

Lesson Title	Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip 5E Lesson Plan
Grade Levels	2nd, 3rd, 8th-12th
Timeline	45-minute class period (or homework assignment) per section

STANDARDS

SS2G1a. Locate and compare the geographic regions of Georgia: Blue Ridge, Piedmont, Coastal Plain, Ridge and Valley, and Appalachian Plateau.

S3L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the similarities and differences between plants, animals, and habitats found within geographic regions (Blue Ridge Mountains, Piedmont, Coastal Plains, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateau) of Georgia.

SS8G1b. Distinguish among the five geographic regions of Georgia in terms of location, climate, agriculture, and economic contribution.

SS8G1c. 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.

SSWG1. Explain why physical characteristics of place such as landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources act as contributing factors to world settlement patterns.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do the different regions of Georgia affect the state's economic development and settlement patterns?

KEY VOCABULARY

plateau, valley, coastal plain, ridge, piedmont, mountain, physiographic region, sedimentary rock, deposit, mining, elevation, sea level, fall line, outcrop, agriculture, tourism

MATERIALS

SOURCE: [GPB's Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#)

GALLERY WALK: individual printed or virtual images (see appendix)

CLAIM, SUPPORT, QUESTION: map of Georgia

LOOKING TEN TIMES TWO: graphic organizer (see appendix)

BIG PAPER: large displays (easel pads, butcher paper, boards), colored sticky notes

TWO-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY + PAPER SLIDESHOW: paper, markers or colored pencils, recording device

ADVENTURE MAPPING: large cut-out Venn diagram circles (from easel pads or butcher paper), five colors of sticky notes

ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER TRUE: graphic organizer (see appendix)

ENGAGE

RESOURCES (IMAGES)

These images can be found in the [Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#).

AND in GPB Education's Regions of Georgia Google Arts and Culture exhibits: [Appalachian Plateau](#), [Valley and Ridge](#), [Blue Ridge](#), [Piedmont](#), [Coastal Plain](#)

STRATEGY: Gallery Walk

Invite students to explore a visual gallery of posted or online images, making one observation and asking one question for each image. Students may then revisit the images and comment on the observations and questions made by their classmates. This activity allows educators to assess prior knowledge and address early misconceptions.

Explain to students that they will be getting a sneak peek at the new unit. Briefly caption photos from the regions of Georgia like the examples below and display them around the classroom (or in a virtual layout to be viewed online). Pair a graphic organizer or T-chart like the one below with each image.

Invite students to work together in pairs or in small groups, studying and analyzing each image, then writing one observation and asking one question on the chart.

SENTENCE OR OBSERVATION STARTERS:

One of the things I notice is ...

One of the things I wonder about is ...

OBSERVATION: I notice that ...	QUESTION: I wonder about ...

Next, challenge students to sort each photo into the region where they think that photo was taken: Appalachian Plateau, Valley and Ridge, Blue Ridge, Piedmont, or Coastal Plain.

Throughout the unit, refer back to the images and the initial connections and questions. Students can continue to post further connections and questions and respond to those contributed by their classmates.

