

8th Grade Georgia History Summer Packet

Georgia Places & Figures Focus

Week 1: Georgia's Geography & Early Settlements

Activity 1: Map Skills & Georgia Landmarks

Using a map of Georgia, locate and label the following places:

1. **Major Cities:** Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Athens
2. **Geographic Features:**
 - a. Appalachian Mountains (north)
 - b. Piedmont Region (central)
 - c. Coastal Plain (south)
 - d. Okefenokee Swamp (southeast)
3. **Historic Sites:**
 - a. Fort Frederica (St. Simons Island)
 - b. Savannah (colonial settlement)
 - c. Stone Mountain



Week 2: Founding Figures of Georgia

Activity 2: Research Georgia Founders

Choose **two** of these Georgia figures and complete a fact sheet for each:

James Oglethorpe | Tomochichi | Mary Musgrove

For each figure, include:

- Birth/death dates
- Role in Georgia's founding
- Major accomplishments
- How they impacted Georgia
- One interesting fact

Format: Write 1 paragraph per figure (5-7 sentences each).

Week 3: Georgia's Role in the American Revolution

Activity 3: Revolutionary War Figures & Events

Research and answer the following:

1. **Lyman Hall:** Who was he and what was his role in Georgia's independence?
2. **Button Gwinnett:** What was his contribution to Georgia during the Revolution?
3. **Etowah River Valley:** Why was this area strategically important during the war?
4. **Savannah:** What major battle occurred there, and what were the results?

Write 2-3 sentences for each answer.

Week 4: Civil War & Reconstruction Georgia

Activity 4: Georgia During the Civil War

Complete the following:

1. **Atlanta:** Describe Sherman's March to the Sea and its impact on Atlanta. Why was Atlanta significant to the Confederacy?
2. **Fort Sumter & Georgia:** Georgia seceded in January 1861. Why was this significant?
3. **Georgia Leaders:** Research one of these figures:
 - a. Alexander Stephens (Vice President of the Confederacy)
 - b. Robert E. Lee's Georgia connections

Week 5: New South Georgia Figures

Activity 5: Business & Community Leaders

Research and create fact sheets for **two** of these Georgia business leaders:

Alonzo Herndon | Joel Chandler Harris | Henry Grady

For each, include:

- Their profession/business
- Their major accomplishments
- How they shaped Atlanta or Georgia
- Their lasting legacy
- 1-2 interesting facts

Week 6: Civil Rights & Modern Georgia Leaders

Activity 6: Civil Rights Figures

Choose **one** Georgia figure and write a 1-2 page biography:

Option A: Booker T. Washington - His Atlanta Compromise speech and philosophy

Option B: W.E.B. Du Bois - Born in Great Barrington but influenced Georgia; his "Talented Tenth" concept

Option C: John Lewis - Born in Troy, Alabama but served Georgia; his role in the Civil Rights Movement

Option D: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - Born in Atlanta; his leadership and legacy

Writing Requirements:

- 1-2 full pages (250-400 words)
- Include at least 4 specific facts
- Explain their impact on Georgia and America
- Use formal tone

Week 7: Georgia's Modern Leaders

Activity 7: 20th Century Georgia Figures

Research and compare **two** of these modern Georgia leaders:

William B. Hartsfield (Mayor of Atlanta) | **Ivan Allen Jr.** (Mayor of Atlanta) | **Jimmy Carter** (Georgia Governor & U.S. President) | **Maynard Jackson** (Mayor of Atlanta)

Create a **comparison chart** with:

- Time period served
- Major accomplishments
- Impact on Georgia
- How they changed their city/state

Week 8: Historic Georgia Places**Activity 8: Georgia Landmarks & Historic Sites**

Choose **three** of the following Georgia places and research each:

- **Stone Mountain** - Its history and significance
- **Fort Sumter** - Georgia's role in the Civil War
- **Savannah Historic District** - Colonial and Civil War history
- **Atlanta History Center** - Major events in Atlanta's development
- **Andersonville National Historic Site** - Civil War prisoner camp
- **Ocmulgee National Monument** - Native American history near Macon
- **Jekyll Island** - Georgia's Golden Isles history

For each place, write:

- What happened there and when
- Why it's historically significant
- What you can learn about Georgia there
- 2-3 sentences each