





# Testing a Nation

**T**he fighting was over, and the United States was a free country. However, the new constitution—the Articles of Confederation—was not strong enough to hold the new states together. A new document and a greater commitment were needed for the new nation to survive. The path to the U.S. Constitution was not easy, but it resulted in a document that has served us well for over two hundred years.

While the United States was one nation, society, politics, economics, and culture were different in each major section of the country. The differences, perhaps, were sharpest between the northern and the southern states. From the early 1800s until the middle 1800s, people talked about these differences at socials and church meetings. Newspaper men wrote about them, and politicians made them the subject of speeches. The differences eventually led to conflict. That conflict led to secession, war, and Reconstruction, and marks one of the most difficult periods in Georgia's history.



**Left:** The home of secessionist and Confederate Secretary of State Robert Toombs in Washington, Ga. **Above:** Re-enactors of Battle of Chickamauga.

**Below:** In 1825, the Cherokee Nation chose New Echota, near present-day Calhoun, to be its permanent capital. In 1830, the town had fifty residents, a main street sixty feet wide, and a two-acre town square. Prominent buildings included the Supreme Court-house (right) and the office of the *Cherokee Phoenix* (below).

# An Age of Expansion



## Chapter Preview

**T**he Treaty of Paris of 1783 brought an end to the young nation's struggle for independence from Great Britain. In later years, the country adopted a new constitution, established the process for amending that constitution, and laid the foundation for a workable government. Georgia too rewrote its constitution.

The state worked to recover from the chaos of the war. Developments in farming and transportation improved the state's economy.

Georgia and the nation pushed their boundaries further west. In their desire for more land, the settlers pushed the Native Americans off their land and led eventually to the Trail of Tears.

**Georgia character word:**  
Fairness

**Terms:** U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, General Assembly, headright system, Yazoo land fraud, Louisiana Purchase, depression, turnpike, embargo, syllabary, Oconee War, Treaty of New York, Red Sticks, White Sticks, Treaty of Indian Springs, litigation, emigrate, Trail of Tears

**People:** William Few, Abraham Baldwin, Thomas Jefferson, George Mathews, Eli Whitney, Andrew Jackson, James Vann, Sequoyah, Elias Boudinot, Alexander McGillivray, William McIntosh, Benjamin Parks, Samuel Worchester, Augustin Clayton, Winfield Scott

**Places:** Louisville, Chattahoochee River, Terminus, Atlanta, New Echota, Fort Mims, Auraria, Dahlonega

**Section 1** Creating a New Government

**Section 2** Land Fever in Georgia

**Section 3** Economic Growth in Georgia

**Section 4** Georgia at the Dawn of a New Century

**Section 5** The War of 1812

**Section 6** Native Americans in Georgia



# Signs of the Times

## 1783-1838

**Population:** 516,823 in 1830, which was 4 percent of the U.S. population

**Life Expectancy:** 36 to 39 years

**Wages:** A young factory worker made about \$3.50 a week. A child working in the New England textile mills made \$.07 per day. An able seaman earned \$12 a month.

**Costs of Living:** A loaf of bread cost \$.03, a dozen eggs cost \$.12, a pound of butter cost \$.14, and a whole chicken cost \$.15. People receiving mail paid postage of \$.06 for up to 30 miles and \$.25 for over 400 miles. An education at Harvard ran about \$300 a year.

**Art/Architecture:** Successful artists of the day included Charles Peale and Ralph Earl. Federal style homes were popular. The English Gothic style was often used for churches, office buildings, and government buildings. Builders began adding landscaping to houses.

**Literature:** William Hill Brown published *The Power of Sympathy*, America's first novel. Washington Irving published *A History of New York* in 1809. Nathaniel Hawthorne published *Twice Told Tales*. Edgar Allan Poe published his first collections of poetry in 1827. The first "Mother Goose" stories were published in America.

**Music:** Band music was very popular as were the songs "Bound for the Promised Land," "Turkey in the Straw," "Oh Shenandoah," "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes," "Rock of Ages," and after the War of 1812, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

**Fads:** Political buttons first appeared. The game of craps, from a French game called "hazards," became a fad in New Orleans. Trotting contests in Boston became popular, and the winner was the horse who could run a mile in under three minutes. The first winner was a horse named Boston Blue.

**Fashions:** Moustaches became fashionable for men. The first shoes for right and left feet were introduced. After the invention of the cotton gin, cotton clothing became more popular. In towns and cities, men dressed in knee-high britches, white stockings, long tail coats, vests, and shirts. Women wore long gowns with three-quarter sleeves and low-cut bodices. Working women wore long skirts, petticoats, and jackets.

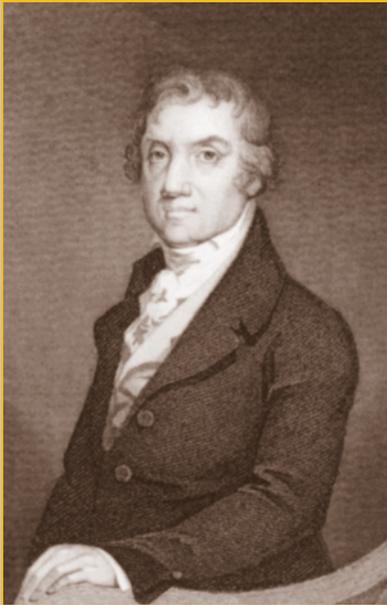


## Section 1

### Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the new constitutions for the nation and state, and
- **vocabulary terms:** U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and General Assembly.



**Above:** At the Constitutional Convention, Abraham Baldwin helped resolve the large state-small state representation crisis.

# Creating a New Government

The national government established by the Articles of Confederation had little power, which is what its authors wanted. Because of its weaknesses, the Confederation government could not make the thirteen separate states into one nation. In the summer of 1787, fifty-five delegates, representing every state except Rhode Island, met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. William Few and Abraham Baldwin were Georgia's representatives to the Constitutional Convention. This closed-door meeting actually resulted not in the revision of the Articles but in the creation of an entirely new government.

The details of these efforts are described in Chapter 14, but the government set in motion in 1787 is the same one we have in our nation today.

### The U.S. Constitution

The government that those fifty-five delegates created had three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch included a president, a vice president, and executive departments. The judicial branch provided for a system of courts to protect the rights of citizens. But it was the legislative branch that caused the most upheaval at the convention.

After months of arguing, the delegates determined that the legislative branch would have two houses: a Senate, with two delegates from each state, and a House of Representatives, with membership based on each state's population. With all of the slaves, the South had a larger population and would therefore have more representatives in the House. Delegates from the northern states did not want to count the slave population at all. Finally, the delegates compromised and decided that only three-fifths of the slave population would count toward representation.

### Did You Know?

Because he suffered from **rheumatism** and because he thought he needed to stay home to **manage his plantation**, **George Washington** almost refused to attend the **Constitutional Convention**. But he did go, and he served as its **chairman**.



## Did You Know?

The **Constitutional Convention** in Philadelphia was so **secret** that a **full account** of what went on there was **not made public** until almost **sixty years later**.

The delegates also provided for a method of amending, or making changes or additions to, the **U.S. Constitution** as times and circumstances dictated. The first ten amendments to the Constitution were added only a few years after the document was written. They are known as the **Bill of Rights**.

The new constitution was ratified by 1788; Georgia was the fourth state

to ratify it. The new government was in place the following year, and George Washington became the nation's first president. For that reason, he is called the "father of his country." Washington was not a particularly gifted public speaker or a farsighted innovator. In fact, John Adams called him "Old Muttonhead" behind his back. But Washington was beloved by his people and served as commander-in-chief for two terms. Washington never really wanted to be president. But he loved his new country, and he served as he was needed.

## A New Start for Georgia Too

In Georgia, years of hardship and change followed the Revolutionary War. The war showed that the state government was poorly equipped to deal with many of its problems. The war ruined the state's economy and divided its people. Many of Georgia's men had left their farms to fight; because of this, food was limited. The new state government had to ensure that families in need received such basic items as flour and corn meal until they could plant and harvest their own crops. The state also had to honor its commitments to those who had served in the war by making good on its promise to provide them with land.

In 1785, the capital of Georgia moved from Savannah to Augusta. During 1788 and 1789, delegates met there to make changes in the state constitution. After those changes were made, the Georgia constitution was very much like the national one. To ensure the separation of powers, the state established three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. But power, although separated, was not equally balanced.

The legislature, now called the **General Assembly**, was bicameral and included a senate and a house of representatives. Members were to be elected by popular vote. Legislators in the General Assembly selected the governor and other state officials, including the judges. More importantly, the legislators determined both how money was to be raised and how it was to be spent.

## It's Your Turn

1. Who were Georgia's representatives to the Constitutional Convention?
2. How was the Georgia government of 1789 different from that of 1777?



**Above:** William Few served in the Provincial Congress, the Georgia Assembly, and the Continental Congress before being named as a representative to the Constitutional Convention.

# American Spotlight

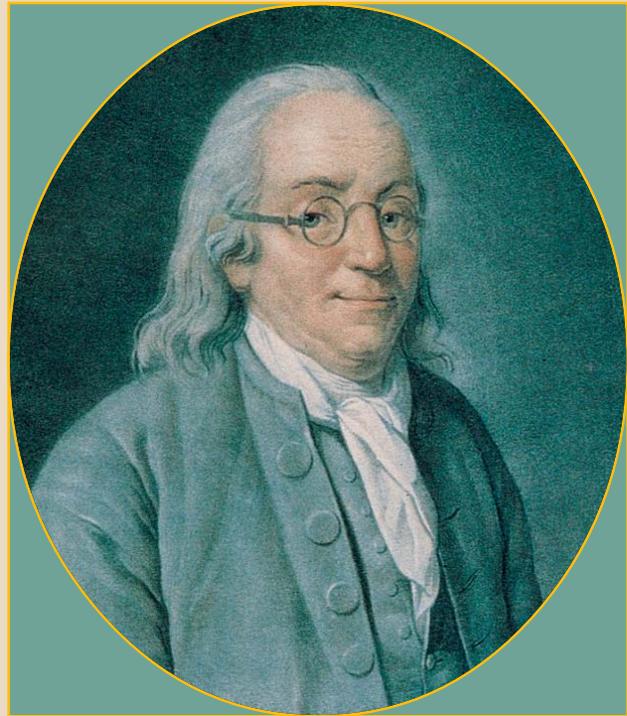
## A Man Ahead of His Time

**Benjamin Franklin was a writer, printer, inventor, scientist, historian, statesman, and diplomat.** Born in Boston the fifteenth of seventeen children, Franklin was a self-educated man. At age 12, Franklin was indentured as an apprentice at his brother's newspapers. While the two brothers did not get along, the job provided young Franklin with two things. He loved reading, and he learned the in's and out's of the printing business.

Benjamin's brother would not let him write for his publication, *The New England Courant*. So Franklin began to write a series of letters to the paper using the pen name "Silence Dogood." The witty letters were quite popular and usually dealt with political issues and her "natural jealousy for the rights and liberties of my country." Unfortunately, his brother discovered the trickery and silenced the young "Miss Dogood." But Ben had learned that he wanted to be a writer.

