

THE COLONY OF GEORGIA

SS8H2 The student will analyze the colonial period of Georgia's history.

- Explain the importance of James Oglethorpe, the Charter of 1732, reasons for settlement (charity, economics, and defense), Tomochichi, Mary Musgrove, and the city of Savannah.
- Evaluate the Trustee Period of Georgia's colonial history, emphasizing the role of the Salzburgers, Highland Scots, malcontents, and the Spanish threat from Florida.
- Explain the development of Georgia as a royal colony with regard to land ownership, slavery, government, and the impact of the royal governors.



My name is James. I love to help poor people, yo!

James Oglethorpe was an English man who was concerned with helping poor people. During this time period, if you could not pay your debts, you went to jail. Oglethorpe had an architect friend, Robert Castell, who died in debtor's prison. This inspired him to help debtors. He asked King George II (the colony is named after him), for permission to start a new colony. The king granted permission, and the colony of Georgia was established with its charter in 1732.

The colony of Georgia was settled for three main reasons. These are:

CHARITY – Oglethorpe wanted Georgia to be a colony to help debtors, although no debtors went to the colony.

ECONOMICS – King George wanted Georgia to produce rice, silk (through mulberry trees) and vineyards for wine.

DEFENSE – Georgia was supposed to serve as a buffer (protective barrier) between the rest of the British colonies and Spanish Florida.

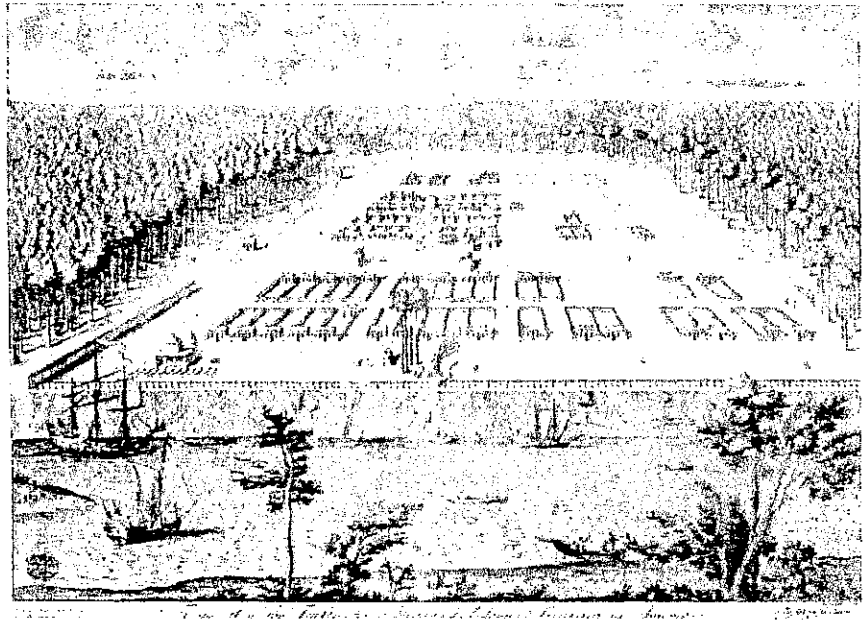
Oglethorpe sailed with the first Georgians on the ship *Ann* and landed near modern-day Savannah in February of 1733. Through an interpreter, **Mary Musgrove**, Oglethorpe asked the local chief, **Tomochichi**, to settle there. The chief allowed them to settle.



Two Native Americans helped Oglethorpe settle peacefully on the colony of Georgia and establish the city of Savannah. These two are

Chief Tomochichi, who was the chief of the Yamacraw (Creek) Indians. The chief allowed Oglethorpe to settle peacefully on Yamacraw Bluff (which later became Savannah). **Mary Musgrove**, who was half-Creek, ran an important trading post. She was also a translator for Oglethorpe and Tomochichi.

The colony of Georgia became successful because of these two and their willingness to keep relations peaceful.



The colonists settled on an area called Yamacraw Bluff and built Georgia's first city, **Savannah**. The design for Savannah was created by Robert Castell, Oglethorpe's friend who died in debtor's prison.

THE COLONY OF GEORGIA WAS AN EXPERIMENT FROM THE BEGINNING. Instead of being a royal colony (like the other 12 colonies) Georgia's charter was created by Oglethorpe and the king with different regulations (rules). Georgia was controlled by a group of **21 trustees** (trustees are people responsible for others), and was called a **trustee colony**. Unlike a royal colony, Georgia was not allowed to have liquor, lawyers, slaves, or Catholics. Georgia's British colonists were soon joined by other ethnic groups, such as the Salzburgers and Highland Scots.

The **Salzburgers** (pictured right) were a group of German-speaking Protestants (meaning they were not Catholic) from modern-day Salzburg, Austria. These people were being treated poorly because of their faith. They came to Georgia seeking religious freedom and Oglethorpe allowed them to settle. First they settled in **Ebenezer**, then in **New Ebenezer** (because Ebenezer was too swampy).