APPALACHIAN PLATEAU

1. Coal



2. Cloudland Canyon

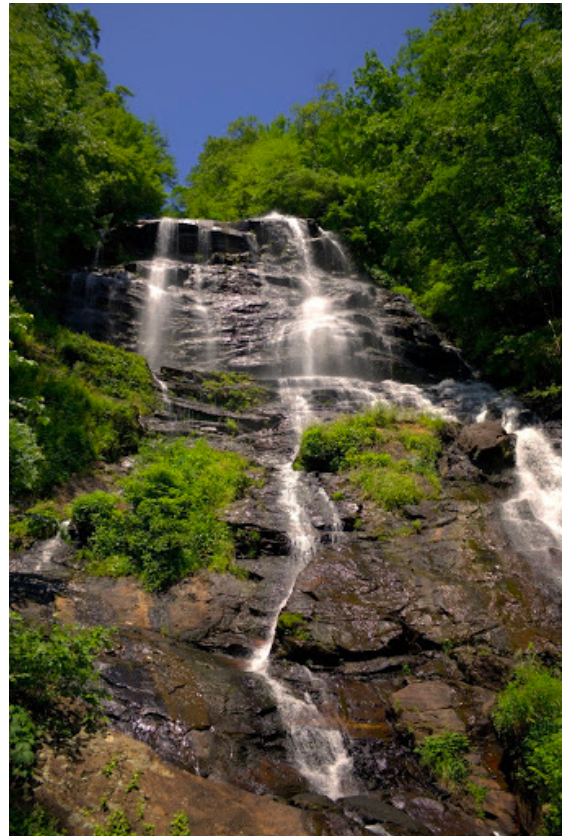


BLUE RIDGE

1. Gold



2. Amicalola Falls



VALLEY AND RIDGE

1. Textiles



2. Valley Lake



PIEDMONT

1. Granite



2. Chattahoochee River



COASTAL PLAIN

1. Peanuts



2. Coastline



EXPLORE

RESOURCE (MAP): Largest Cities of Georgia

This map can be found in the Maps of Georgia section of the [Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#). AND in GPB Education's [Piedmont Region of Georgia](#) Google Arts and Culture exhibit.

STRATEGY: Claim, Support, Question

This strategy has been adapted from [Harvard Project Zero](#).

1. Ask students to make a claim about what they think are the five most populous cities in Georgia. (ANSWER: Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Savannah)
2. Have them support their claim with specific information and evidence from the Largest Cities of Georgia map and other sources.
3. Lastly, ask them to investigate what geographic feature all five cities have in common and repeat the claim and support portion of the exercise in response to their answer. (ANSWER: They are all located near a river.)

EXPLORE

RESOURCE (MAP): Minerals of Georgia

This map can be found in the Maps of Georgia section of the [Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#). AND in GPB Education's [Piedmont Region of Georgia](#) Google Arts and Culture exhibit.

STRATEGY: Looking Five Times Two

This strategy has been adapted from [Harvard Project Zero](#).

This exercise allows students to make careful, detailed observations about a visual resource by pushing them to look beyond first impressions and obvious features. The set number of observations can be increased from five to 10 as students become more skilled with this strategy over time.

1. Look quietly at the mineral map for 30 seconds. Allow your eyes to wander over the image and try to remember as many details as possible.
2. In the graphic organizer, list five words or phrases about what you saw in the map.
3. Look at the map quietly for another 30 seconds. Write five more words or phrases to describe new information you noticed during your second period of observation.

Looking Five Times Two at the Mineral Map of Georgia
30 seconds, 5 observations:
30 seconds, 5 observations:

EXPLORE

RESOURCES (VIDEOS)

- [Appalachian Plateau](#)
- [Blue Ridge Mountains](#)
- [Coastal Plain](#)
- [Piedmont](#)
- [Valley and Ridge](#)

These videos can also be found in the [Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#).

AND in GPB Education's Regions of Georgia Google Arts and Culture exhibits: [Appalachian Plateau](#), [Valley and Ridge](#), [Blue Ridge](#), [Piedmont](#), [Coastal Plain](#)

STRATEGIES: Big Paper

This strategy has been adapted from [Facing History](#).

Students will watch all five of the short videos about the physiographic regions of Georgia, track what they are learning, and explore the information collaboratively through active reading and reflective writing.

1. Label one piece of butcher paper for each category: Facts, Adjectives, Questions, Drawings; and post them around the room.
 - Virtual adaptation: Create one [Padlet](#) for each of the five physiographic regions. Each padlet will have four columns (Facts, Adjectives, Questions, Drawings).
2. Distribute four sticky notes in four different colors to each student and explain what the colors represent. For example:
 - Pink: one factual statement about the region
 - Yellow: one descriptive statement about the region
 - Green: one question you have about the region
 - Blue: one drawing that illustrates something you learned about the region
3. Group students by physiographic region and have them watch the video about their region. Task students to watch the video a second time to inform how they complete their thinking notes. After completing all four of their notes, invite students to stick the notes to the paper boards (or type their observations into the padlets). Repeat until each group has watched all five videos and shared their thinking notes.
4. After students post their initial notes, have them rotate around the room and review each board. Provide them with sticky notes of another color to add supporting details or responses to one another's pinned ideas.
5. As a final reflection, invite students to answer the question, "I would most like to visit the _____ region because _____."

EXPLAIN

RESOURCE (VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP)

This content can be found in the [Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#).

STRATEGY: Two-Minute Documentary + Paper Slideshow

This strategy has been adapted from [K20 Learn](#).

Give students the opportunity to create paper slideshow videos about the regions of Georgia, focusing on climate, natural features, plants and animals, economic resources, points of interest, and historic significance. This project might also work well as an end-of-year culminating activity.