Franklin moved to Philadelphia, where he published his own newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. His most remarkable publication was *Poor Richard's Almanack*, which was a collection of practical information and advice about the weather, planting, and the calendar as well as a collection of short, concise sayings expressing general wisdom. It was these sayings, called *aphorisms*, that made his almanac such a success. Many of his clever sayings are still used today: "A fool and his money are soon parted." "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." "No gains without pains."

After he sold his almanac, Franklin turned to science and the service of his county. His inventions improved people's lives and included the Franklin stove, a lightning rod, bifocal glasses, and a modern printing press. Franklin was also responsible for such innovations as Daylight Savings Time and the first free public library. He established the first public hospital in Philadelphia and founded the University of Pennsylvania. His leadership in his city led to the first paving and lighting of city streets and the first fire station. His



**Above:** Ben Franklin was one of the "founding fathers."

saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" was related to fire safety, and he even established an insurance company to insure against home fire loss. That company is still in operation today.

Franklin worked hard for independence and was a representative to the Second Continental Congress. He edited the Declaration of Independence and was an ambassador to France, where he helped gain French support for the Revolutionary War.

Even in his late 70s, Franklin continued to try to help his country as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. His last contribution was an antislavery paper written in 1789. When he died the following year, over 20,000 people came to pay tribute to this incredibly gifted man.

## Land Fever in Georgia

Along with their hunger for independence from Great Britain, many Georgians of the late 1700s and early 1800s developed a huge appetite for land. During the settlement of the colony, much of the land east of the Oconee River belonging to the Indians was given to settlers by means of the **head-right system**. Under this system, each white male counted as a “head” of a family and had the “right” to receive up to 1,000 acres. Although parts of this system lasted until the early twentieth century, it was largely replaced by a land lottery in 1803.

When *public domain* lands (lands owned by the state or federal government) were opened for settlement, Georgia surveyed land lots of different sizes. This so-called lottery land was located west of the Oconee River. For a small fee, any white male twenty-one years of age or older could buy a chance and, on the spin of a wheel, win land. Heads of households with children, war veterans, and widows were given extra chances in the land lotteries. Other states also had lotteries, and about 30 million acres of land were given away through them.

### The Yazoo Land Fraud

Georgians’ growing hunger for land reached a peak in 1795. At that time, Georgia’s western borders were the Mississippi River and one of its *tributaries* (branches), the Yazoo River. Included in this territory were the present states of Mississippi and Alabama. Both South Carolina and Spain also claimed some of the same land, and the matter went to court for settlement.

Before any settlement was made, however, four land companies approached Governor George Mathews and members of the General Assembly and bribed them to pass a bill allowing the land companies to buy the western lands. When the Assembly enacted the bill, the land companies bought between 35 and 50 million acres of land for \$500,000—about 1½ cents an acre.

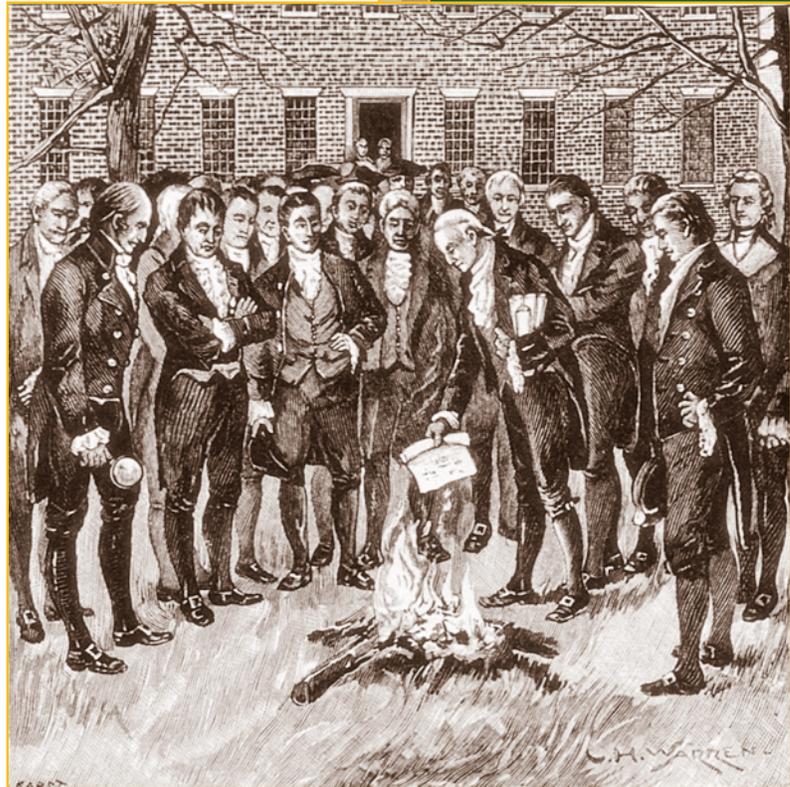
The public quickly learned of this bargain basement sale, and there were protests all over the state. Newspapers printed articles telling what the legislators had done. Grand juries met to

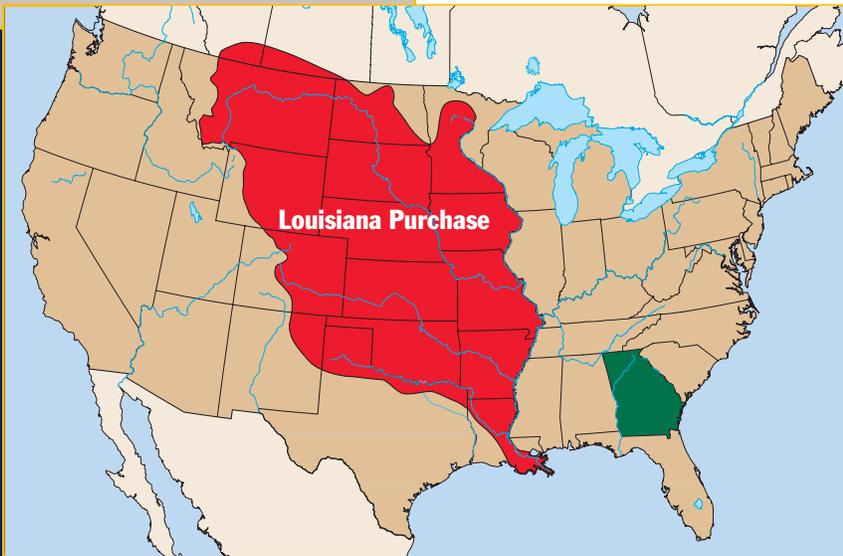
## Section Preview

**As you read, look for:**

- the ways settlers could get land in Georgia,
- the problems caused by the Yazoo land fraud, and
- **vocabulary terms:** headright system, Yazoo land fraud, and Louisiana Purchase.

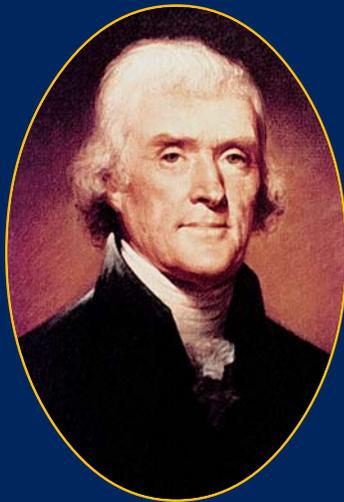
**Below:** On February 21, 1796, all the records of the Yazoo land sales were collected and burned in front of the State Capitol building (then in Louisville). The “Holy Fire from Heaven” was started with the aid of a magnifying glass.





## Map 26 The Louisiana Purchase

**Map Skill:** What natural feature formed the eastern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase?



**Above:** In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson's desire to control the port of New Orleans led to the Louisiana Purchase.

look into both the law and the land sales. Many citizens called for the resignations of the legislators involved in what became known as the **Yazoo land fraud**.

As a result of public anger and pressure, the legislators involved were voted out of office. The new legislature repealed the law that had allowed the land to be sold. All records of these land sales were burned in public at Louisville, which had become the state capital of Georgia in 1796.

The state offered to refund the money from the land sales. However, there were many people who had bought land from the land companies and wanted to keep it. These people went to court. Finally, the federal government resolved the matter by paying over \$4 million to settle the Yazoo land claims.

## Georgia Cedes Western Land

Contrary to its initial hopes, Georgia lost rather than gained from the Yazoo land scheme. The state lost a large part of its land and a lot of money because of the failed plan. Also, after Spain renounced its claims to the area, the federal government contested Georgia's right to it. The long aftermath of the Yazoo affair created bad feelings among many of the state's citizens, and they appealed to the legislature to give in to the federal government. Therefore, in 1802, Georgia *ceded* (gave up) its land west of the Chattahoochee River to the federal government for \$1.25 million, making the river Georgia's western boundary.

The new nation was acquiring land in other ways. Thomas Jefferson became the country's third president in 1800, succeeding John Adams. In 1803, President Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million. This transaction, which was known as the **Louisiana Purchase**, doubled the size of the country. The United States now extended west to the Rocky Mountains.

## It's Your Turn

1. What two methods were used in Georgia to distribute land in the late 1700s and early 1800s?
2. What happened to the members of the Georgia legislature involved in the Yazoo land fraud?
3. What 1803 transaction between France and the United States doubled the land area of our country?

## Section 3

# Economic Growth in Georgia



## Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the impact of the cotton gin and mechanical reaper on agriculture,
- improvements in transportation, and
- **vocabulary terms:** depression and turnpike.

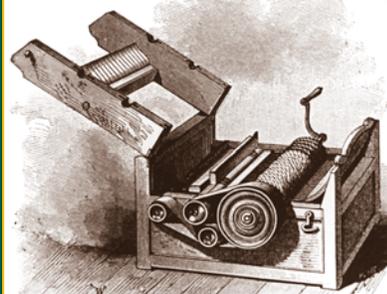
As it had elsewhere in the new nation, the Revolutionary War brought financial chaos to Georgia. The state had no money to pay its huge war debts, and few citizens had money to pay taxes. When the British left Savannah toward the end of the war, one thousand Tories went with them. They took with them the equivalent of thousands of dollars, plus four to six thousand slaves and indentured servants.

But the period following the war also brought developments that made the future a little brighter for both Georgia and the rest of the nation. The development of mechanized farming tools, steamboats, and railroad engines and the many advances in industry, business, and commerce were all part of the Industrial Revolution in America.

### Farming

Many of Georgia's rice and indigo plantations were in ruins after the war. There were also questions about who owned land. Tories, who had remained loyal to Great Britain, had their lands taken during the pre-Revolutionary

**Above:** In 1819, the *Savannah* was the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean, sailing from Savannah, Georgia, to Liverpool, England.



**Top:** Eli Whitney established the factory that was the first known example of mass production in America. **Above:** The cotton gin was cheap and easy to make and revolutionized the farming of cotton.

could make a machine that would speed up the work done so slowly by hand.

