

## Sample Social Studies Learning Plan

### Big Idea/ Topic

#### Georgia's Regions and Rivers

Connecting Theme/Enduring Understanding:

Students will locate Georgia's regions and major rivers and discuss the impact of geography on people's lives through the theme of location..

Essential Question:

In what ways are the five regions of Georgia similar and different?  
Where can you locate each river and region on the map?

### Standard Alignment

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

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

Connection to Literacy Standards for Social Studies and Social Studies Matrices

ELAGSE2RI2: Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

ELAGSE2W8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

ELAGSE2SL2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from written texts read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

ELAGSE2SL3: Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.

Information Processing Skills: 1. Compare similarities and differences. 5. identify main idea, detail, sequence of events, and cause and effect in a social studies context

Map and Globe Skills: 11. Use a compass rose to identify cardinal directions. 2. Use intermediate directions. 6. use map key/legend to acquire information from historical, physical, political, resource, product, and economic maps

## Instructional Design

**\*This lesson has a flexible timeline and will cross over several days.**

**This lesson is intended to reach students in a virtual setting, whether plugged or unplugged. See bottom of lesson for list of unplugged supplies.**

**Part 1:** Before starting the lesson, have students think about where they live. In kindergarten and first grade, students had to identify and locate their state. In this lesson students will locate Georgia's three major rivers and locate and compare the five regions of Georgia.

In a live or recorded session, introduce the five regions of Georgia through the GPB Virtual Field Trip. (<https://www.gpb.org/education/virtual/regions-of-georgia>) (Depending on your ability and time frame, you may want to discuss one region per session in its entirety.) Walk through the virtual field trip describing the region's location, landforms, interesting facts, and cities or place to visit in each. There are also additional videos and images to go with each region. While discussing each region and looking at its location on the map, review the cardinal and intermediate directions. This will help students locate the regions in relation to the others. (You may want to make anchor charts while discussing each region and/or encourage students to record some notes in their notebooks to be used in part 2.)

After each field trip, have students share what they see, what they think, and what they wonder about the different regions. Students can share responses orally in live lessons or record responses in their notebooks to submit. (You may want to go stop periodically throughout live lessons to ask these questions instead of waiting until the end.)

**\*Unplugged variation** – See attached document (*Regions of Georgia PowerPoint*) which is a modified version of the GPB Virtual Field Trip. Students can use it to read information about each region.

**Part 2:** In a live or recorded session, review facts learned about each region of Georgia. Show students a blank regions of Georgia map and have them identify each region. As students are sharing facts about each region, be sure to point out those similarities (this will help them in part 4). Using the *Regions of Georgia Graphic Organizers*, model how to complete the graphic organizer using the information learned previously about each region.

**\*Unplugged variation** – See attached document (*Regions of Georgia Graphic Organizers*),. Students will complete these graphic organizers to show their understanding of each region. (Remind students they can refer to the *Regions of Georgia PowerPoint* if needed.)

*Discuss with students:* Review the students' graphic organizers. Allow students to share their completed graphic organizers in whatever way is available. Be sure all students have the location of the regions labeled correctly. Again, focus on several similarities and differences between the five regions.

**Part 3:** Now that students have a good understanding of the five regions of Georgia, introduce the three major rivers. In a live or recorded session, show students the map of Georgia (*GA Regions and Rivers Map*). While introducing and explaining each river, be sure to explain to students where it begins and where it travels. (example: The Savannah River begins in the Blue Ridge region and flows east on the border between Georgia and South Carolina.) Talk about the benefits that would come from living near a river. Why would people want to set up settlements near a river?

**\*Unplugged variation** – See attached document (*GA Regions and Rivers Map*). Students will use the map to practice locating and identifying the 3 major rivers of Georgia.



**Part 4:** For a summative assessment, have students answer the essential questions. In what ways are the five regions of Georgia similar and different? Where can you locate each river and region on the map? Students will label a blank map of Georgia. They will locate and label the five regions of Georgia as well as the three major rivers. Students will also use a Venn diagram to compare any two regions they choose. (Be sure students have been exposed to a Venn diagram prior to this assessment.) Students can complete this online by annotating over the PDF file or can complete the print version.

**\*Unplugged variation to summative assessment** – Provide a print copy of the *Georgia Regions and Rivers* assessment.

## Student Learning Supports

### Ideas for Differentiation:

Our goal is for all students to be actively engaged using speaking, writing, illustrating, reading, and listening. Below are changes to the lesson to help achieve that goal for students who need additional support. *Note: Be careful using these changes for all students. If students are able to complete the activities on their own, it would be best to let them do this independently.*

- Some students will struggle to complete the organizers independently. These are a few suggestions: allow students to use the PowerPoints as a guide, give students the organizer partially completed to lessen the amount of work, give students a “key” to copy.
- If students can show their understanding of the standard in a different way through speaking, writing, illustrating, reading, or listening encourage that as long as they are identifying and locating the region or river.

### Opportunities for Extension:

- Have students make their own maps to label and refer to for practice.
- In an interactive session, play “Guess the Region and River”. Describe a region or river, and have the students guess which it is in a fun and engaging way.
- Have students create a flip book to teach about Georgia’s regions and rivers.

### Lesson Supplies: (\*signifies unplugged only)

- Lesson checklist \*
- *Regions of Georgia* Virtual Field Trip (<https://www.gpb.org/education/virtual/regions-of-georgia>)
- [Regions of Georgia PowerPoint](#) \*
- [Regions of Georgia Graphic Organizers](#)
- *GA Regions and Rivers Map*
- *Georgia Regions and Rivers* assessment

## Evidence of Student Success

Information for diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments are described within the Instructional Design.

