Unit 2: Georgia Geography and the Prehistoric Period

SS8H1 and SS8G1

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
Elaborated Unit Focus

This unit will focus on the relationship between human activities and natural forces and physical features. It will show that development that occurred among prehistoric cultures happened in direct relation to changes in their environment whether by migration or natural phenomena. Additionally, it will lead to an understanding of the importance of location and physical features to the development of an area and its culture.
SS8G1: The student will describe Georgia with regard to physical features and location.

- Describe: to represent or give an account of in words; recount, report
SS8G1a

SS8G1a: **Locate** Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.

- **Locate**- to look for and discover on a map; *find, pinpoint*
Georgia’s Location
SS8G1a

- Georgia is located in the “Southeast” region.
Georgia’s Location
SS8G1a

- Georgia is in The United States of America
Georgia’s Location
SS8G1a

- Georgia is on the continent of North America
Georgia’s Location
SS8G1a

- Georgia is in the Northern Hemisphere of the world.
Georgia’s Location
SS8G1a

- Georgia is in the Western Hemisphere of the world.
Georgia’s Global Position
SS8G1a

- GA’s location is approx.
  - Northern Boundary: 35°N
  - Southern Boundary: 30°N
  - Western Boundary: 86°W
  - Eastern Boundary: 81°W
Discussion

- Can you answer the Essential Question now?
  - Location
    - Where is Georgia in terms of hemisphere, continent, nation, region and global position? (G1a)
SS8G1b

SS8G1b: Describe the 5 Geographic regions of Georgia. Include the Blue Ridge Mountains, Valley and Ridge, Appalachian Plateau, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain.

Describe- to represent or give an account of in words; recount, report.
5 Geographic Regions

SS8G1b

- Georgia is divided into 5 physical or “physiographic” regions.
- Regions are determined by geographic similarities.
- The 5 regions of GA are:
  - Appalachian Plateau
  - Ridge and Valley
  - Blue Ridge
  - Piedmont
  - Coastal Plain
Appalachian Plateau
SS8G1b

- NW corner of the State “TAG region”
- Smallest region of GA
- Limestone Caves and Deep Canyons
Appalachian Plateau continued

SS8G1b

- **Lookout Mountain & Cloudland Canyon**
- **Agriculture and Industry**
  - Small amounts of corn and soybeans grown here, hardwoods and pasture land
  - Some Iron and coal
Ridge and Valley

SS8G1b

- Located between the Appalachian Plateau and Blue Ridge
- Long parallel ridges of sandstone overlooking rolling valleys for farming and pasture
- Agriculture and Industry
  - Dalton and Rome are known for carpet and textiles
  - Corn, soybeans, hardwoods, and pine
  - Some mining of limestone, bauxite and barite
Blue Ridge
SS8G1b

- Located in the Northeast corner of the state
- Highest elevation; (highest pt. in GA Brasstown Bald) largest group of mountains in Georgia.
- Most rainfall in Georgia; these mountains are water source for the entire state
Blue Ridge
SS8G1b

Characteristics:
- Tallulah Gorge – Second only to Grand Canyon in depth
- Appalachian Trail begins here
- Amicalola Falls – Named “tumbling waters” by the Cherokee

Industry
- Tourism: Helen, Blue Ridge, Dahlonega
- Minerals: Feldspar, mica, gold, marble
Piedmont
SS8G1b

- Located north of the Coastal Plain
- Red clay soil with granite base, very hilly
- Large plantations from antebellum days were located here
- Warm Springs, Stone Mountain
Piedmont
SS8G1b

- Piedmont means “foot of the mountain”
- Piedmont (Atlanta area) most populus
- You live here
Piedmont cont’d
SS8G1b

- **Industry** and Agriculture
  - Lockheed Martin, Home Depot, Coca Cola
  - Chemical Plants: Meds, polishes, soaps
  - Crushed granite for Hwy. Construction
  - Cotton, soybeans, wheat, beef and dairy cattle, pine trees, poultry

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
Coastal Plain

SS8G1b

- Sometimes referred to as being divided into “Inner” and “Outer” Coastal Plain
- Southern 2/3 of state, largest region, flat/fertile soil once covered by an ocean
- Lowest elevation begins at sea level at the coast
Coastal Plain
SS8G1b

- Large swamplands and marshy areas
- **Okefenokee Swamp**, Providence Canyon
- Radium Springs – During summer months the water temperature is a cool 68
Coastal Plain cont’d
SS8G1b

- **Agriculture** and Industry
  - Seafood, pulp and paper mills
  - Peaches, pecans, peanuts, and pine trees
  - Minerals:
    - Fuller’s earth (clay like) used in litter, cosmetics, toothpaste, and pills
    - Kaolin – used to coat paper and make china, rubber, plastic, cement, detergents, and fertilizer
    - Bauxite, phosphate
USA Regions

- The Physiographic regions occur nationwide

Geophysical Provinces of the Conterminous United States

Date: United States Geological Survey
Fenneman and Johnson, 1948

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
Discussion

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (G1b)
  - Location
    - Which North American physiographic regions are found in Georgia and what are some distinguishing characteristics of each?
    - What is the relative location of these physiographic regions within the boundaries of the state?
SS8G1c

SS8G1c: Locate and evaluate the importance of key physical features in the development of Georgia. Include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and Barrier Islands.