After working several weeks, Whitney had developed a model for a cotton machine. He made the machine with wire teeth on a turning cylinder. It did separate the cotton from the seeds, but the lint got caught in the wire teeth and stopped up the machine. Several legends say that Mrs. Miller saw the machine's problem, took a clothes brush, and brushed the lint off the teeth. No one knows how much help Mrs. Miller really gave Whitney. In any event, before long, he built a factory near Augusta and had a working cotton engine, later shortened to just "gin."

period. When the British were in charge of the state during the war, they returned the land to the Tories. After the war, lands were again taken from the Tories and given to former soldiers. In some cases, two or three families claimed the same piece of land. It took time to decide which family would keep the land.

Georgia at least had land and enough people to work it. It also had two agricultural crops that were soon in great demand: cotton and tobacco. Over the next thirty years, cotton became "king" in the South. This development greatly changed the lives of all Georgians, white and black.

### A Man Named Eli

In 1793, Eli Whitney visited the home of Mrs. Catherine Greene Miller at Mulberry Grove Plantation near Savannah. Whitney, a friend of the family, was a schoolteacher and an inventor from Westborough, Massachusetts.

As the story goes, Mrs. Miller asked Whitney to repair a broken watch, which he agreed to do. Not long afterward, a visitor to the Miller home wished aloud for a machine to separate cotton fiber from its seed. Mrs. Miller, remembering the watch repair, asked Whitney if he

### Did You Know?

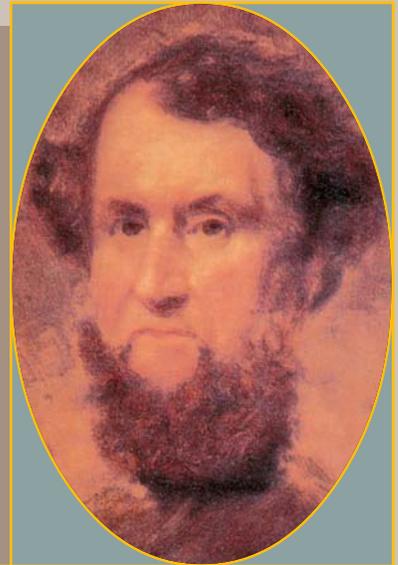
Eli Whitney earned virtually **nothing** from his invention. Because so much cotton was planted, the planters "**pirated**" the gin before Whitney could **register his patent**. He had to appeal to **Congress** to save him from **financial ruin**.

Cotton growers welcomed Whitney's gin. Before its invention, a worker might have been able to separate six or seven pounds of cotton seed a day by hand. After the cotton gin's introduction, workers were able to separate about fifty pounds a day.

### The Mechanical Reaper

Another agricultural invention, the mechanical reaper, further revolutionized the way work was done on a farm. The reaper, invented by Cyrus McCormick, had wooden paddles fastened to the harness of a horse. As a farmer guided the horse through his fields, the paddles turned and cut the grain. Using it, a farmer could cut six times more grain in a day than he could with a hand-held scythe.

Time- and labor-saving devices such as the cotton gin and grain reaper enabled Georgians to work larger and more profitable farms.



### The Panic of 1837

Improved ways of farming helped Georgia's economy become strong after the Revolution. However, the boom period suddenly ended, causing the Panic of 1837. This was followed by a **depression** (a sharp economic downturn) that lasted into the early 1840s. During the depression years, many businesses failed, and many farmers and planters lost their land. Most banks did not have enough cash to pay out money that had been deposited with them. These banks failed, some closing for good. At the height of the depression, only eleven banks were open in Georgia.



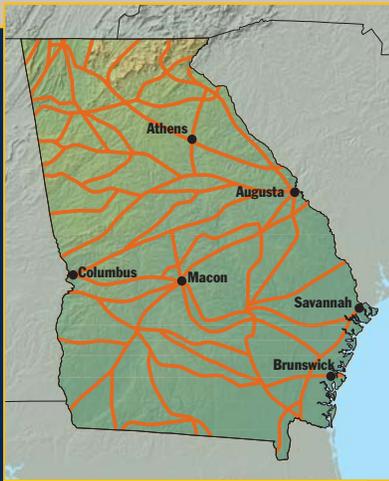
### Transportation

A major economic development during the early 1800s was the building of railroads. Before the railroads were built, people traveled on horses, boats, or stagecoaches. Freight was sent to market by riverboats, ferries, or wagon trains.

Many of Georgia's roads were stagecoach trails cut where Indian footpaths had been. Most of the roads ran from east to west. Stagecoaches ran regularly from Savannah to Athens in the north and Brunswick in the south. Augusta was the main east-west gateway into the state. A main stagecoach line connected Augusta and Columbus by way of Macon, but the stagecoaches could only cover thirty to forty miles a day.

Roads in wet, swampy places had logs across them and were known as *plank roads*. The federal government built some major highways in the early 1800s. These roads were called **turnpikes** because they had "pikes" or gates.

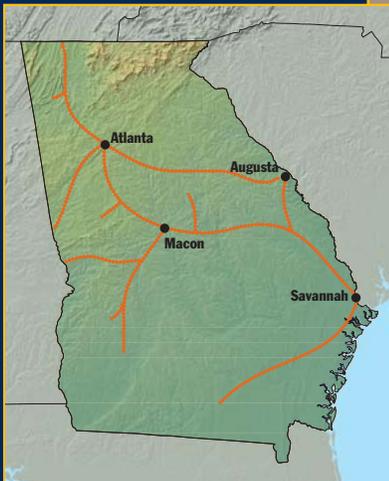
**Top:** Cyrus McCormick was only 22 when he invented the mechanical reaper. **Above:** In 1851, McCormick's reaper won the highest award of the day, the Gold Medal, at London's Crystal Palace Exhibition.



## Map 27 Early Georgia Roads

**Map Skill:** Why do you think most of the early roads ran east-west?

**Above right:** Stagecoach trips were long, slow, and bumpy.



## Map 28 Early Georgia Railroads

**Map Skill:** Was it possible to go from Savannah to Atlanta by railroad?



## Did You Know?

In 1842, **Terminus** was renamed **Marthasville**, in honor of the daughter of former governor **Wilson Lumpkin**.

Travelers had to pay a fee at each pike to remain on the road, much like present-day toll roads. Among these turnpikes was the Old Federal Road, built in 1815 to run from Athens north through Cherokee territory into Tennessee. However, even the “good” roads were poor until the late 1800s.

Ferries were an important mode of transportation. These unique horse-drawn log rafts carried travelers across the rivers at their shallowest points, especially along the Flint River. In deeper river waters, the ferries used a pulley and cable system. That required a strong back and arm as the ferry operator pulled the raft across the river.

At first, rail travel was, perhaps, the least favored means of transportation. In 1830, there were only 13 miles of laid track in the United States, and those belonged to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. But just ten years later, there were 3,300 miles of track. Most of the track in Georgia belonged to the Western and Atlantic Railroad, which was chartered in 1836. The Western and Atlantic ran from a point near present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee, to a point on the southeastern bank of the Chattahoochee River. That point was called Terminus, which literally means the end of a railroad line. Today it is known as Atlanta. The railroads dramatically shortened travel time for both passengers and freight, reducing to hours trips that had previously taken days.

## It's Your Turn

1. What two crops produced in Georgia were in great demand?
2. What was Eli Whitney's invention? How did it affect the growing of cotton?
3. Who demonstrated the first mechanical grain reaper?

# Spotlight on the Economy

## A Changing Economy

**Two major changes took place** in America's economy during this period—a change to commercial farming and the growth of factories. Both had a long-reaching impact on America's economy.

Farmers in America's early days grew just enough crops to feed their families. This practice was called *subsistence agriculture*. Later, farmers began to grow crops like wheat or cotton to sell at marketplaces. These crops were called **cash crops** and represented a different type of agriculture, *commercial agriculture*. Beginning in the early 1800s, farmers began to devote more of their time and land to commercial agriculture. Their cash crops were sold in local or distant markets. This change led to a **market economy** in the United States.

But there were great perils for farmers in a market economy. The movement into a market economy led farmers into debt and changed the agricultural practices of the young nation. Farmers often had to borrow money to survive and to resupply the farms until their crops were sold. Because crop prices rise and fall during the season, farmers had to hope that prices were high when it was time to take the crops to market. Farmers also bought more land to produce more crops for the marketplace, usually borrowing the money.

Also during the late 1700s and early 1800s, transportation improved with the use of canals, railroads, steamboats, and federal roads. As transportation became more available, trade among the states also increased.

New inventions, such as Whitney's cotton gin, McCormick's reaper, and water-powered cotton spinning machines, led to changes in manufacturing. During America's

colonial period, most products were made by skilled artisans in homes or small shops. After 1800, modern manufacturing arrived.

In 1790, Samuel Slater, an English textile manufacturer, came to the United States and opened a mill to spin cotton into yarn. He contracted the weaving to women who

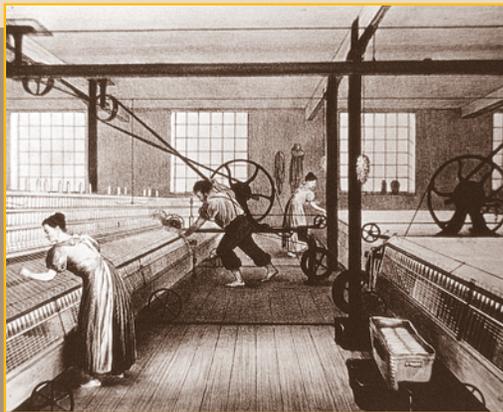
worked in their homes to prepare clothing. More mills were built in New England, and young women were hired to work in these textile mills. As the machinery became more advanced, water was used to operate the spinning machines. Factories grew up around the water sources, and cities grew up around the factories.

The Industrial Revolution and the new market economy led to the use of many unskilled or semiskilled workers. As factories grew and equipment im-

proved, there was an emphasis on making products quicker and cheaper to take advantage of prices at the marketplace and provide higher profits to investors and owners. The workers—women and children—did not fare as well.

These cheap workers often worked 12 to 15 hours a day, six days a week. Early efforts to organize workers met with little success because the factory owners had a large labor supply and could simply fire those who protested working conditions or wages.

America moved into the Industrial Age riding on the backs of innovators who developed new farming and manufacturing equipment, investors who expanded factories and production processes, and abundant power and labor supplies. However, the plight of workers and small farmers would lead to economic upheavals in America's future.



**Above:** Many young women found work in the textile mills.

## Section 4

### Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the difference between frontier life and town life and
- religion and education in Georgia.

# Georgia at the Dawn of a New Century

During this period, how people lived in Georgia depended on where they lived. There were two different Georgias in the late 1700s and early 1800s: the adventurous life of the frontier and the settled life of the growing towns.

It was a period of social growth. Membership in organized religions increased, and churches and synagogues played major roles in communities. There was more opportunity for formal education for more people.