## Engaging Families

Materials included to support unplugged learners: Lesson checklist, *Regions of Georgia* PowerPoint, *Regions of Georgia* Graphic Organizers, *GA Regions and Rivers Map*, *Georgia Regions and Rivers* assessment



# Georgia's Regions and Rivers Lesson Checklist

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

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

## Part 1:

- 1. Use the *Regions of Georgia* PowerPoint to learn about each of the five regions of Georgia. Focus on the map of the five regions and practice identifying where each is located.
- 2. Take notes in your notebook about each region's location, landforms, interesting facts, and places to visit. (This will help you in part 2.)

## Part 2:

- 3. Using the *Regions of Georgia* Graphic Organizers, organizer the information you learned about each region. Label the region on the map, identify the landforms, interesting facts, and places to visit for each of the five regions. (Refer to the completed example if you need help. Also, remember to use the PowerPoint and your notes from part 1)

## Part 3:

- 4. Use the ***GA Regions and Rivers Map*** to locate and identify the 3 major rivers of Georgia. (Chattahoochee River, Savannah River, and Flint River)
- 5. Using cardinal and intermediate directions, write in your notebook where each river is located. (example: The Savannah River found on the eastern border of Georgia.)

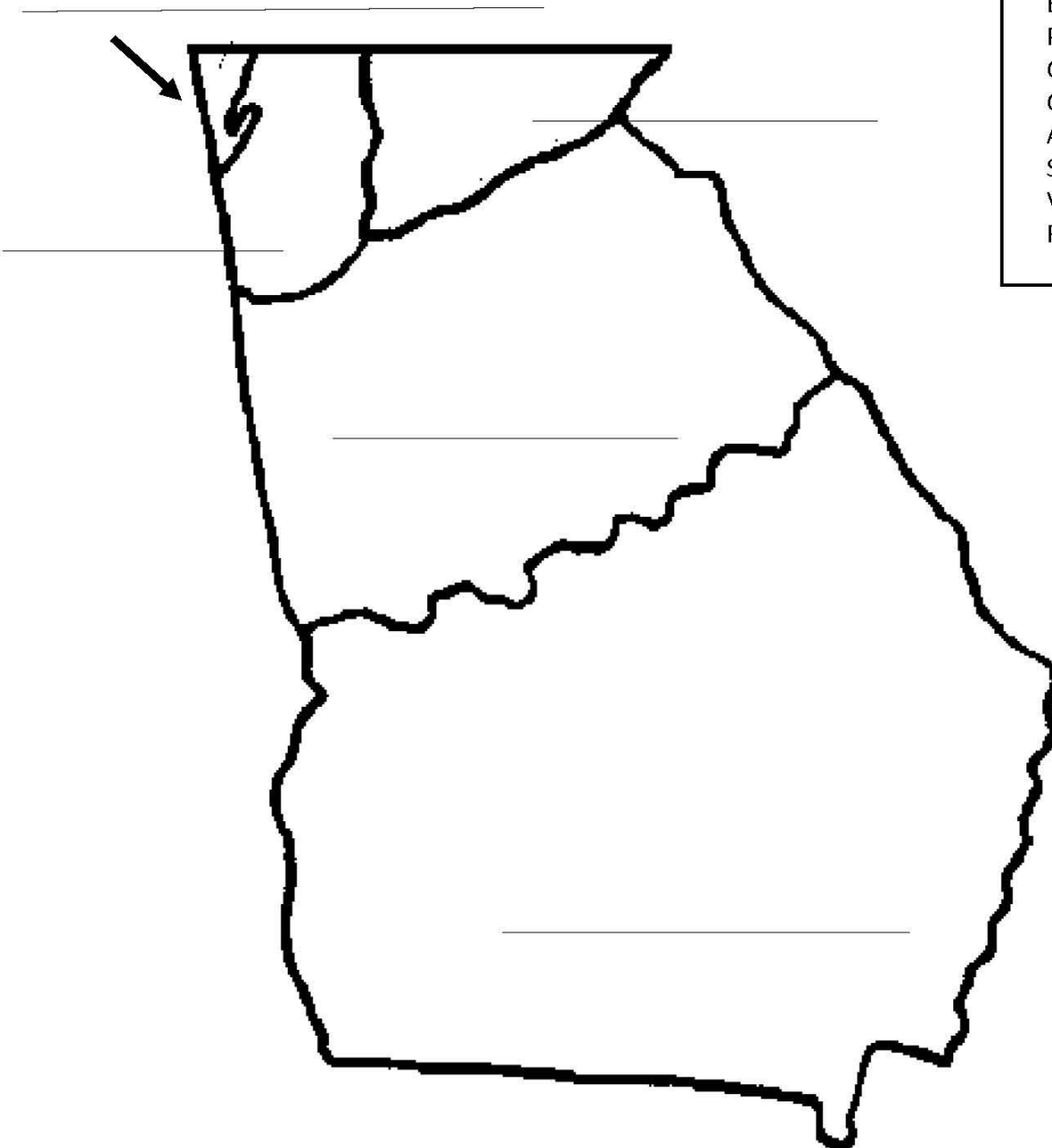
## Part 4:

- 6. Answer the Essential Questions: In what ways are the five regions of Georgia similar and different? Where can you locate each river and region on the map? by completing the *Georgia Regions and Rivers* assessment.



### Georgia's Regions and Rivers

Directions: Label each of the five regions of Georgia. (Use the word bank if needed.)



Word Bank

- Blue Ridge
- Piedmont
- Chattahoochee River
- Coastal Plain
- Appalachian Plateau
- Savannah River
- Valley and Ridge
- Flint River

Draw in and label the three rivers of Georgia. (Use the word bank if needed.)



# Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Choose two regions of Georgia. Complete the Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences between the two regions.

**Similarities**