- **Locate**- to look for and discover on a map; *find, pinpoint*
- **Evaluate**- to make a judgment as to the worth or value of something; *judge, assess*
Fall Line: the shoreline of a prehistoric ocean, separates Piedmont and Coastal Plain, drop in elevation, cities were built here, waterfalls provided power to gins, mills, and factories.
Okefenokee Swamp

SS8G1c

- Okefenokee Swamp: largest freshwater wetland in the nation
- Located on Georgia/Florida border
Appalachian Mountains: 

- Come down in the NE tip of Georgia.
- Blue Ridge mountains are part of the Appalachian Mountains.
- (Mountains can be abbreviated “mtns.”)
Chattahoochee River

SS8G1c

- Chattahoochee River: Forms Georgia’s western boundary with Alabama
Savannah River

SS8G1c

- Savannah River:
  Forms Georgia’s eastern boundary with South Carolina
Barrier Islands

SS8G1c

- Barrier Islands: chain of sea islands off the coast of Georgia, they form a barrier that keeps ocean waves and wind from directly hitting the mainland.
Discussion

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (G1c)
  - Location
    - What are the significant physical features of Georgia that have impacted its development?
    - How is the impact of these features manifested?
SS8G1d

- **SS8G1d**: Evaluate the impact of climate on Georgia’s development.
  
  - **Evaluate**: to make a judgment as to the worth or value of something; *judge, assess*
Climate: Weather patterns for a region over a long period of time

- Most of Georgia is in the humid subtropical climate zone, with hot humid summers and cool, mild winters.
- The entire state receives moderate to heavy precipitation.
Discussion

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (G1d)
  - Location
    - How has climate played a role in the development of Georgia?
THE BIG IDEA

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

- **Describe**- to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*
Geography of Georgia
SS8G1

In your notebook:

- Describe Georgia with regard to physical features and location.
- Describe: to represent or give an account of in words—recount, report

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
Describe Georgia with regards to physical features and location.
THE BIG IDEA

- SS8H1: The student will evaluate the development of Native American cultures and the impact of European exploration and settlement on the Native American cultures in Georgia.

- Evaluate- to make a judgment as to the worth or value of something; judge, assess
SS8H1a

SS8H1a: **Describe** the evolution of Native American cultures (Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian) prior to European contact

- **Describe**- to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*
Native American Periods
SS8H1a

- Prehistoric Indians are not classified by tribes; they are classified by time periods
  - Paleo: 10,000 B.C. – 8,000 B.C.
  - Archaic: 8,000 B.C. – 1,000 B.C.
  - Woodland: 1,000 B.C. – 1,000 A.D.
  - Mississippian: 1,000 A.D. – 1,600 A.D.
How did they get here?

SS8H1a

- Twenty thousand years ago, the earth experienced an ice age.
- Frozen water formed huge glaciers that covered the northern portion of America, Europe, and Asia.
- The Bering Strait became a huge land bridge known as Beringia.
- It connected Asia to North America.
Paleo Period
SS8H1a

- Paleo Indians
- 10,000 B.C. – 8,000 B.C.
  - 1st humans in America
  - Came over land bridge called “Beringia”
  - Nomadic-followed the food, no permanent shelters
  - No evidence of religion
  - Through archaeology, we can learn more about these people
Paleo Period
SS8H1a

- Paleo continued
- Weapons
  - spear with a Clovis point to hunt large game
- Food
  - Berries
  - Large game like bison, mastodons, sloths
Paleo shelters: nonpermanent... sometimes just a pit covered with brush or hides, or under a ledge
Paleo Shelters
Paleo Hunting
SS8H1a

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
Paleo Period
Archaic Period

SS8H1a

- Archaic Period
- 8,000 B.C. – 1,000 B.C.
  - During this time, people often traveled in small groups, or clans.
  - Clan = a group of people with the same family origins.
  - Weapons: spear, atlatl
  - New weaponry = new food choices
    - small game, deer, bear, fruits, vegetables, oysters, shellfish
  - Tools used: stone scrapers, pottery (Archaic are 1st to use pottery)
Archaic SS8H1a

- Archaic Period continued...
  - Climate changed during this time: warmer & drier
  - Clans migrated less, most basic needs met
  - No evidence of long term or permanent shelters, semi-permanent.
  - Wood poles covered with hides, branches, or bark
Archaic Period
SS8H1a

- Archaic Period had...
  - No bow and arrow
  - No developed agriculture (farming)
  - Religion: some burial of dead with tools, weapons, and body ornaments. (suggesting belief in afterlife)
Woodland Period