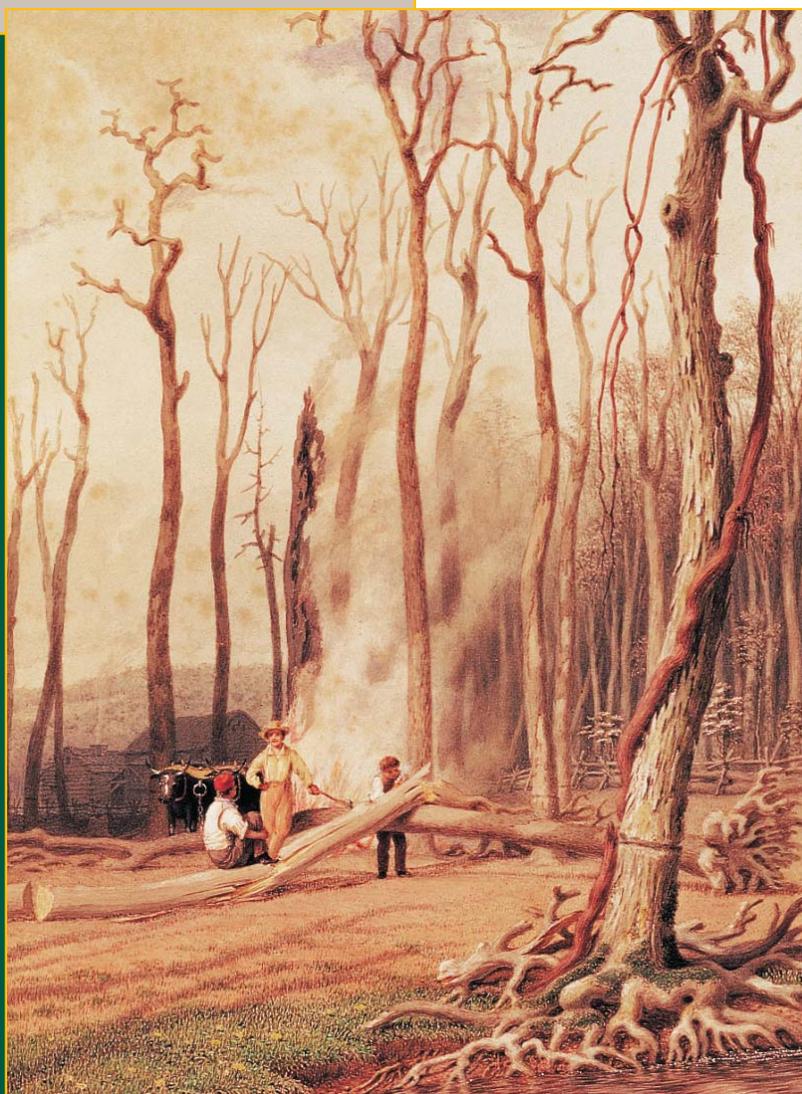
### Life on the Georgia Frontier

Frontier Georgia—the central and western parts of the state—was undeveloped land. Most of this land had been given away through the lottery, but there were few settlers. Some people attracted to the frontier were adventurers from settled towns such as Savannah and Augusta who wanted the excitement of frontier life. Some settlers migrated to the Georgia frontier from other states. They came over rough ground on roads that were little more than trails cut through thick brush and forests. During the early days on the frontier, far-flung trading posts were the only stores. Homesteads were often under the threat of attack from Native Americans, discontented Tories, or British soldiers.

As pioneers moved west in the early 1800s and left their towns behind, their kitchens were usually two iron pots and a memory of recipe rhymes learned during childhood.

Clearing land, building cabins, tilling soil, putting up barns, digging wells, and all of the other chores of pioneer life were backbreaking labor leading to the old saying, “Them that works hard, eats hardy.” Breakfast and the midday meal were the largest meals of the day.

Work also led to the major pioneer social activities. “Bean stringin’s and corn shuckin’s” were summer social occasions, while “apple parin’s, cider



**Above:** Clearing land for a farm was hard, back-breaking work. Removing one tree stump could take as long as a month with the tools available.

makin's, and hog slaughterin's" were fall activities. The country store was central to frontier communities, but it carried only essential items such as coffee beans, salt, and flour. Luxury items were for special occasions and might have included cheese, peppermint balls, rice, and eggs for those families without laying hens. And, of course, the general store carried farm implements, seed, cloth, thread, and guns and ammunition.

Thirty years later, the frontier was dotted with farms, trading posts, taverns, and sometimes one-room schools. While everyday life continued to be rather difficult, improvements in agriculture and other aspects of life eased things considerably. Then, too, with the removal of British forces and the Tories, threats to the settlements decreased.

### Life in Georgia's Towns

Life in Georgia's towns was quite different from life on the frontier. Cultural refinements were everywhere. The *Augusta Herald* and *Savannah's Gazette of the State of Georgia* were the two leading newspapers in the state. Newspapers were also published in Athens, Louisville, Milledgeville, and Sparta. Savannah had a theater where citizens could see plays by Shakespeare and more contemporary writers. People joined debating societies, went to concerts, or became members of a library society. They attended fancy dress balls and more informal gatherings such as barbecues and camp meetings. Horse racing drew large crowds in Augusta.

Food was cooked over an open hearth, and lucky families had an oven built into the chimney for cooking breads. The simpler meals consisted of stews, soups, sausages, roasted game, corn, dried vegetables, and cornbread or spoon bread. Foods served to guests were also simple. Beef, pork, and wild game were popular, and seafood, including shrimp, oysters, and fish, was a



**Top:** A 1785 cabin at Callaway Plantation. **Above:** The 1820 Davenport House in Savannah was designed and built by architect Isaiah Davenport.

favorite. Garden vegetables and sweet potatoes were served as side dishes. Many of the recipes used in southern homes today are the same as those enjoyed during the early 1800s.

In Georgia's small towns, communities provided for citizens with special needs. Orphanages cared for children without parents. A hospital for the mentally ill was opened in Milledgeville. A school for the deaf was started at Cave Springs. The Georgia Academy for the Blind was founded in Macon.

## Did You Know?

Purses, or the winnings, for horse races were as high as \$500, a large amount of money in 1785.



**Above:** Rainy weather had little effect on Methodist preachers who traveled a circuit which could easily cover 500 miles.

## Religion

After the Revolutionary War, many ministers left America for Great Britain. Still, churches in Georgia grew, both in size and in importance to their communities. In addition to the Anglicans, Quakers, and Baptists, Methodist *circuit riders* (ministers who went from district to district) founded churches in the frontier region. Sometimes these ministers could have only one service a month for each church. However, they stayed in touch with the members and visited them as often as possible.

In 1787, free blacks founded the Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta. It is still located on the original site. The First African Baptist Church in Savannah was founded in 1788 under the leadership of Andrew Bryan. In Savannah, a Jewish synagogue had a small but committed membership. In 1796, Georgia's first Roman Catholic Church was established in Wilkes County. In 1801, a second parish was formed in Savannah.

During the first decade of the 1800s, towns such as Athens, Jefferson, Madison, Milledgeville, Monroe, and Monticello were established. As in Savannah and Augusta, churches in these new communities were an essential part of town life. There were Sunday and weekday worship services, and church buildings were often used for town meetings and social events.

In 1830, a religious group was formed that would have a major impact on America, and eventually the world. The founder of the Church was a young man named Joseph Smith. Born in Vermont into a large, religious family, Smith was only 14 when he received a vision of a new religion. By age 17,

Smith had had a second vision describing the beliefs of a new church. Smith started his new church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (or Mormons) with only six members, but the faith quickly grew. The Mormons, however, were persecuted and forced to relocate. They began settling in Utah in 1847.

Another important religious figure of the period was Richard Allen. Richard and his family were slaves and belonged to the chief justice of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Chew. Later they were sold to a Mr. Sturgis, who lived near Dover, Delaware. The family was allowed to attend the services of the Methodist Society. In 1777, at age 17, Richard Allen converted and became a member of the Society.

After purchasing his freedom, Richard became a preacher and traveled the Methodist circuit. Later he joined the congregation of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. In 1784, the church licensed him to preach, but he had to hold his services at 5 a.m. Even that early hour did not deter the "colored people" who began to attend not only Allen's early services but the Sunday services as well. As membership grew, so did the uneasiness of the white congregation. Allen soon saw the need for a separate church for the "Africans," as they were called in the church.

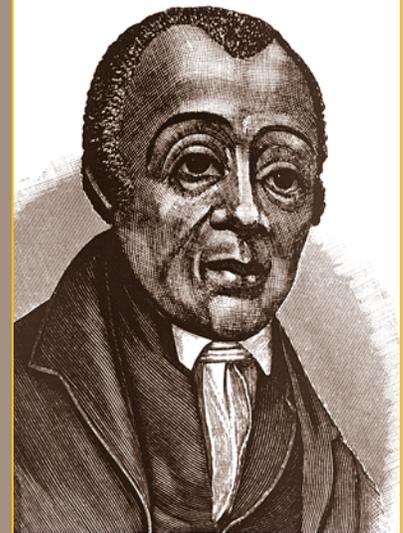
In 1787, Richard Allen and two other members of the church, Absalom Jones and William White, led their followers out of the church. They immediately formed the Free African Society, a group dedicated to self-help and self-dependence for Africans. They also set about forming their own church.

Allen located a lot and the group found an old blacksmith building, which they hauled to the new site. In July 1794, the Bethel African Church opened for worship. By 1816, Allen had founded five other churches who wanted to join "Mother Bethel," as it was called, to form a new denomination. Its name was the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. Richard Allen was consecrated as its first bishop. The church, then as well as today, adopted the teachings of John Wesley. Although four different buildings have served as the church, the lot that Allen purchased is the oldest piece of real estate owned continuously by African Americans in the United States. From this small group of believers came a worldwide church with over 1.2 million members. The first A.M.E. Church in Georgia was established in Savannah in 1865.

## Education

Educational growth was slow during the post-Revolutionary War period. Some people received only a few years of elementary education. Often even the best farmers knew little, if anything, about reading or mathematics. Most of Georgia's citizens had not been to school at all. Governor Lyman Hall recommended that the state set aside land for schools, but few were built.

Even though the building of schools was slow, people believed in the value of education. In 1784, the government set aside twenty thousand acres of land for a state college. In 1785, the University of Georgia was chartered as a *land grant university* (a school for which the federal government donated the land). It is the oldest school of its kind in the nation. The university, which



**Top:** In 1830, Joseph Smith organized The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and became its first president. He was killed in 1844. **Above:** Richard Allen founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was its first bishop.



**Above:** The Academy of Richmond County, chartered in 1783, is the oldest educational institution in Georgia and one of the oldest in the nation. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## It's Your Turn

1. In what parts of Georgia was the frontier located?
2. What were the two leading newspapers in Georgia at the turn of the eighteenth century?
3. When was the Springfield Baptist Church founded?
4. What was the University of Georgia frequently called in its early days?

was to oversee all public schools in the state, opened for classes in 1801. The first building for the all-male, all-white student body was Franklin College, and for many years, the University of Georgia was frequently called Franklin College.

In 1786, the Georgia legislature passed a law requiring each county to open *academies* (schools). But the lawmakers did not set aside money to build them. In 1820, there were only forty academies in the state. In 1822, some members of the legislature tried unsuccessfully to get money for public schools. However, money was placed in a special “state fund” to pay for the education of poor children.