1. Divide students into pairs or small groups. Assign a region of Georgia to each group, arrange for groups to pick a region randomly, or allow groups to choose a region.
2. Invite students to imagine that they run the visitors bureau for their physiographic region of Georgia. They will select at least five pieces of evidence from their research to highlight the characteristics of their region and encourage tourists to visit.
3. Direct students to plan a two-minute paper slideshow video around their response. Refer students to this [video introduction](#) to the paper slideshow process. To prepare for filming, they can begin by choosing production roles such as the ones below.
 - Scriptwriter: Leads the group in developing a script that uses the appropriate vocabulary and explains the response clearly and concisely.
 - Illustrator: Leads the group in planning, creating, and advancing the paper slides during filming.
 - Narrator: Introduces the topic, reads the script in a clear and steady voice, and concludes the video by crediting sources and group participants.
 - Videographer: Leads the group in directing the filming, recording the paper slideshow, and sharing the final group video with the teacher.
4. Have students create digital or paper “slides” that are visual representations of the evidence they collected about their region. Emphasize that slides should rely on drawn images, photos, and graphs and should use minimal words.
5. Instruct students to create a basic script and determine a sequence for their slides, including an opening introduction slide and a closing slide with acknowledgements.
6. After students have practiced reading their scripts out loud while advancing the slides, allow them time to film and critique one dress rehearsal recording. They will then have the opportunity for one final take of their video.
7. Have student groups share their promotional videos with the class by hosting a film festival or posting them to a central site. (Consider [Flipgrid](#) as a creative platform.)

ELABORATE

RESOURCES (VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP)

This content can be found in the [Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#).

AND in GPB Education's Regions of Georgia Google Arts and Culture exhibits:

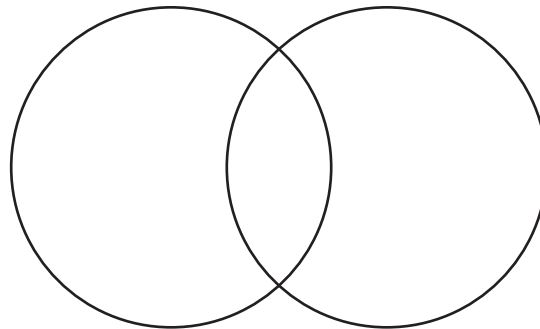
[Appalachian Plateau](#), [Valley and Ridge](#), [Blue Ridge](#), [Piedmont](#), [Coastal Plain](#)

STRATEGY: AdVENNture Mapping

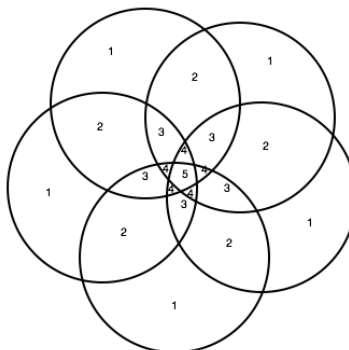
This strategy has been adapted from [Reading Quest](#).

Invite students to analyze their knowledge and elaborate on their understanding of the regions of Georgia by comparing and contrasting the five regions through increasingly complex Venn diagrams.

1. Divide class into ten groups of students, assigning two groups to each of the five regions of Georgia. Choose one color of sticky notes (five colors total) for each region and give groups a set number of their region's colored sticky notes. Give each group a largescale cut-out Venn diagram to stick on the wall or lay on the floor or a table.
2. Ask students to write one fact about their region on each of the sticky notes. They may include information about geographic location, natural resources, wildlife, climate, industries, culture, history, and more.
3. After each group has completed their sticky notes, pair two different regions into one group and challenge them to sort their sticky notes via a two-part Venn diagram:



4. Display all two-part Venn diagrams around the classroom as well as one blank five-part Venn diagram, with each circle representing a region of Georgia. Challenge students at different points throughout the unit to move sticky notes from the two-part Venn diagrams to the five-part Venn diagram until the class is able to collectively complete one Venn diagram for all the regions of Georgia.



EVALUATE

RESOURCES (DID YOU KNOW?)

This content can be found in the [Regions of Georgia Virtual Field Trip](#).

AND in GPB Education's Regions of Georgia Google Arts and Culture exhibits:

[Appalachian Plateau](#), [Valley and Ridge](#), [Blue Ridge](#), [Piedmont](#), [Coastal Plain](#)

STRATEGY: Always, Sometimes, Never True

This strategy has been adapted from [K20 Learn](#).

1. Ask students to complete the table below (and in the appendix) with four statements about content from the nine Did You Know? pages of the Regions of Georgia virtual field trip. Three of their statements should be true, and one statement should be false.
2. Have students exchange their tables and task one another to mark whether they think each statement is true or not, thereby creating a student-based formative assessment.
3. Challenge each student to change the one false statement into a true one, using evidence from the virtual field trip to support their answer.

ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER TRUE

Statement 1.	True or False?
Statement 2.	True or False?
Statement 3.	True or False?
Statement 4.	True or False?

DIFFERENTIATION

CHOICE AND VOICE

1. Create a short children’s book (digital or on paper) that discusses the five regions of Georgia. How would you describe the five regions to a younger student? Include five sentences and five pictures. Be creative and think of ways to make your book appeal to children!

SCAFFOLDING

Welcome to an adventure through the five regions of Georgia!

- In the Blue Ridge region, you will see ...
- In the Appalachian Plateau region, you will see ...
- In the Valley and Ridge region, you will see ...
- In the Piedmont region, you will see ...
- In the Coastal Plain region, you will see ...

OR

2. Create a photography journal that details your trip through the five regions of Georgia. Your journal can look like a collection of social media posts, or it can be written in a traditional journaling format. Include five online pictures with citations, or draw your own pictures that illustrate your experience in each of the five regions. Include a few words that identify and describe the region in each picture.

SCAFFOLDING

- Which region does your picture show?
- How would you describe your region?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [GPB Regions of Georgia VFT User Guide](#)
- [DOE GA Studies Teacher Notes](#)
- [DOE 2nd Grade SS Teacher Notes](#) (Geographic Regions)

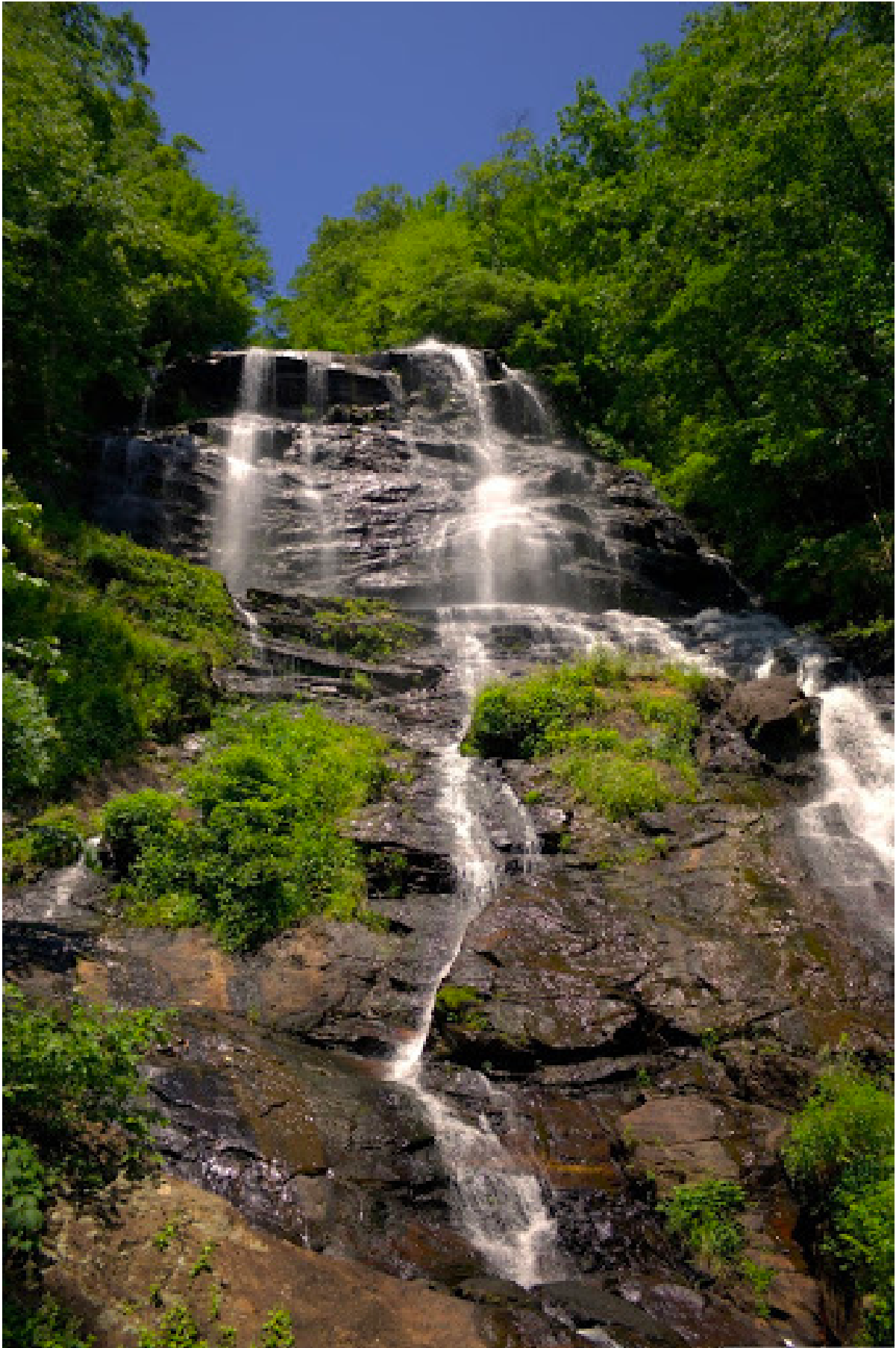
APPENDICES













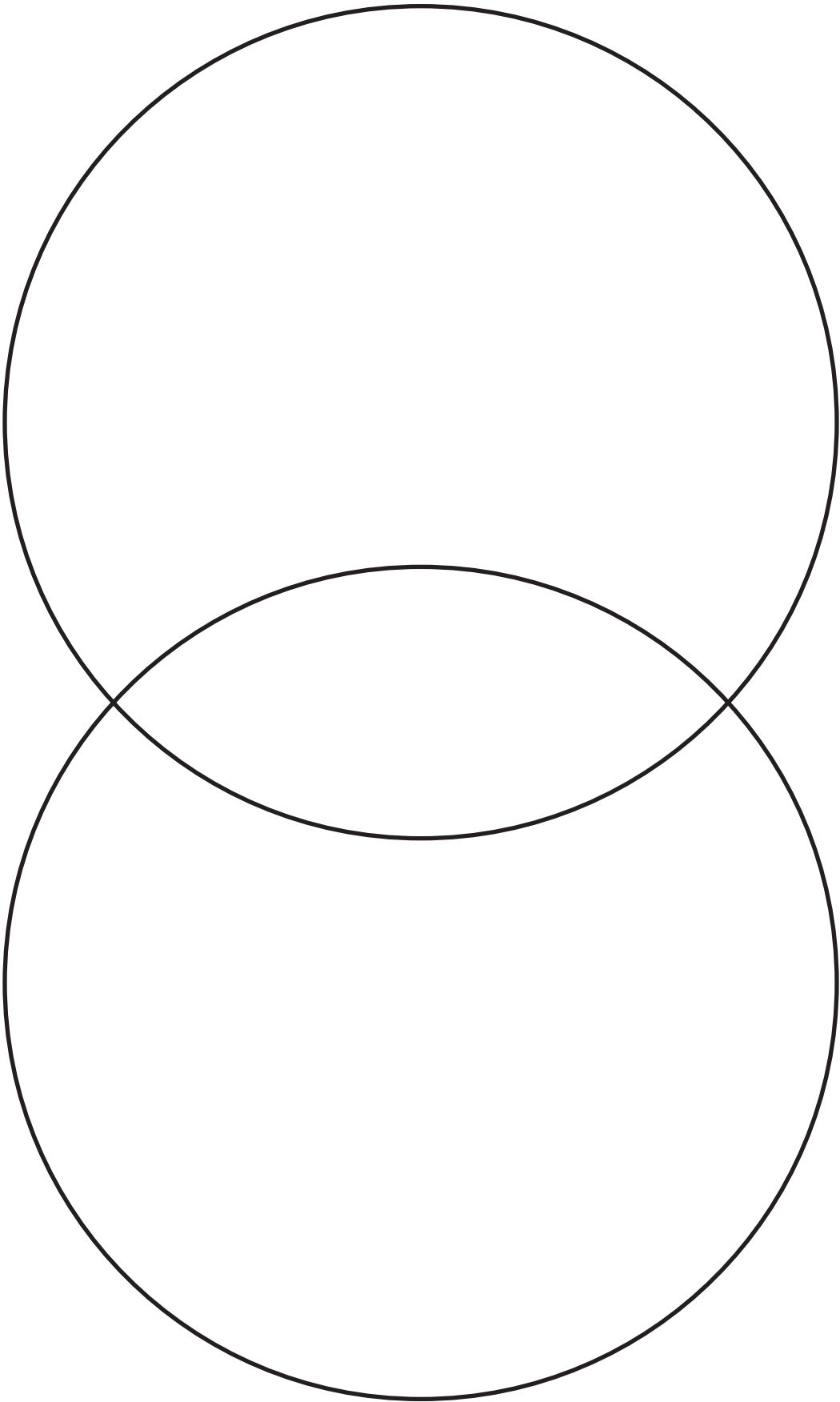
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Looking Five Times Two at the Mineral Map of Georgia

