

VFT: PHYSICAL FEATURES

USER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

This virtual field trip takes students on a journey throughout the state of Georgia, guiding them through twelve of the state's physical features and explaining the relative location of each, as well as their environmental characteristics, historical connections, and much more. Students will visit the following physical features: the Blue Ridge Mountains, Brasstown Bald, the monadnocks (Arabia, Panola, and Stone Mountains), Red Top Mountain, the Fall Line, Providence Canyon, Okefenokee Swamp, Savannah and Chattahoochee Rivers, and the barrier islands. We recommend that students explore this virtual field trip after they have completed Unit 1 of the [Georgia Studies Book: Our State and Our Nation](#) or after a thorough discussion about the five regions of Georgia. Teachers could use this activity as a group experience, provide class time for students to explore the field trip at their own pace, or assign it as homework in a flipped classroom setting.

FEATURES

- **video footage** of interviews with experts who explain the highlights of each physical feature
- **picture galleries** for each feature with informative captions, including photos about economic activities and historic events
- **interactive maps** that illustrate the location of the state's physical features, along with questions to enhance discussion
- **fun facts** with historical connections for each of the features

GEORGIA STANDARDS

SS8G1 Describe Georgia's geography and climate.

- Locate Georgia in relation to region, nation, continent, and hemispheres.
- Distinguish among the five geographic regions of Georgia in terms of location, climate, agriculture, and economic contribution.
- Locate key physical features of Georgia and explain their importance; include the Fall Line, Okefenokee Swamp, Appalachian Mountains, Chattahoochee and Savannah Rivers, and barrier islands.
- Analyze the importance of water in Georgia's historical development and economic growth.

SS2G1 Locate and compare major topographical features of Georgia and describe how these features define Georgia's surface.

- Locate and compare the geographic regions of Georgia: Blue Ridge, Piedmont, Coastal Plain, Ridge and Valley, and Appalachian Plateau.
- Locate on a physical map the major rivers: Savannah, Flint, and Chattahoochee.

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- SS8E1** Explain how the four transportation systems (road, air, water, and rail) of Georgia contribute to the development and growth of the state's economy.
- Evaluate the ways in which the Interstate Highway System, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, deepwater ports, and railroads interact to support the exchange of goods and services domestically and internationally.
 - Explain how the four transportation systems provide jobs for Georgians.

DISCUSS

- Although the regions of Georgia are alike in many ways, each region's unique physical features have contributed to that area's history in different ways. Make a chart that lists each region, highlights a prominent physical feature, and connects a major event in Georgia history that was influenced by that feature.
- Georgia's growth has largely occurred from the southeast inland. Compare and contrast the ways that each of Georgia's physical features might have contributed to or hindered the expansion of Georgians north and westward across the state.
- The Fall Line, although imaginary, is a natural dividing feature in Georgia. How do areas north and south of Georgia's Fall Line differ from one another? Be sure to include physical features and characteristics.
- Georgia's many barrier islands are variously inhabited and protected. Map the islands and create a system indicating those which are protected versus those which are open to commercial and residential development.

EXTEND

- Have students advertise one of the physical features of the state. As promoters they might create a poster, video, or advertisement to run in a magazine or as a banner on a website. Advertisements should include characteristics of the physical feature, including recreational uses or economic benefits, as well as any famous events that are associated with the feature.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [*Georgia Stories: The Geology of Georgia*](#)
- [*Georgia Stories: Granite Capital of the World*](#)
- [*Georgia Stories: The Land and Fossils*](#)
- [*Georgia Stories: The Okefenokee Swamp*](#)