In the early schools, such as the Academy of Richmond County founded in 1783, male students studied Greek, Latin, grammar, and mathematics. Females learned the arts and music. The Georgia Female College, later known as Wesleyan College, opened in Macon in 1836. There the girls had classes in French, literature, and science education. Tuition was \$50 a year, and lessons in piano, art, or foreign languages were extra. Room and board was \$15 a quarter, and there were extra charges for laundry and candles.

The cost does not seem great by today's standards, but only wealthier merchants and large landowners had enough money to send their daughters to Wesleyan. Many Georgia citizens saw no value in teaching females academic subjects, no matter what it cost. Instead, many young girls were taught sewing, cooking, child care, and music.

## Did You Know?

**Women were not admitted to the University of Georgia until 1918, 117 years after the college was opened to men.**

## The War of 1812

In his first inaugural speech, Thomas Jefferson declared: “Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none.” Unfortunately, the United States found it very difficult to remain neutral while much of the world around it was at war.

An undeclared naval war with France that had broken out in 1798 was one of the problems that tested the young nation’s ability to survive. Between 1793 and 1815, France and Great Britain were almost always at war. American merchants were caught in the middle as both countries tried to block the United States from trading with the other. Great Britain, which had the world’s largest navy and controlled the Atlantic Ocean, even “impressed” American sailors. That is, British captains took sailors off American ships and made them serve in the British navy. Finally, in 1807, President Jefferson began an unsuccessful **embargo** to stop trade with foreign countries. Jefferson hoped the embargo would force Great Britain and France to change their policies. It did not. Instead, it had a disastrous effect on American shipping.

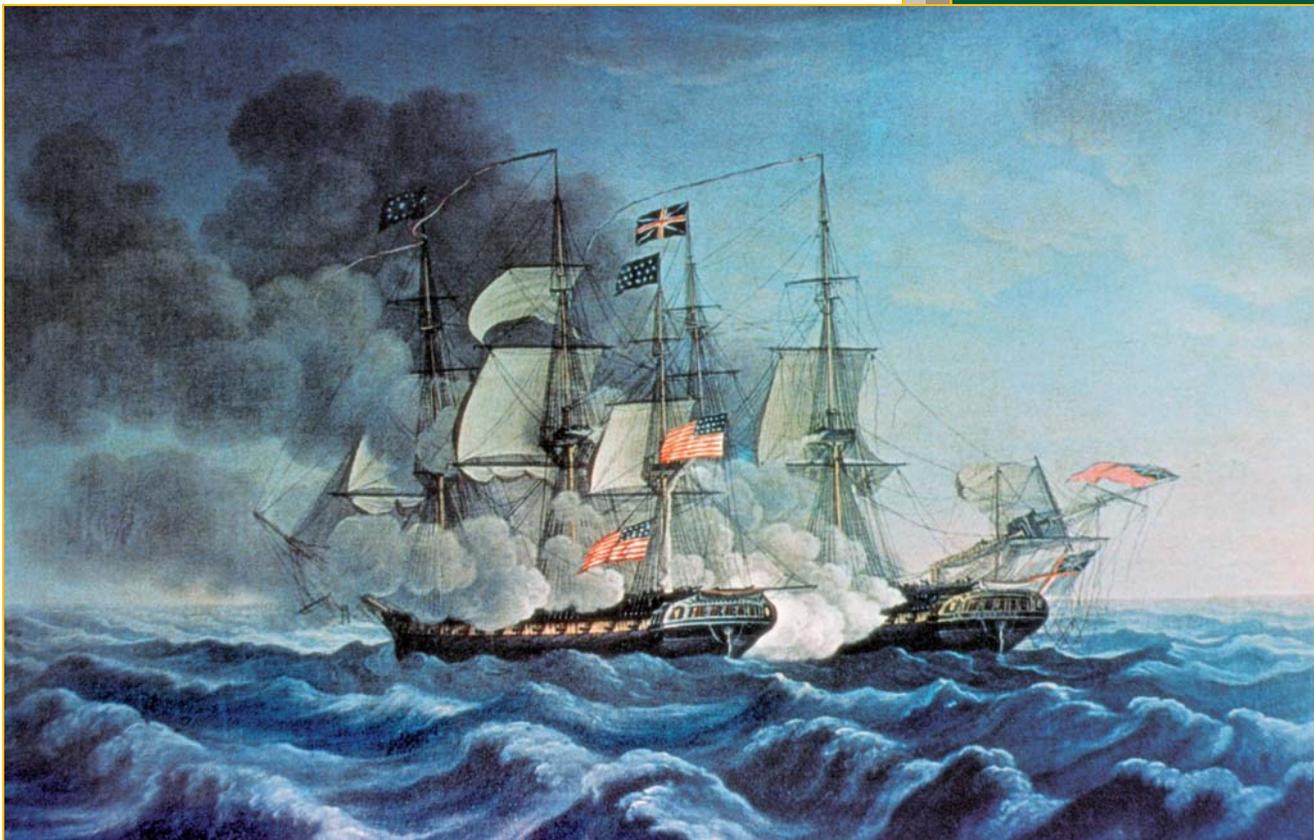
Americans also believed that Great Britain was stirring up the Indians in the western states and territories. In Congress, a group of land-hungry southerners and westerners known as the *War Hawks* wanted the United

### Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- reasons for the war of 1812,
- the effects of the war of 1812, and
- **vocabulary term:** embargo.

**Below:** This painting shows the U.S.S. *Constitution* —“Old Ironsides”—defeating the H.M.S. *Guerriere* in the first decisive naval battle of the War of 1812.



# The Art of Politics



In this 1811 political cartoon, the “Ograbme” (embargo spelled backwards) is trying to stop a man who is attempting to smuggle tobacco onto a British ship. Jefferson’s embargo created an economic hardship for the country. The Ograbme was also called the “snapping turtle” or “terrapin,” which is the reason for the image of the turtle in the cartoon.

States to declare war on Great Britain. They hoped to capture Canada and eliminate the British and Indian menace in the West. In June 1812, President James Madison asked Congress to declare war on Great Britain. By a narrow vote, Congress agreed.

Most citizens of the United States were not sure that Madison’s decision was a good one. They thought the country was not prepared to fight against a major power such as Great Britain. The war lasted about two years, with neither side making any headway. In 1814, however, British forces invaded the Chesapeake Bay and made their way to Washington, which had become the young nation’s capital. They burned much of the city, including the Capitol and the president’s residence. Later the British were turned back as they tried to take control of Baltimore harbor. Although most people do not remember the battle at Fort McHenry, they do remember “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which was composed at that battle.

One of the most memorable battles of the War of 1812 actually took place on January 8, 1815. This was several weeks *after* the Treaty of Ghent (in Belgium) was signed in

1814, ending the war. The soldiers at the Battle of New Orleans did not know that the war was over. The Americans, led by General Andrew Jackson, lost 13 men, while over 2,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded. The battle was recorded as a major American victory and has been remembered in songs. The battle also made Andrew Jackson a national hero.

The treaty that ended the war restored everything to what it had been before the war. The United States got no new land, but it gained in other ways. The war showed that the United States was willing to fight for its continued independence. Older nations started to pay attention to the young country. At the same time, the experience convinced the United States to stay away from European politics.

The war had other effects. The separate states truly began to feel united in one nation. The economy of the country started to change. When Americans could not get goods from abroad during the war,

## Did You Know?

“The President’s Home” was painted white after the War of 1812 to cover the scorch marks left from the British fires. It was also renamed, and today you know it as the “White House.”



they were forced to make them. Industry grew and, by 1815, the United States could supply many of its own needs, including such things as iron, textiles, wood, glassware, leather, and pottery. The War of 1812 was the last time American and British forces fought on opposite sides of a conflict. It also ended American hopes of gaining Canada as a part of our nation.

Shortly after the war ended, in 1817, President James Monroe asked Andrew Jackson to look into the problems that Georgians were having with the Seminole Indians. Instead of just investigating, Jackson invaded Florida and overthrew the Spanish governor. Spain agreed to sell Florida to the United States rather than fight. In 1819, the U.S. bought Florida for \$5 million. Jackson was made governor of the newly acquired Florida Territory.

**Above:** The Battle of New Orleans was a stunning victory for the United States. Unknown to the two armies, the treaty to end the war had been signed in Paris two weeks earlier. In this depiction, General Andrew Jackson commands American troops from his white charger.

## *It's Your Turn*

1. Why were Americans angry with the British at the beginning of the War of 1812?
2. How long did the War of 1812 last?
3. How did the War of 1812 help American industry?

## Section Preview

## As you read, look for:

- Sequoyah and his syllabary,
- the relationship among the settlers, the Cherokee, and the Creek,
- the events leading up to the removal of the Cherokee and the Creek from Georgia, and
- **vocabulary terms:** syllabary, Oconee War, Treaty of New York, Red Sticks, White Sticks, Treaty of Indian Springs, litigation, emigrate, and Trail of Tears.

**Below and opposite page above:** The Chief Vann House, exterior and interior, with a typical 18th century Cherokee log house on left.

## Native Americans in Georgia

Native Americans had hunted in Georgia's forests and fished its streams and rivers for ten thousand years. The fifty-five years from 1783 to 1838 were one of the darkest periods in the history of these Native Americans. During this period, they were forced out of their traditional lands and moved to unknown territories.

### The Cherokee

In 1800, most Native Americans in Georgia still made their living in the traditional ways—by hunting or farming. Some, however, were quick to learn from white settlers. The Cherokee, in particular, were considered to be the most advanced of the tribes. A few Cherokee, like Chief James Vann, lived in large houses. Located on the outskirts of Chatsworth, Vann's classic two-story brick mansion has been called the "Showcase of the Cherokee Nation." In addition to the main house, the homestead contained forty-two cabins, six barns, five smokehouses, a gristmill, a blacksmith, a foundry, a trading post, and a still. Vann believed that Christianity meant progress for the



Cherokee, and he brought in Moravian missionaries to teach his children and his people.

### Sequoyah's Syllabary

One of the most important contributions to the advancement of Cherokee culture was made by George Gist, who was born around 1760. Gist's father was a Virginia scout and soldier, and his mother was a Cherokee princess. Gist's Indian name was Sequoyah, which meant "lonely lame one." Sequoyah was crippled, from either a childhood illness or a hunting accident, so he could no longer hunt or farm. Instead, he learned to work with silver. He also became a blacksmith.

Sequoyah was very interested in the white man's "talking leaves," pieces of paper with marks on them. He noticed that the papers could be carried many miles, and the people who used them could understand the meaning of the various marks. In 1809, Sequoyah began to make a syllabary. Unlike an alphabet of letters, a **syllabary** is a group of symbols that stand for whole syllables.