SS8H1a

- Woodland Period
  - (1,000 B.C. – 1,000 A.D.)
- The Woodland Period is identified throughout the Eastern United States. It is characterized by an increased dependence on cultivation, the concentration of the population into more permanent towns and villages, a widespread emphasis on ceremony, and the introduction of the bow and arrow.
Woodland Period
SS8H1a

- Food: Fishing, gathering plants, hunting
- Shelter: Sturdy houses in villages
Woodland Period
SS8H1a

- Woodland Indians developed bows and arrows.
- Highly effective, single hunter could bring down game such as white tail deer.
- Agriculture developed
- Agriculture - the practice of growing specific plants for food.
- 1st ones to use seeds
  - most common crop - corn
Woodland Period

What can we learn about technological innovations from this picture?
Woodland Period
SS8H1a

- Religion:
  - Woodland period witnessed an increase in ritual and ceremonialism.
  - 1st use of burial mounds, and ceremonial objects

- The earliest earthen and rock mounds in Georgia date to the Middle Woodland. The mounds contain skeletons, elaborate grave articles such as pottery, jewelry, and beads, which were buried with the dead.

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
Mississippian Period
SS8H1a

- Mississippian Period:
  - 1,000 A.D. – 1,600 A.D.
- Weapons: Bow and arrow
- Food:
  - Deer, turkey, and other small game
  - Ability to store food
  - First to grow beans (protein source)
  - organized agriculture:
    - Corn, beans, squash
Mississippian Period
SS8H1a

- Shelters:
  - Large Permanent Settlements
  - arranged in small towns
  - Wattle and daub homes
    - Frame of branches and mud covered with thatch
Mississippian Town
Mississippian Period

SS8H1a

- Mississippian Period Indians are known for building large earthen mounds for ceremonial purposes
  - Burial mounds
  - Ceremonial mounds for offerings
  - Temple mounds for worship.
  - Sometimes served as the center of village life.
Mississippian Period
SS8H1a

- Mississippians lived in villages called chiefdoms.
  - Chiefdom = a small society in which one person, a chief, makes most decisions.
- Mississippians traded among themselves over a large area
- This trade gave their villages access to many goods
  - Shell, copper, ceramic objects
Mississippian Period Artifacts
SS8H1a

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
Mississippian Period Artifacts

SS8H1a
Mississippian Period
Mississippian Period
SS8H1a

- The Mississippian Period in Georgia was brought to an end by the increasing European presence in the Southeast.
  - Hernando de Soto led an expedition through Georgia which brought him in contact with the Mississippian Period Indians around 1540 A.D.
- Europeans brought metal weapons but also diseases that devastated native populations.
- Many remnant populations came together to form historically known native groups such as the Creeks, Cherokees, and Seminoles.
Prehistoric Sites in Georgia

- Archaeologists have found evidence of all four periods of prehistoric Indians in Georgia. However, there are five notable sites in Georgia you should know about.
  - Rock Eagle - Woodland Period
  - Fort Mountain - Woodland Period
  - Kolomoki Mounds - Woodland Period
  - Ocmulgee Mounds - Mississippian Period
  - Etowah Mounds - Mississippian Period
Rock Eagle- Woodland Period

Effigy of a bird (buzzard)

In Putnam County near Eatonton, 102’ long, 120’ wide, Built 200 A.D.
Fort Mountain

- Fort Mountain - Woodland Period
- 855’ long rock wall
- On top of a Fort Mountain
- Near Chatsworth
Kolomoki Mounds

- Kolomoki Mounds - Woodland Period
- 7 preserved mounds
- Early county near Blakely
- Originally thought to be Mississippian but proven to date back to Woodland Period
Ocmulgee Mounds

- Ocmulgee Mounds - Mississippian Period
- Large impressive group of mounds along the fall line (On Ocmulgee River)
- Near Macon
Etowah Mounds

- Etowah Mounds - Mississippian Period
- 54 acre town 6 mounds (3 preserved)
- Near Cartersville, Bartow County
- Largest mound is 60’ tall making it one of the largest in North America
- On the banks of the Etowah River
THE BIG IDEA

- SS8H1: The student will **evaluate** the development of Native American cultures and the impact of European exploration and settlement on the Native American cultures in Georgia.

  - Evaluate - to make a judgment as to the worth or value of something; *judge, assess*
Prehistoric Indians
SS8H1a

In your notebook:
- **Evaluate** the development of Native American cultures in Georgia.
  - Evaluate: to make a judgment as to the worth or value of something

Georgia Studies: Unit 2
 Evaluate the development of Native American cultures in Georgia.

Evaluate: to make a judgment as to the worth or value of something.
Can you answer the Essential Questions now?

- Movement and Migration
  - How did various developments in the culture of prehistoric Native Americans mark their evolution from the Paleo period through the Mississippian Period? (H1a, E1)
  - What impact did environment have on the development of the prehistoric Native American cultures? (H1a, E1)