

Georgia Studies examines the geography, history, government, and economics of the state of Georgia. Through critical reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, this course fosters and develops vital historical analysis skills such as chronology and periodization, understanding context and bias within historical evidence, conducting historical research, and employing geographical thinking.

Starting 12,000 years ago with Georgia's earliest inhabitants, Georgia Studies traces the state's major events and milestones through to the present. In the first semester students explore the impact of European exploration on Georgia's indigenous populations, examine the history of the colonial and early state years, and take a deep dive into Georgia's role in the Civil War and Reconstruction. In the second semester students examine the New South era, followed by major 20th century events, including the World Wars and the Civil Rights Movement. Students also explore elements of modern Georgia, including the state's legal system, government structures, and economy.

This course is built to the eighth-grade Georgia Standards of Excellence.

## UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO GEORGIA STUDIES

- Lesson 1: Thinking Chronologically and Connecting Themes
- Lesson 2: Reading Historical Evidence
- Lesson 3: Thinking Geographically
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Introduction to Georgia Studies

## UNIT 2: BEFORE GEORGIA WAS A STATE

- Lesson 1: Georgia's First Inhabitants
- Lesson 2: European Exploration and Colonization
- Lesson 3: Colonial Georgia
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Before Georgia Was a State

## UNIT 3: GEORGIA STATEHOOD

- Lesson 1: Georgia in the Revolutionary Era
- Lesson 2: Constitutional Foundations
- Lesson 3: Growth, Prosperity, and Conflict
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Georgia Statehood

## UNIT 4: GEORGIA IN A DIVIDED NATION

- Lesson 1: Georgia's Old South
- Lesson 2: A Divided Nation
- Lesson 3: The Civil War
- Lesson 4: Reconstruction in Georgia
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Georgia in a Divided Nation

## UNIT 5: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap-Up

## UNIT 6: GEORGIA ENTERS THE 20TH CENTURY

- Lesson 1: Georgia in the New South Era
- Lesson 2: The Rise of Jim Crow
- Lesson 3: Political Challenges and Social Reform
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Georgia Enters the Twentieth Century

## **UNIT 7: MODERNIZING GEORGIA**

- Lesson 1: World War I
- Lesson 2: Great Depression and the New Deal
- Lesson 3: World War II
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Modernizing Georgia

## **UNIT 8: MODERN GEORGIA**

- Lesson 1: Georgia in the Post-War Era and Cold War
- Lesson 2: The Civil Rights Movement
- Lesson 3: Georgia's Place in the Sun
- Lesson 4: Georgia's Modern Culture and Demographics
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Modern Georgia

## **UNIT 9: GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDINGS**

- Lesson 1: The Foundations of Government
- Lesson 2: State and Local Government
- Lesson 3: Economics and Personal Financial Literacy
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Government and Economic Understandings

## **UNIT 10: SEMESTER WRAP-UP**

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap-Up