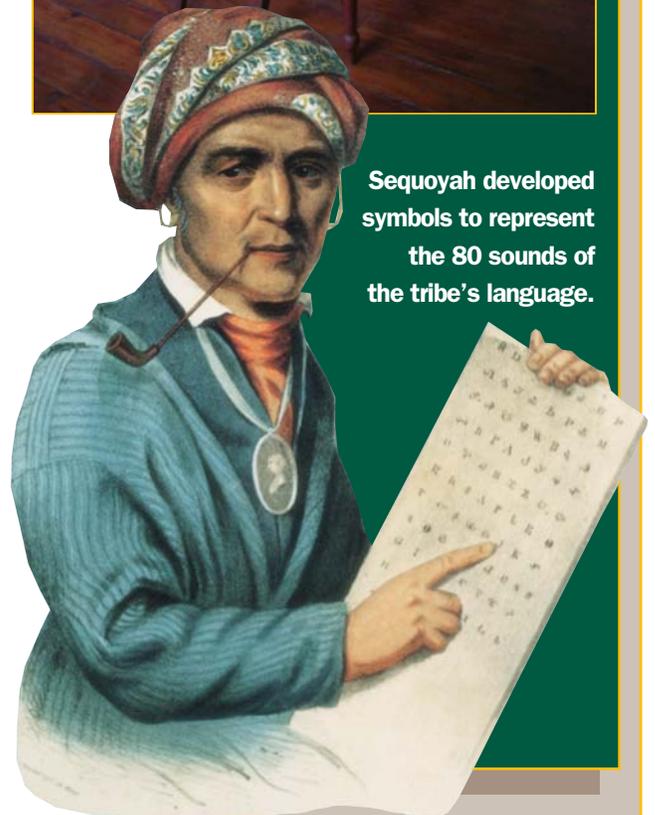
It took twelve years for Sequoyah to decide on the eighty-five symbols. According to legend, Sequoyah's wife, fearing that the white government would not like what he was doing, once burned all his work. Sequoyah spent more than a year reconstructing the syllabary, so dedicated was he to the task.

When he completed it, members of the tribal council at first made fun of the syllabary. However, after Sequoyah was able to teach his daughter and some young chiefs to write and understand the symbols within a few days, the council members changed their minds. They sent Sequoyah all over the territory to teach his method to other Cherokee. In about six months, most of the tribes could write and read the new symbols. As a result, the Cherokee were the first Indians to have their language in written form. Equally important, it demonstrated that Indians could communicate with each other without using the language of the white settlers.

People in the United States and Europe praised Sequoyah for his work. The Cherokee gave him a medal that he wore as long as he lived. The Cherokee Nation also rewarded him with a gift of about \$500 a year for life. This gift, by the way, is the first record of a literary prize in America.

### The Cherokee Phoenix

By 1828, Elias Boudinot, another Indian leader, became the editor of the first Indian newspaper. The paper, the *Cherokee Phoenix*, took its name from a legendary bird that burned itself and then rose from the ashes of the fire. The newspaper was printed in Cherokee and English. Perhaps its greatest



Sequoyah developed symbols to represent the 80 sounds of the tribe's language.



**Top and above:** This building is a reconstruction of the Cherokee Supreme Court house built in New Echota in 1829. The Cherokee Supreme Court heard 246 cases from 1823 to 1835.

achievement was that it was able to draw together the various tribes of the Cherokee Nation. The tribes were scattered in such far-flung places as Virginia, North Carolina, northeast Alabama, and Georgia. The newspaper made it possible to spread news among all of them.

### **Cherokee Capital Moves to New Echota**

At one time, the capital of the Cherokee Nation was wherever the principal chief lived. In 1715, for example, it was in Stephens County, Georgia. At other times, the capital was in Tennessee or South Carolina. However, by 1825, the Cherokee had established a permanent capital at New Echota, near the present-day city of Calhoun.

New Echota was a thriving, bustling community. One of the twenty Cherokee government buildings in it was a print shop where the *Cherokee Phoenix* and textbooks for Indian schools were published and distributed. Other buildings included a Cherokee national library and a courthouse.

The Cherokee adopted a constitution similar to that of the United States. Their government also was organized along the lines of that of the United States and consisted of three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The principal chief and second chief were elected to their offices. Each October, Cherokee leaders, including those in the bicameral legislature and the superior court, met in New Echota to deal with tribal matters.

### *Did You Know?*

By **1830**, over **90 percent** of the **Cherokee** could read and write.

## The Creek

Tensions between the Creek and the settlers had grown during the late 1700s as pioneers kept pushing into Creek lands along the Oconee River. Tribes led by Chief Alexander McGillivray sent warriors against some of the pioneer settlements. The Indians burned houses, stole horses and cattle, and killed or captured over two hundred settlers. Georgia settlers got some men together and told them to kill on sight any Creek who were not members of friendly tribes. Although it was not quite a full-scale conflict, these skirmishes and attacks became known as the **Oconee War**.

Fighting between the settlers and the Creek went on for several years. In 1790, President Washington called Chief McGillivray to New York. The chief went, accompanied by twenty-three men of his tribe. President Washington and the chief talked and exchanged presents. McGillivray then signed the **Treaty of New York**, by which the Creek gave up all their land east of the Oconee River. They also promised to honor an earlier treaty in which they gave up lands through the Currahee Mountains to Tugaloo. In return, the United States government promised that no whites would go into land west of the boundary. The government also agreed to help the Creek start farms by giving them tools and farm animals.

When word of the treaty reached Georgians, they were very angry because it appeared to them that the federal government had taken the side of the Creek. Over the next few years, neither the Creek nor the Georgians paid any attention to the treaty. At one point, Governor Edward Telfair was ready to raise an army of 5,000 men to make war against the Creek, but President Washington talked him out of it. However, there were bad feelings between the tribes and the whites until both groups accepted other treaties. This “peace” lasted from 1797 until 1812.

It was during this time that the Yazoo land fraud took place. When the federal government stepped in and had Georgia give up all land west of the Chattahoochee River, it also promised to move the Native Americans out of the state. The federal government did little to carry out this promise. Then, in 1812, the United States was again at war.

## The Creek War

Tecumseh, a Shawnee leader, tried to unite all Native Americans to fight for their land. The tribes in the Southeast split over this issue. Those who wanted war were called **Red Sticks**, and those who wanted peace were known as **White Sticks**.

During the War of 1812, many of the Red Stick Creek fought alongside the British. As you read earlier, the war ended with no real winner. However, something happened in 1813 that changed the future of the Creek Nation. On August 30, one thousand Red Sticks attacked Fort Mims in present-day



**Top:** In 1811, Tecumseh, a Shawnee, visited the Creek to recruit warriors and gain support for his plan. **Above:** Menawa was a leader of the Red Stick Creek. He led the party that killed Chief William McIntosh.



**Above:** Chief William McIntosh strongly believed that the Creek should sell their land to the government and take the money and land promised in the West. For that reason, he signed the Treaty of Indian Springs.

Alabama. About four hundred people, including women and children, died at the hands of the Red Sticks. Cries of “Remember Fort Mims” were heard all over the country.

Troops from Georgia, Tennessee, and the new Mississippi Territory began attacks in Creek territory. Many battles were fought during the next year, but the Creek were no match for the United States Army. The last battle of the Creek War began on March 27, 1814, at Horseshoe Bend, along the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. Over one thousand Red Sticks met two thousand troops led by General Andrew Jackson. With the help of White Stick Creek and Cherokee, Jackson defeated the Red Stick Creek.

In the following months, the Creek surrendered to Jackson and gave most of their lands to the United States government. Georgians were pleased with this outcome because it meant that the Creek owned no more land in southern Georgia.

### **Murder of Chief William McIntosh**

As more and more of their land was ceded to the government, Creek tribes became separated from each other. There was little chance for them to talk together or to trade with each other. The strong Creek confederacy, which had united the tribes before the arrival of the settlers, was no

more. Groups of Creek sometimes signed treaties without asking the tribes to agree. This practice led to the death of one well-known Creek leader.

By February 12, 1825, Creek Chief William McIntosh and his first cousin, Georgia Governor George Troup, had worked out the terms of the **Treaty of Indian Springs** in Butts County, Georgia. The United States paid McIntosh and a large group of Lower Creek chiefs \$200,000 to cede (give up) the last Creek lands in Georgia to the federal government. The government, in turn, gave the use of that land to Georgia.

Groups of Creek who disagreed with the treaty met secretly to decide how to punish McIntosh. They agreed that, in accordance with Creek law, he should die. They sent a rival chief, Menawa, to execute him. According to reports, somewhere between 170 and 400 Creek marched single file to McIntosh’s home in Butts County. After two days, they were a mile from McIntosh’s house. Many reports say the Creek got close enough to hear

### *Did You Know?*

**Congress allocated \$500,000 to enforce the provisions of the Indian Removal Act.**

McIntosh and his son-in-law, Samuel Hawkins, talking. McIntosh did not know they were there.

At daybreak, the Creek set fire to the McIntosh home. They allowed the women and children to leave before they exchanged gunfire with the chief they had come to kill. Smoke and his wounds stopped McIntosh from fighting. The Creek dragged him from the house and stabbed him in the chest. McIntosh's scalp was taken as a warning to others who might want to give Creek land to white men.

## The Indian Removal

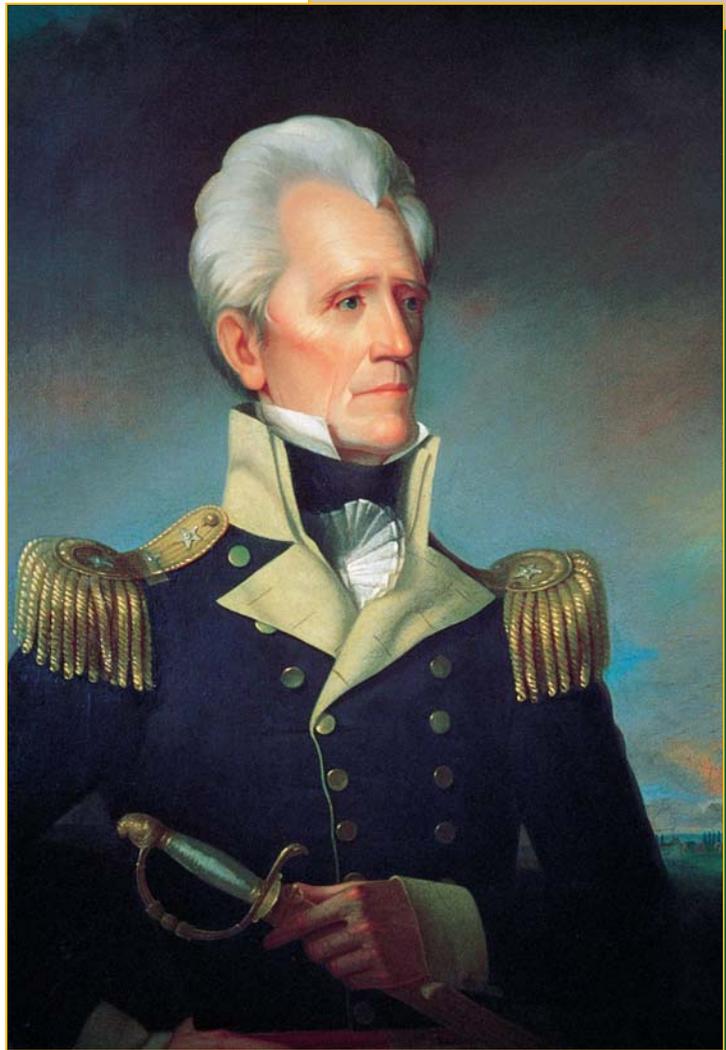
In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States. Jackson had been friendly to the Native Americans, especially the Cherokee, when he needed their help to fight the Red Sticks. However, he was wise enough politically to know that white voters wanted the Native Americans removed from the southern states.