Highland Scot

Salzburgers

The **Highland Scots** also came to Georgia seeking religious freedom. They came from Scotland, and they were Protestants. They were against slavery, and like Georgia's charter. They settled in a town they called **Darien**. They proved to be very helpful when Georgia fought against the Spanish.

Some people did not like the colony of Georgia and its rules. They wanted Georgia to be a "normal" colony like the royal colonies and not a trustee colony. Most of these colonists were British. They were called the **malcontents** (malcontent means "not happy.")

A malcontent...



One of the reasons Georgia was settled was for defense. It was to protect the other colonies from the Spanish, who were south in Florida. The Georgia colonists fought against the Spanish in a war called the **War of Jenkins's Ear**, and in a battle in Georgia called the **Battle of Bloody Marsh**. The Spanish eventually left Georgia for good.

Unfortunately for James Oglethorpe, his vision for Georgia did not work out as planned. During the war with the Spanish, Oglethorpe was called away to a trial in Great Britain and never returned. Georgia became a royal colony when the trustee period ended in 1752.

GEORGIA'S ROYAL GOVERNORS

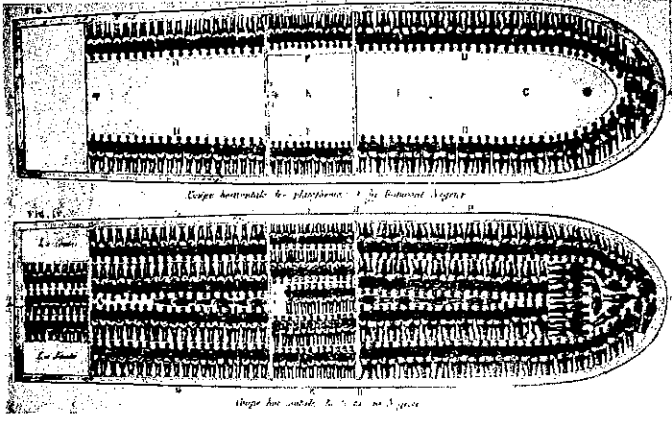
Georgia had three royal governors after it became a royal colony: John Reynolds, Henry Ellis, and James Wright.

John Reynolds was Georgia's first royal governor (sorry...no picture). He gave the Georgia colonists self-government (the ability to govern themselves). He took it away later on, and then he also tried to move Savannah to another location. He was removed from his position.

Henry Ellis was the second royal governor. Ellis regulated trade with Native Americans, but could do little in Georgia because he was so sick. He had to leave Georgia due to illness.

James Wright was Georgia's final royal governor, and the most popular until the American Revolution. He served for 16 years. He helped Georgia grow economically and he also increased the size of the colony. Georgia's slave population expanded during this time.



<p>LAND OWNERSHIP IN GEORGIA:</p> <p>If you could pay for your ticket overseas: 500 acres of land</p> <p>If you could not pay for your ticket: 50 acres of land</p>	<p>Land ownership was important to survival in the colony of Georgia. Those who could afford to come to Georgia by boat received 500 acres of land, and those who did not received 50 acres of land. Later, Georgia would use the headright system and land lotteries to solve land issues.</p>
<p>GEORGIA'S ROYAL GOVERNMENT</p> <p>The Governor was the head of Georgia's executive branch.</p> <p>To vote, you had to own 50 acres.</p> <p>To hold office, you had to own 500 acres.</p>	<p>Georgia's royal government was initially set up to include the concept of self-government, where the people (okay, white men) could have choices. This system worked well for the colony. The government had a Court of Conscience that could settle disputes, a Governor's Council (upper house), and a Common's House of Assembly. This government had three branches, just like our government today.</p>
	<p>When Georgia was a trustee colony, its colonists were not allowed to have slaves (they were not allowed in Georgia's charter). When Georgia became a royal colony, slaves started coming into the colony in large numbers. Even though there were some groups opposed to slavery (like the Salzburgers and Highland Scots), most of the plantation owners in Georgia became owners of massive amounts of slaves. Georgia's slave question would cause it problems for decades.</p>

GEORGIA IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

SS8H3 The student will analyze the role of Georgia in the American Revolution.

- Explain the immediate and long-term causes of the American Revolution and their impact on Georgia; include the French and Indian War (Seven Years War), Proclamation of 1763, Stamp Act, Intolerable Acts, and the Declaration of Independence.
- Analyze the significance of people and events in Georgia on the Revolutionary War; include Loyalists, patriots, Elijah Clarke, Austin Dabney, Nancy Hart, Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton, Battle of Kettle Creek, and siege of Savannah.

Why, Georgia? Why?

One of the things you need to understand about Georgia is that it was the thirteenth – and **LAST** – colony. Georgia was **the baby**. Because of this, it had trouble breaking away from Great Britain, its mother country.



Georgia was also the most southern colony. Because of this, it was somewhat isolated (set apart) from the other colonies. Keep this in mind when we are discussing the causes of the American Revolution.