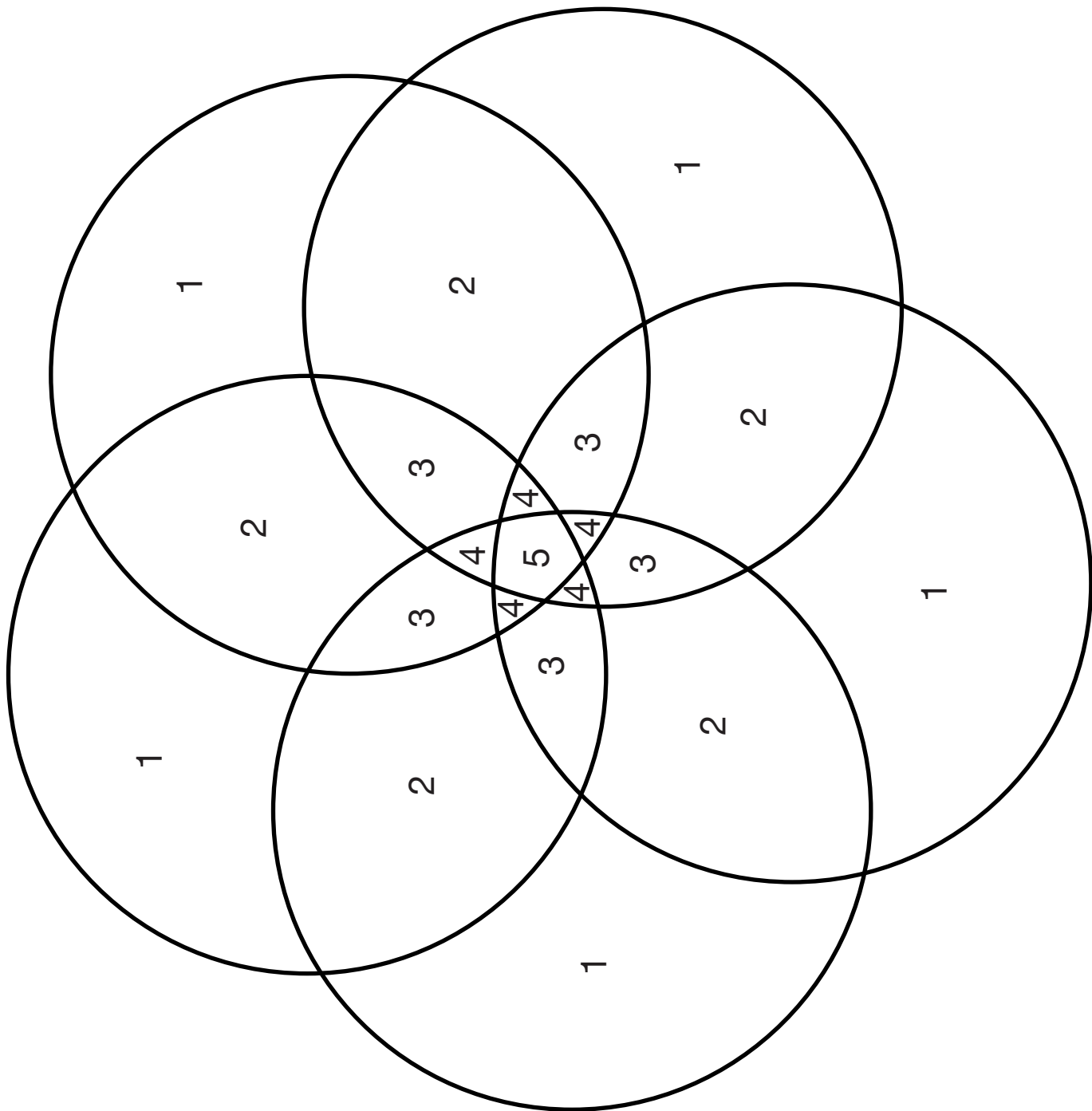
30 seconds, 5 observations:

30 seconds, 5 observations:

NAME: _____



NAME: _____



NAME: _____

ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER TRUE

	True or False?
Statement 1.	
Statement 2.	
Statement 3.	
Statement 4.	