

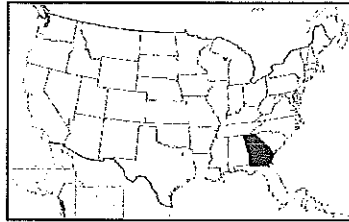
## Geographic Understandings

### SS8G1 Describe Georgia's geography and climate.

- a. Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.

The state of Georgia is located in the southeastern United States. It is located on the continent of North America, and it is in the Northern (latitude) and Western (longitude) Hemispheres.

Though knowing Georgia's location appears rather simple it may be worth going over this information in depth with your students. For example, since Georgia is often referred to as a "Southern State" sometimes students will mistakenly answer that it is located in the "Southern Hemisphere."



Georgia in the  
Southeastern USA



Northern  
Hemisphere



Western  
Hemisphere

### Glossary

- **Continent** - the world's largest land masses.
- **Hemispheres** - lines of latitude and longitude that divide the earth into halves.
- **Nation** - a land mass inhabited by people who share a common territory and government.

### SS8G1 Describe Georgia's geography and climate.

- b. Distinguish among the five geographic regions of Georgia in terms of location, climate, agriculture, and economic contributions.

The state of Georgia is divided into five geographic regions. In the north, there are three small mountainous regions, each with a differing topography. In the middle of the state is the hilly Piedmont area which is home to many of Georgia's largest cities including Atlanta. Finally, the state is dominated by the Coastal Plain region, which takes up three-fifths of Georgia. The Coastal Plain, which is divided into an inner and outer section, was actually covered by water millions of years ago.

#### The Appalachian Plateau Region

**Location:** This region is located in northwest Georgia; known as the TAG corner (the region connects with Tennessee and Alabama).

**Physical Characteristics:** This region features flat or gently sloping land sitting above surrounding valleys.

**Climate:** The climate of this region has cooler temperatures due to its higher elevation (1800-2000 feet above sea level) and northern latitude. Summer temperatures can reach to the 80's and occasionally the 90's while during the winter months, temperatures span from the 20's to the 40's. During winter months, some snow (average of 5 inches per year) and ice cover the region.

**Agriculture:** Agriculture is limited due to poor soil. However, some corn and soybeans are produced in this region.

**Economic Contributions:** Historically, mining has been important to the economy of the region. Gold mining opportunities have encouraged tourists to enjoy the region. The harvesting of timber is profitable for the region.

**Interesting features:** Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest peak, and the beginning of the Appalachian Trail brings tourists to the region. Dahlonega, the home to the United States' first gold rush, offers mining opportunities to willing tourists.

### The Piedmont Region

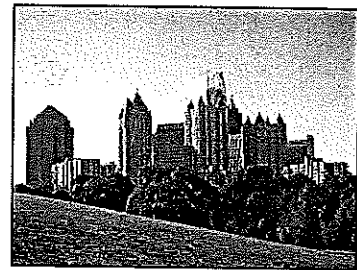
**Location:** The Piedmont region is located in the central part of the state and occupies approximately 30% of the land in the state. The Appalachian Mountain regions (Appalachian Plateau, Valley and Ridge, and the Blue Ridge) are north of the Piedmont while the **Fall Line** separates the Piedmont from its southern neighbor, the Coastal Plain. **(Note: More information on the Fall Line is found in notes for SS8G1c)**

**Physical Characteristics:** The Piedmont is characterized by gently rolling hills. The term *Piedmont* means "foot of the hills". Also, featured in this region are major rivers flowing toward the Coastal Plain. These rivers tend to be shallow and can feature waterfalls or rapids. Red clay, formed when water mixes with the iron rust, is a characteristic of this region.

**Climate:** This region's climate can be steamy and hot in the summers and can deliver snow in the winters. Temperatures can reach into the 90's in the summers and into the 20's during the winter months.

**Agriculture:** This region is home to significant agricultural production. Crops produced include cotton, soybeans, and wheat. Poultry/eggs, hogs, and cattle/beef are products of this region.

**Economic Contributions:** Timber is harvested in the Piedmont region. This highly industrialized region is devoted to the production of a diverse type of products, including carpet milling, aircraft and automobile manufacturing, and poultry processing. While agriculture is still economically important in this region, animal products such as poultry, eggs, and beef are dominant.



Midtown Atlanta Skyline

**Interesting features:** The Piedmont region is the second largest in the state. This region features the urban cities of Atlanta, Columbus, Macon and Augusta among others. Tornadoes can exact destruction in this region.

### The Coastal Plain Region

**Location:** The Coastal Plain region is the southernmost region in the state.

**Physical Characteristics:** This region, 60% of the state, can be divided into two regions: the Inner Coastal Plain and the Outer Coastal Plain. The Inner Coastal Plain (in the western part of the region) is the agricultural heartland of the state. The Outer Coastal Plain includes the coast of Georgia and the Okefenokee Swamp. Major rivers flow through this region to the Georgia coast or the Gulf of Mexico.

**Climate:** This region of Georgia is characterized by hot, steamy summers and cool winters. Snowfall and ice are less likely to occur in this region.