In 1830, Congress passed a bill, the Indian Removal Act, that called for all Native Americans to be moved to the western territories. There were strong feelings on both sides, and the bill passed by only fourteen votes. After Jackson signed the bill into law, however, there was no question about what would happen to the Southeast tribes.

## Removal of the Creek

The Choctaw, who lived in the newly created states of Alabama and Mississippi, were the first of the tribes to be moved. Hearing that hundreds of Choctaw died during the march to the west, the Creek refused to leave the lands of their fathers. When they did this, Alabama took away all their legal rights. The Creek could not defend themselves against whites who moved in and took their lands.

The Creek in Georgia, who no longer had hunting lands, were hungry. Some reports say they stood in the streets of Columbus and begged for food. To add to their hardships, smallpox broke out among the tribes in 1831, and many died. In 1832, the Creek signed the Treaty of Washington, by which they ceded to the federal government the 5 million acres of land they still owned. In return, the government agreed to set aside 2 million acres on which the Creek would live and farm. The government would protect Creek life and property from whites. Creek could own land, but only after living on it for five years. Then they could choose to sell the land and move west. The decision to stay on reserved land or to move to the western territory was up to each individual.



**Above:** The Indian Removal Act was passed during the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Jackson believed that the Native Americans were children in need of guidance. He believed their removal would be beneficial.

**Below:** The discovery of gold in Dahlonega ended any hope of the Cherokee keeping their lands. Once the news spread, thousands swarmed onto Cherokee lands to make their fortune.

Once signed, the treaty was broken almost at once. Creek homes were burned, items were stolen from their farms, and Indians were killed. By 1835, some Creek gave up and began the trip west. However, in 1836, bands of Lower Creek attacked whites between Tuskegee, Alabama, and Columbus, Georgia. Afraid of another Indian war, the U.S. Army captured over one thousand Creek and took them to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). During the next two years, a few Creek escaped and a few were made slaves, but the federal government forced thousands of them to move west.

Toward the end of the Creek removal in Georgia and Alabama, the United States became involved in another Indian war in Florida. They asked seven hundred Creek to help them fight the Seminole. After winning the war, the Creek returned to their families, who had been gathered in camps. Then the whole group, including those who had just fought with the army, was moved to the west.

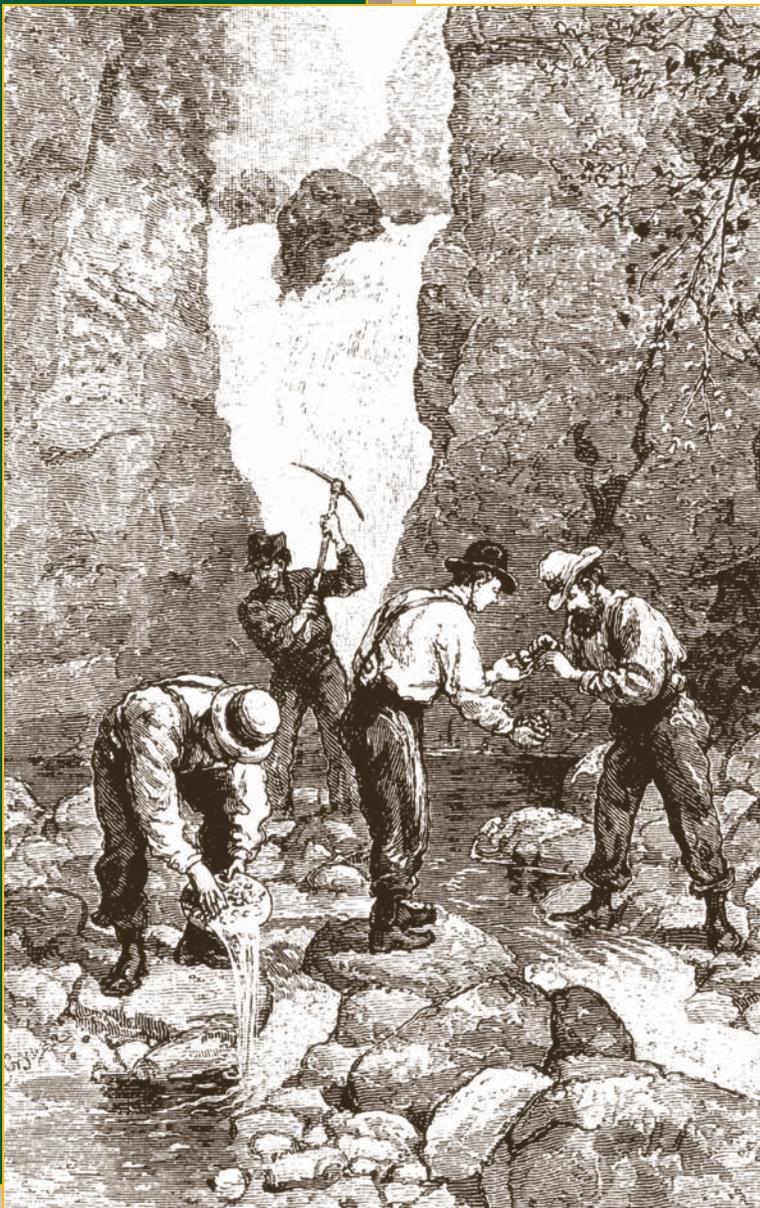
## Removal of the Cherokee

At the same time that the Creek were being moved, Georgia was also making plans to get rid of the Cherokee. Georgians wanted to homestead Cherokee land and also to mine the gold that had been found on Cherokee land.

## Gold in Dahlonega

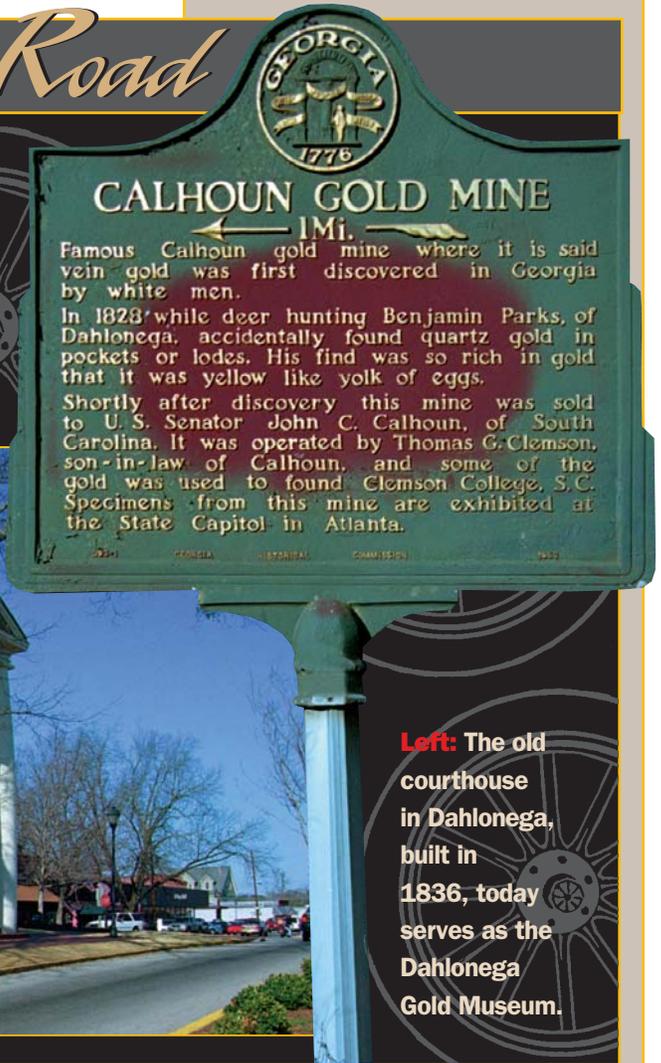
Gold was discovered in Dahlonega in the summer of 1829. In a matter of months, gold fever swept through the North Georgia mountain region. Although the Cherokee knew there was gold in the hills, the person given credit for the discovery was a farmer named Benjamin Parks. Parks found the valuable yellow metal while deer hunting in what was then Habersham (now White) County. Auraria, in nearby Lumpkin County, became the first gold mining center in the United States. Over ten thousand miners with gold pans, picks, and shovels moved onto Cherokee land.

The Georgia legislature passed a law that placed part of the Cherokee land under state control. It declared Cherokee laws null and void and would not let the Cherokee speak against white men in a court of law. This meant any white person could hurt or even kill a Cherokee without much fear of punishment. A second law, passed on December 19, 1829, refused the Cherokee any right to



# By the Side of the Road

The discovery of gold in northern Georgia in what was then Cherokee territory led to the eventual exodus of the Cherokee and the settlement of the area by white settlers. Most of the original gold mines have long since disappeared, but the most famous mine was the Calhoun mine. You can visit the site of the Calhoun Gold Mine today on U.S. Route 19 and GA 60 just outside Dahlonega.

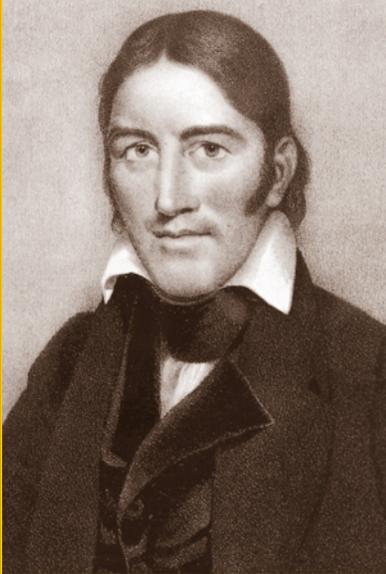


**Left:** The old courthouse in Dahlonega, built in 1836, today serves as the Dahlonega Gold Museum.

gold mined in the Dahlonega area. While the miners searched the mountains and streams for “a spot that showed good color,” the Cherokee were losing their homes, lands, and legal rights.

## The Indians' Last Hope

Most Georgians did not care what happened to the Indians, but a group of white missionaries living in Cherokee territory did. To remove the missionaries, the Georgia legislature passed a law on December 22, 1830, which said a white person could not live on Cherokee land without taking an oath of allegiance to the governor. Eleven people, including the Reverend Samuel Worcester, postmaster at New Echota, refused to sign the oath and were jailed in March 1831. They were set free but arrested again in July. This time they were chained and made to walk from the North Georgia mountains to Lawrenceville. At their trial in September, the jury took only fifteen minutes to return a verdict of guilty. Gwinnett County Judge Augustin Clayton sentenced the group to four years at the state penitentiary in Milledgeville. Governor George Gilmer agreed to pardon anyone who would take an oath



**Top:** Cherokee Chief John Ross took a petition to Congress with 15,000 signatures, 90 percent of all Cherokee, to protest the Indian removal. **Above:** Davy Crockett lost his seat in Congress for opposing Jackson's views on the Indian removal.

of loyalty to the state, and all but two agreed. Missionaries Worchester and Elizur Butler took their cases to the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the decision of the Lawrenceville court could not stand because Cherokee territory was not subject to state law.

