

Describe Georgia's
geography and
climate in relation
to its key physical
features and their
importance

SS8G1c

The Fall Line

- ▶ The fall line is a natural boundary that separates the Piedmont and the Coastal plain regions.
- ▶ Due to the drop-off of the hilly Piedmont region into the flat Coastal Plain, the waterfalls found on the fall line caused many rivers in area to be difficult to navigate.



The Fall Line



- ▶ The waterfalls do, however, offer sources of water power and many mills were located on the fall line.
- ▶ Many of Georgia's most important cities such as Columbus, Macon, and Augusta were located on the fall line due to their location as the last navigable upstream points in the state.

The Okefenokee Swamp

- ▶ The Okefenokee Swamp covers 700 square miles and is the largest freshwater swamp in North America.
- ▶ Located in southeastern Georgia, the swamp can be found in 4 Georgia counties (Charlton, Ware, Brantley, and Clinch).



The Okefenokee Swamp



- ▶ Native Americans lived in the swamp dating back to the Archaic period.
- ▶ The Choctaw Indians gave the swamp its name which means “land of the trembling earth”.

The Okefenokee Swamp

- ▶ The most famous Indian tribe that lived in the swamp was the Seminole, which fought two wars against the United States in the Okefenokee area.
- ▶ White families began settling in the area in 1805.



The Okefenokee Swamp



- ▶ From 1910 until 1937, before Franklin Roosevelt established 80% of the Okefenokee as a wildlife refuge, the swamp was a major source of timber.
- ▶ Now, protected by the federal government, hundreds of animal species live in the area, the most well known being the American alligator.



The Appalachian Mountains

- ▶ The southernmost point of the Appalachian Mountains is located in Georgia.
- ▶ Georgia's highest peaks are in the Appalachian Mountain range and they can be found in the three mountain regions.



The Appalachian Mountains



- ▶ In the southern states, these mountains are often called the Blue Ridge due to the blue haze that appears around their peaks.
- ▶ Long ago, the Appalachians were some of the tallest mountains in the world, though millions of years of erosion have weathered them tremendously.

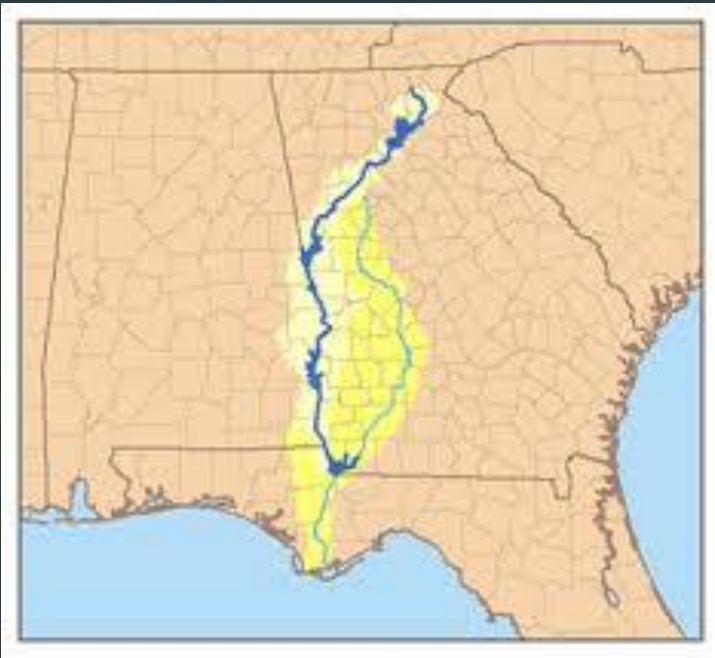
The Appalachian Mountains

- ▶ Today, the highest peak in Georgia is Brasstown Bald, which has an elevation of over 4700 feet above sea level.
- ▶ In comparison, the highest peak in the continental United States is Mt. Whitney which is almost 14,500 feet.



The Chattahoochee River

- ▶ The Chattahoochee River begins its journey to the Gulf of Mexico in the Blue Ridge Region of the state and forms part of the border between Alabama and Georgia.
- ▶ Native Americans long used the river as a food and water source, as did Georgia's European settlers.



The Chattahoochee River

- ▶ Due to the Fall Line, the Chattahoochee becomes difficult to navigate between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain regions, though river traffic was important during the 1800s from the Gulf of Mexico to the city of Columbus.



The Chattahoochee River



- ▶ Today, the Chattahoochee is used primarily as a water source for the millions of Georgians living in the Piedmont area, though the river is also used for industry and recreation as well.



The Savannah River

- ▶ The Savannah River forms the border between Georgia and South Carolina.
- ▶ One of Georgia's longest waterways, the Savannah River begins in Hart County, forms Lake Hartwell, and then flows to the Atlantic Ocean.



The Savannah River



- ▶ The river has been a source of water, food, and transportation for thousands of years.
- ▶ Paleo Indians lived around the river and Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto was the first European to cross it.

The Savannah River

- ▶ James Oglethorpe chose a site 18 miles upriver to create Georgia's first city, Savannah.
- ▶ Today, the river is navigable for over 200 miles between the cities of Savannah and Augusta.



The Savannah River

- ▶ In addition to shipping, the river is used as a major source of drinking water for Savannah and Augusta, to cool two nuclear power plants in South Carolina, and to generate hydroelectric power.



The Barrier Islands

- ▶ The Barrier Islands, also known as the Sea Islands or Golden Isles, are a chain of sandy islands off the coastline of Georgia.
- ▶ These islands protect the mainland from wind and water erosion.



The Barrier Islands



- ▶ There are 14 Barrier Islands off Georgia's coast including Tybee, St. Simons, Jekyll, and Cumberland.
- ▶ Some of the islands, such as Cumberland, are wild life refuges and are national or state parks.

The Barrier Islands

- ▶ Others, like St. Simons, have been developed and three(Little Cumberland, Little St. Simons, and St. Catherine's.)are still privately owned.
- ▶ People have lived on these islands for thousands of years.



The Barrier Islands



- ▶ Indians lived on them and in the 1500s the Spanish set up missions there.
- ▶ During the Colonial and Antebellum periods, plantations were set up on the island to grow products such as rice and indigo.



The Barrier Islands

- ▶ Today, the islands are mainly tourist and recreation destinations though the fishing and paper industries are still important economic enterprises.



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