

# **Review of Georgia's Five Geographic Regions & Features**

GPS: SS8G1 b, c

Fall 2010

# Enduring Understanding

- Location: Location affects a society's economy, culture and development.

# Georgia Performance Standard (GPS)

**SS8G1:** The student will describe Georgia with regard to physical feature and location.

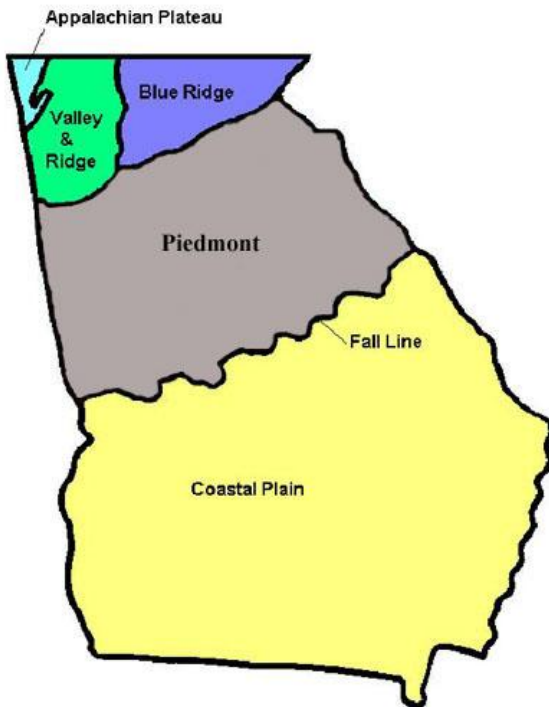
- b) Describe the five geographic regions of Georgia; include the Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Appalachian Plateau, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain.
- c) Locate and evaluate the importance of key physical features on the development of Georgia; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands.

# Essential Question

What are the unique characteristics of Georgia's five geographic regions?

# Geographic Regions

- What are Georgia's five Geographic regions?



- Appalachian Plateau Region
- Valley & Ridge Region
- Blue Ridge Region
- Piedmont Region
- Coastal Plain Region

**Largest Region:**

Coastal Plain

**Smallest Region:**

Appalachian Plateau

**Region we live in:**

Piedmont Region

# Appalachian Plateau Region

- **Location:** Northwest corner of Georgia
- **Major Cities:** Trenton, GA
- **Job Industries:** Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism (mountain hiking, camping, whitewater rafting)
- **Unique Features:** Region is only made of 1 county – Dade County. It is the smallest region and is home to Cloudland Canyon, Lookout Mountain and Sand Mountain.

# Valley & Ridge Region

- **Location:** Northwest portion of Georgia
- **Major Cities:** Rome, Dalton
- **Job Industries:** Agriculture (grain and apples), Forestry, Manufacturing (carpet, textiles), and Mining.
- **Unique Features:** Dalton is considered the “carpet capital of the world” because it is home to Mohawk Carpets and Shaw Industries.

# Blue Ridge Region

- **Location:** Northeast portion of Georgia
- **Major Cities:** Dahlonega, Helen
- **Job Industries:** Agriculture (grain and apples), Forestry, Manufacturing, Hydro-Electric Power (energy), and Tourism.
- **Unique Features:** The Appalachian Mountain Chain begins in the region. Brasstown Bald the highest peak in Georgia is located here. Precipitation in the Blue Ridge Region provides water for the entire state. Gold was discovered here in 1828.



# Piedmont Region

- **Location:** Central portion of Georgia
- **Major Cities:** Atlanta, Marietta, Jonesboro, Athens, Milledgeville and Madison.
- **Job Industries:** Agriculture (peaches), Forestry, Manufacturing, Entertainment (movies, music), Military Supplies and Bases and Tourism.
- **Unique Features:** Most populous region of the state. Home of Stone Mountain. Piedmont means “Foot of the Mountain.”

# Coastal Plain Region

- **Location:** Southern 2/3 of Georgia
- **Major Cities:** Savannah, Albany, Columbus, Macon, Vidalia and Valdosta
- **Job Industries:** Agriculture (cotton, peanuts), Forestry, Manufacturing, Entertainment (movies, music), Military Supplies and Bases and Tourism.
- **Unique Features:** The Coastal Plain is actually 2 different parts, the inner and outer coastal plains. Georgia was started in this region.

# Geographic Regions

- **What geographic features are unique to Georgia?**
  - Chattahoochee River
  - Savannah River
  - Appalachian Mountains
  - Okefenokee Swamp
  - Barrier Islands
  - Fall Line

# 1) Appalachian Mountains

- **Why is it significant?**
  - Appalachian Mountains begin in Georgia.
  - Block warm air rising up from the Gulf of Mexico. When the warm air rise it cools, causing precipitation (rain, hail, snow). The precipitation provides water for the state.

## 2) Savannah River

- **Why is it significant?**
  - Economically – The Port of Savannah is located on the Savannah River. Allows goods (products) to be shipped in and out of the state and country.
  - Historically – The Georgia colony was founded off of the Savannah River.
  - Separates Georgia and South Carolina.



# 3) Chattahoochee River

- **Why is it significant?**
  - Provides water for the Atlanta Metro-Area, Alabama and Florida.



## 4) Barrier Islands

- **Why is it significant?**
  - Provide a “barrier” against erosion from storms for mainland Georgia.
  - Called the “Golden Isles,” they enticed Europeans to come and set-up missions to convert the Native Americans to Christianity.
  - Forts were built on the islands to protect the state during the American Revolutionary War.
  - Good for tourism; nice beaches.





**Georgia's  
Coast &  
Barrier  
Islands**

**Richmond Hill**  
**Savannah**

**Kingsland**

**Darien**

**Brunswick**

**St. Marys**

**Tybee  
Island**  
**Wassaw Island**

**Ossabaw Island**

**St. Catherines Island**

**Sapelo Island**

**Wolf Island**

**Little St. Simons Island**

**Sea Island**

**St. Simons Island**

**Jekyll Island**

**Little Cumberland Island**

**Cumberland Island**

# 5) Okefenokee Swamp

- **Why is it significant?**
  - It is the second largest swamp in the U.S.
  - A natural wildlife sanctuary for many animal species.
  - Plants were used for medicinal purposes.
  - The Okefenokee Swamp gets its name from Native American words that mean "Land of the Trembling Earth".

## 6) Fall Line

- **Why is it significant?**
  - A line of waterfalls that separates the Piedmont Region and the Coastal Plain Region.
  - Settlers first moved along the Fall Line because of the fertile soil and water from the falls. Also because they could not get over they waterfalls they were forced to settle.
  - The water falls are now used to generate hydro-electric power.