The Cherokee thought the ruling meant they could keep their land and government. Chief Justice Marshall ordered Butler and Worchester set free, but Judge Clayton refused. Georgia's newly elected governor, Wilson Lumpkin, would not take a stand against the judge. Even President Andrew Jackson refused to honor the Supreme Court order. Jackson thought that state governments should be in charge of Indian territories. He reportedly said, "John Marshall has rendered his 'decision'; now let him enforce it."

Cherokee lands were divided into lots of 40 and 160 acres. In 1832, the government held a state lottery to give the Cherokee lands to white men. Even then, the

Cherokee refused to leave their home.

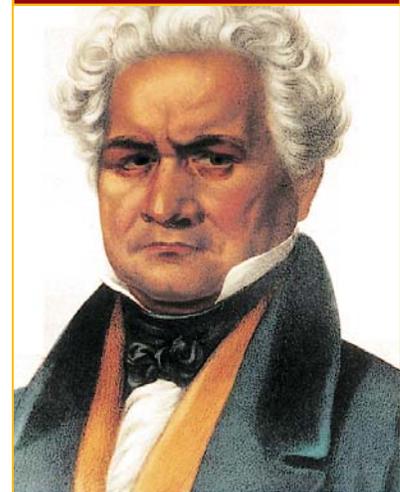
On January 9, 1833, Worchester and Butler gave up and told Governor Lumpkin that they would "abandon litigation." (**Litigation** is a legal court action.) The governor pardoned them and then said the two missionaries must leave the state and never return.

More and more, the Cherokee were run off their lands, whipped, and even killed. Chief John Ross made several trips to Washington to ask Congress for help. He wanted the Cherokee protected and the terms of past treaties honored. No help was given. Time was running out for the Cherokee Nation.

In December 1835, the Cherokee were told to come to their capital, New Echota. There they were to sign a treaty giving up all Cherokee land that remained in the Southeast. Any member of the tribe who did not come was considered to have agreed with the treaty. Three to five hundred Cherokee out of about seventeen thousand were at the meeting.

## *Did You Know?*

Six months after their arrival in Indian Territory, **Major Ridge** (below), **John Ridge**, and **Elias Boudinot**, the editor of the *Cherokee Phoenix*, were **killed** for breaking a **tribal law** forbidding individual Cherokee from **signing away** land rights without the **permission of the entire tribe**.





Cherokee trader Major Ridge, his son John, and a small number of others agreed to sign the government's treaty. The treaty said the Cherokee would move west, and Georgia would give them a little money and food for the trip.

### The Trail of Tears

After the treaty was signed, some national leaders like Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and Davy Crockett tried to get the United States government to give the Cherokee the rights due them. No one listened. By May 1838, about two thousand Cherokee had gone. General Winfield Scott was ordered to remove the fifteen thousand or more Cherokee who refused to leave their home.

In May 1838, Scott and nearly seven thousand troops arrived in New Echota. The troops first built stockades to house the Cherokee. Then they went into homes and community buildings and forcibly moved the Cherokee to the stockades. Hundreds of men, women, and children died of cholera, dysentery, and fever while in the stockades. During the summer of 1838,



### Map 29 The Trail of Tears

**Map Skill:** Through which states did the Cherokee have to travel to reach their new home?



**Above:** This mural in the Oklahoma State Museum of History shows the family and servants of Chief John Ross leaving on the Trail of Tears.

the army loaded several thousand Cherokee onto crowded boats and sent them on the Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas rivers to their new homes. The boats were dirty, and the food the government gave them was often not fit to eat. By the time these Indians arrived in Indian Territory, nearly one-third of the group had died.

A few Cherokee escaped and hid in the North Carolina mountains. The rest began a 700-800 mile walk to Indian Territory. It took some people six months to make the trip. Others were there in less time. However, winter winds, snow, and too little food led to the deaths of thousands of Cherokee. The exact number of how many were moved is not known, but about four thousand of this group died while they were in prison before they left or during the march west.

President Martin Van Buren, in his December 1838 address to Congress, said, “the measures of the Removal have had the happiest effect . . . the Cherokees have **emigrated** (moved out) without apparent reluctance.” Today, we can only imagine the fear, despair, and hurt felt by those who had to leave the land of the “principal people.” The Cherokee called the move to Indian Territory “ANuna-da-ut- sun’y,” which means “the trail where they cried.” To this day, the move is sadly remembered as the **Trail of Tears**.

## *It's Your Turn*

1. What was Sequoyah's great contribution to the Cherokee?
2. Where was the Cherokee capital located in 1825?
3. Who were the Red Sticks?
4. What happened in Dahlonega in 1829?
5. Who was Samuel Worcester?

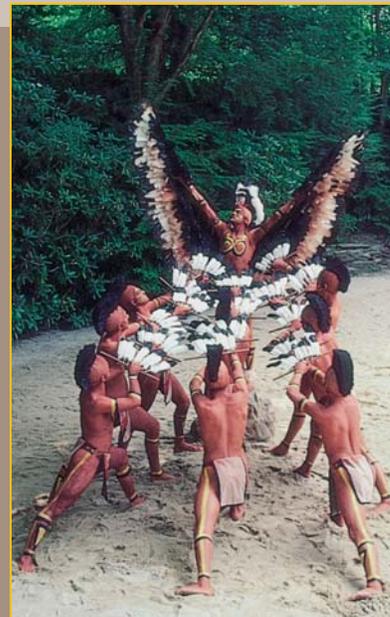
Between the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Trail of Tears, more than 100,000 Native Americans were displaced from 200 million acres of land that had been theirs for hundreds of years.

## A Final Note

Before President John Adams fell asleep on his second night in the White House, he entered his thoughts into a journal. The November 2, 1800, entry reads, "I pray to Heaven to bestow the best Blessings on this House and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule beneath this roof." In your opinion, has Adams's hope been realized?

# Chapter Summary

- In the period after the Revolutionary War, the U.S. Constitution was written, a new government established, and a Bill of Rights adopted. Georgia revised its state constitution.
- A fever for land gripped the people of Georgia and other parts of the country. Georgia ceded its western land to the federal government.
- The Louisiana Purchase doubled the land area of the new nation. Inventions such as the cotton gin and the mechanical reaper changed farming.
- At the end of the 1700s, life in Georgia was sharply different depending on whether one lived in the cities and towns or on the frontier.
- The United States fought Great Britain in the War of 1812.
- Although most Indians still followed traditional ways, some had made great advances. The Cherokee were especially quick to adopt the ways of the whites.
- Sequoyah invented a syllabary that enabled the Cherokee to communicate in writing.
- The Cherokee established a permanent capital at New Echota.
- The Treaty of New York ended the Oconee War and divided the Creek Nation.
- Greed for land and gold fever led to the Indian removal.
- U.S. treaties with the Indians were broken almost as soon as they were made.
- The Creek were forced west, and the Cherokee were gathered together and sent on their Trail of Tears to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma).



**Above:** The outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" tells the story of the estimated 1,100 Cherokee who managed to escape into the mountains of western North Carolina. The escapees and others known as the Qualla Indians formed the Eastern Band of Cherokee, which exists to this day.

# Chapter Review

## Reviewing People, Places, and Terms



Use each of the following terms in a sentence.

1. embargo
2. headright system
3. syllabary
4. tariff
5. Yazoo land fraud



## Understanding the Facts

1. What was the capital of Georgia in 1789?
2. What river became Georgia's western boundary after the settlement of the Yazoo land fraud?
3. What was the original name of the city of Atlanta?
4. Under what name is the Georgia Female College known today?
5. What was gained from the War of 1812?
6. How is a syllabary different from an alphabet?
7. In what month did Cherokee leaders meet at New Echota to deal with tribal matters?
8. What Indian chief signed the Treaty of New York?
9. How was the Creek chief who signed the Treaty of Indian Springs punished?
10. Who was president when the Indian Removal Act was passed?
11. Which tribes were the first to be removed?

## Developing Critical Thinking



1. Why do you think the economy of Georgia was in ruins after the Revolutionary War?
2. Could something like the Yazoo land fraud happen today? Why or why not?
3. Sometimes we may think someone is not being fair, when in fact, we may just be looking at the situation from our own eyes rather than at the “big picture.” Could that have been part of the situation with the removal of Georgia's Creek and Cherokee tribes—that no one stopped to look at the big picture? Using the character term *fairness*, jot down each instance when our state or nation was “unfair” to the Native Americans. Then decide what would have been fair? In your opinion, was the Indian removal right or wrong? Explain your answer.
4. Had you been a Cherokee living in Georgia during this time, would you have hidden in the mountains or traveled to Indian Territory? Suppose you were married and had a spouse and three children depending on you. Would that have changed your answer? Explain.

## Checking It Out



1. Only history, and students of history such as yourself, can decide whether or not Andrew Jackson was a great military leader or a good president. But you will be hard-pressed to find a more intense, scandalous, or political love story among the inhabitants of America's White House. Use your research skills to find out about the love story between Andrew Jackson and

Rachael Donelson. Discover why their love story was such a political intrigue and share the information with your classmates.

2. Use your research skills to find out what happened to the Creek and the Cherokee who were forced to leave Georgia. Did all of them wind up in Indian Territory?

## Writing Across the Curriculum



1. Benjamin Franklin was well known for his aphorisms. You may be familiar with many of his sayings. Try your hand at interpreting the following aphorisms: (a) Haste makes waste, (b) Love your neighbor, yet don't pull down your hedge, (c) A small leak will sink a great ship, (d) Well done is better than well said, (e) A good example is the best sermon, and, (f) Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead.
2. Try your hand at writing aphorisms. Imagine that you are preparing a series of inspirational posters for school. Phrase your advice in short, clever aphorisms.



## Exploring Technology

1. Thomas Jefferson's epitaph omitted the fact that he had been president. Use your favorite search engine to check out Jefferson's epitaph. What did he write?
2. The War of 1812 has been commemorated by several songs including the popular "The Ballad of New Orleans." Use your favorite search engine to find the lyrics to the song and share with your classmates.
3. When Blackbeard the pirate was caught, 12-year-old Benjamin Franklin wrote a ballad about the infamous pirate. Use your favorite search engine to find the lyrics to that ballad and share it with your classmates.

## Applying Your Skills



1. At various times, the capital of Georgia has moved from Savannah to Augusta, to Louisville, to Milledgeville, and, finally, to Atlanta. If distance from most parts of the state were the most important reason in choosing the site of a capital, in which of these locations should the capital be located? Why do you think it is not?
2. Using a U.S. map, what present-day states were acquired by the United States as a part of the Louisiana Purchase?



## Photo Question

This is the living room of the "Showcase of the Cherokee Nation." Whose house was it?

