stopped logging companies from cutting down the large, old trees.

# The Appalachian Mountains

- Very large mountain range which runs over 1,500 miles from eastern Canada to central Alabama.
- The southernmost part of the Appalachian Mountain chain is called the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- Close to 100 miles of the Blue Ridge Mountains extend into north Georgia.
- These mountains form the first barrier to warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico. The cool mountain air causes the moisture in the air to condense and fall to the earth as precipitation (rain, snow, etc.). This precipitation forms the basis of many of Georgia's rivers.

# Chattahoochee River

- Begins in the Blue Ridge Region and flows southwest toward Alabama and into the Gulf of Mexico.
- The river is a fast moving creek north of the Fall Line and can not be used for boat travel most of the year. The river flattens out and slows down south of the Fall Line and can be used for transportation.
- After World War I the Chattahoochee's fast moving water was used to create hydroelectric power through dams.
- Provides most of the drinking water for the metropolitan Atlanta area.

# Savannah River

- Natural boundary between Georgia and South Carolina.
- Begins at Lake Hartwell and flows southeast toward the city of Savannah before emptying in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Also used as a source for hydroelectric power.
- Provides most of the drinking water for Augusta and Savannah.



# Barrier Islands

- Also known as the Golden Isles (Spanish explorers called the islands “Islands of Gold”).
- Form a barrier between Georgia’s mainland coast and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Helps to protect Georgia’s mainland coast from strong winds, waves and ocean currents.
- Important to the state’s tourism. Many people visit the beaches and resorts
- Jekyll, Sea Island, St. Simons, and Tybee Islands are all connected to the mainland by bridges but others can be reached by boats.
- Other industries on the barrier islands include paper production and fishing.