

January 2, 1788

Georgia Becomes a State

Nicknamed the "Empire State of the South" and the "Peach State," Georgia was the last of the original thirteen colonies to be founded. It wasted no time moving into first place in several areas through its history. The University of Georgia was the first state-supported university in the United States to be given a charter, and Georgia became the first state to have a woman serve in the United States Senate. It was also the first state to give the right to vote to 18-year-olds. Georgia is also said to have had the first-known newspaper in the United States published in a Native American language. Georgia is the state with the largest land area east of the Mississippi River. It is important as an agricultural, timber, and manufacturing state in the economy of the country. Marble from Georgia has been used in the building of the capitols of many states and was used in the building of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Many famous people are from Georgia, including Margaret Mitchell, Martin Luther King, Jr., Jackie Robinson, Ty Cobb, Clarence Thomas, Jimmy Carter, Alexander Stephens, Truett Cathy, and Ellen Wilson.

Look at the map of Georgia below. Label the capital of Georgia. Locate the cities of Augusta, Columbus, Savannah, Athens, Macon, Warm Springs, Brunswick, Toccoa, Dawsonville, Cartersville, Rome, Valdosta, Jesup, Calhoun, Chatsworth, LaGrange, Dalton, and Bainbridge, and label them on the map. Now label the Appalachian Mountains, Blue Ridge Mountain Range, Stone Mountain, Brasstown Bald Mountain (Mount Enotah), Eagle Mountain, and Cowpen Mountain. Also, locate the Suwannee River, Altamaha River, Chattahoochee River, Flint River, Savannah River, Etowah River, Oconee River, Allatoona Lake, Hartwell Lake, J. Strom Thurmond Lake, Lake Sidney Lanier, Lake Seminole, Lake Sinclair, Lake Oconee, and the Okefenokee Swamp, and label them. Lastly, label the states, provinces, or bodies of water that border Georgia. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Georgia history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Georgia History

1540

1732

1733

1751

1763

1778

1785

1788

1793

1805

1828

1838

1861

1863

1870

1922

1943

1961

1973

1976

1. James Oglethorpe and a group of settlers arrive to settle the new colony of Georgia
2. The *Cherokee Phoenix*, which is the first-known newspaper in the United States to be published in a Native American language, is first published
3. Georgia is the first state to allow 18-year-olds to vote
4. British troops attack and capture Savannah in a surprise attack
5. The first African American mayor of a large southern city is elected in Atlanta
6. The first assembly and examination of the Georgia colonial militia occurs
7. The Battle of Chickamauga is won by the Confederate Army
8. Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin near Savannah
9. Georgia secedes from the Union to join the Confederate States of America
10. King George II gives a charter for 21 years for the Georgia colony, named after himself
11. Rebecca L. Felton becomes the first woman U.S. Senator, serving only one day while Congress is in session
12. The *Augusta Chronicle* is first published; it is the oldest newspaper published that is still being published today
13. African American children attend all-white schools for the first time in Georgia
14. Georgia's first land lottery drawings are held
15. Jimmy Carter, former governor of Georgia, is elected president of the United States
16. Hernando de Soto leads his expedition through present-day Georgia on his way to the Mississippi River
17. The last of the Cherokee in Georgia are moved to present-day Oklahoma by federal troops
18. Georgia becomes the fourth state in the Union
19. Georgia's first newspaper, the *Georgia Gazette*, is founded
20. Georgia is permanently readmitted to the Union

Research Prompt #1

George Whitefield was named to serve as minister to Georgia by the Trustees that oversaw the Georgia colony. Do a little research on George Whitefield and write about his life and the ways in which he helped the Georgia colony.

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Research Prompt #2

Beginning around 1744, the colony of Georgia struggled financially under the leadership of the Trustees. However, some of the non-English settlers were faring relatively well in their agricultural pursuits. What do you think caused the difference? Although slavery had not been allowed in the Georgia colony in the beginning, the move to allow it grew, with slavery finally being approved in 1751. Do you think slavery was the answer to success? Do you define success as financial or moral? Give your thoughts.

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Research Prompt #3

Research the “Spanish Flu” that occurred in 1918. This deadly epidemic ended with approximately 25 million deaths worldwide. How did it affect Georgia? Do you think another epidemic like this could happen again?

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Timeline of Georgia History

Answer Key

Hernando de Soto leads his expedition through present-day Georgia on his way to the Mississippi River	1540	
	1732	King George II gives a charter for 21 years for the Georgia colony, named after himself
James Oglethorpe and a group of settlers arrive to settle the new colony of Georgia	1733	
	1751	The first assembly and examination of the Georgia colonial militia occurs
Georgia's first newspaper, the <i>Georgia Gazette</i> , is founded	1763	
	1778	British troops attack and capture Savannah in a surprise attack
The <i>Augusta Chronicle</i> is first published; it is the oldest newspaper published that is still being published today	1785	
	1788	Georgia becomes the fourth state in the Union
Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin near Savannah	1793	
The <i>Cherokee Phoenix</i> , which is the first-known newspaper in the United States to be published in a Native American language, is first published	1805	Georgia's first land lottery drawings are held
	1828	
	1838	The last of the Cherokee in Georgia are moved to present-day Oklahoma by federal troops
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Georgia is permanently readmitted to the Union	1870	
	1922	Rebecca L. Felton becomes the first woman U.S. Senator, serving only one day while Congress is in session
Georgia is the first state to allow 18-year-olds to vote	1943	
	1961	African American children attend all-white schools for the first time in Georgia
The first African American mayor of a large southern city is elected in Atlanta	1973	
	1976	Jimmy Carter, former governor of Georgia, is elected president of the United States