

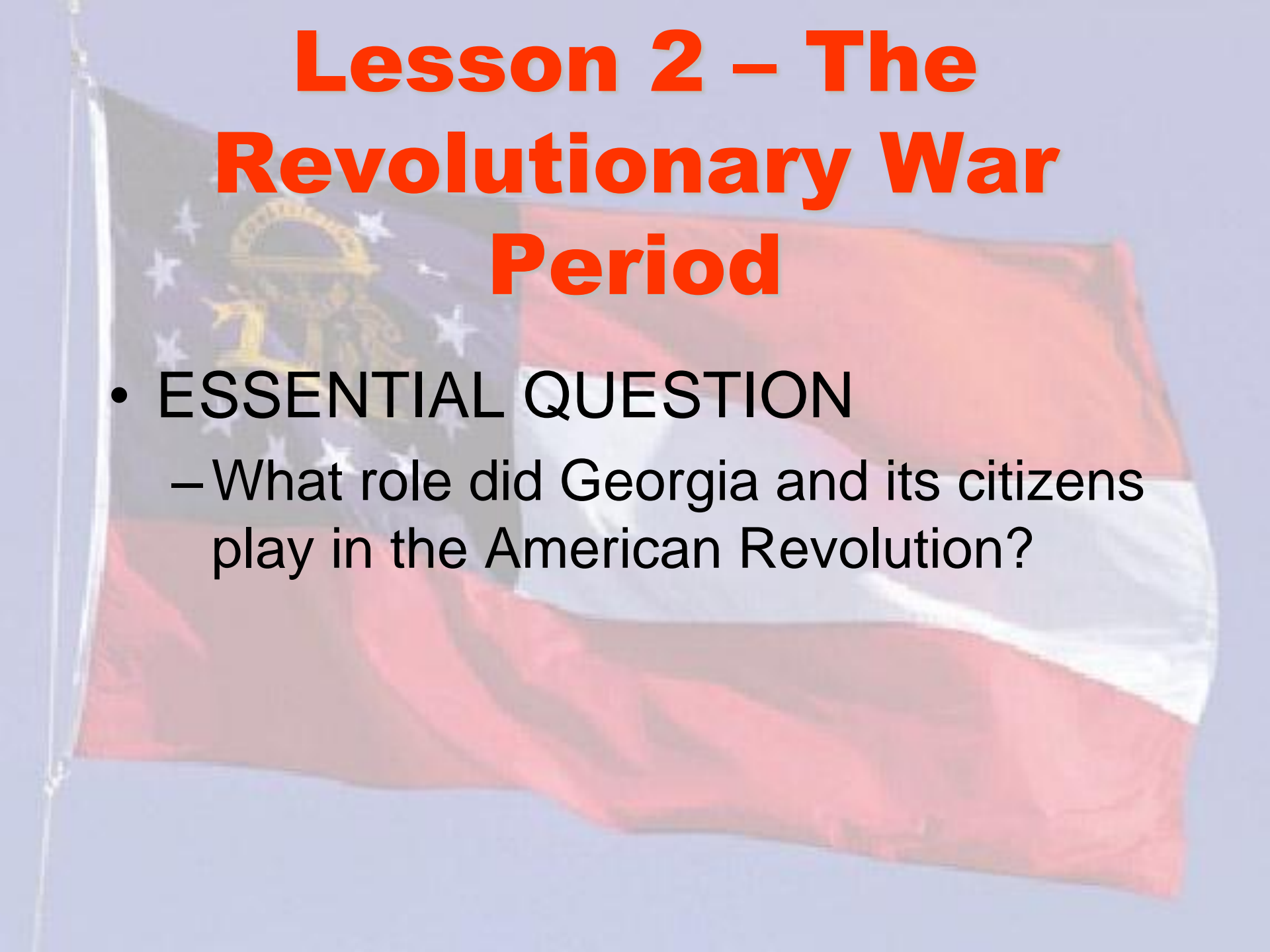
A low-angle photograph of the Georgia State Capitol building, showing the golden dome and the Statue of Liberty on top. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Georgia Studies

Unit 3 – Revolution, Statehood, and Westward Expansion

Lesson 2 – The Revolutionary War Period

Study Presentation



Lesson 2 – The Revolutionary War Period

- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**
 - What role did Georgia and its citizens play in the American Revolution?

First Continental Congress

- Many of the British colonies in North America had begun to protest taxation as long as they were not represented in British Parliament.
- 12 of the 13 colonies sent representatives to the First Continental Congress; Georgia was not represented.
- Urged colonies to establish “Committees of Safety”
- Agreed to stop all trade with Britain (boycott)
- Carried on its work in secret
- “Provincial Congress” held in Savannah in January 1775; less than one-half of Georgia’s parishes were represented

Second Continental Congress

- Met in Philadelphia after Lexington and Concord battles in Massachusetts
- Drafted petition for King George III, asking for end of unfriendly steps against the colonies
- George III refused to accept the petition
- Authorized Continental Army
- Georgia's **Lyman Hall** arrived in May 1775
- August 2, 1776: **Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall,** and **George Walton** (representatives from Georgia) sign the **Declaration of Independence**

Georgia's Second Provincial Congress

- Held at Tondee's Tavern in Savannah in July 1775
- Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, Noble Wimberly Jones, and Reverend John Zubly chosen to represent Georgia in Philadelphia
- Delegates given no specific instructions; told to make best decisions for Georgians
- Governor Wright fled colony in early 1776; Council of Safety established "Rules and Regulations" to govern Georgia

Revolutionary War Fighting in Georgia

- Georgia was divided between **patriots** (people that were rebelling against Great Britain; fighting for freedom) and **loyalists** (people that remained loyal to Great Britain).
- Savannah captured and looted by British troops in December 1778; lootings, murders, and burnings occurred
- Sunbury port captured in early 1779; Augusta was also attacked
- Georgia militia not effective against well-trained British troops. French military leaders and reinforcements were brought in to train and assist the Continental Army.
- Governor Wright eventually returned from Great Britain to govern Georgia. Continued to govern from Savannah until 1783.

Battle of Kettle Creek (1779)

- Colonel **Elijah Clarke** led Georgia militia, defeated 800 British troops near Washington, Georgia
- Great victory for morale of the militia and Georgians seeking independence
- Won badly-needed weapons and horses from the British

Siege of Savannah

(1779)

- 15,000 Americans and 4,000 French laid siege to Savannah
- Attack on October 9 resulted in 1,000 American and French deaths in less than an hour; only 40 British troops died
- Polish Count Casimir Pulaski killed
- Savannah remained under British control, and the leadership of James Wright, for nearly four more years
- Guerrilla warfare (small scale fighting; sneak attacks) continued in the Georgia backcountry

Georgia Wartime Heroes

- **Nancy Hart** single-handedly captured a group of British loyalists who bragged of murdering an American colonel; Hart County is the only county named for a woman
- **Austin Dabney** fought with distinction and was wounded at **Kettle Creek**; he also saved **Elijah Clarke's** life during that battle

The War Ends

- **Elijah Clarke**, the Georgia Militia, and the Continental Army regain Augusta from British in June 1781; 11 battles or skirmishes fought in Georgia during the war
- George Washington, with French help, force British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia in October 1781
- British leave **Savannah** in the spring of 1782
- Treaty of Paris (September 1783) ends war; treaty is signed by United States, Great Britain, and France