

Name _____

Georgia Through the Ages: A Journey Through Its Rich History



Georgia, often called the Empire State of the South, is a state steeped in history and tradition. Its story dates back centuries and is filled with tales of exploration, colonization, and conflict.

Early Inhabitants

Long before European settlers arrived, Georgia was home to several Native American tribes, including the Creek, Cherokee, and Chickasaw. These tribes developed rich cultures, complex societies, and distinctive languages.

European Exploration

Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto ventured into the Georgia territory in the 16th century, but it wasn't until 1733 that Georgia was founded as a British colony by General James Oglethorpe. The city of Savannah, known for its well-planned grid layout, became the colony's first settlement.

Colonial Era

Georgia was established as a haven for debtors and the "worthy poor" seeking a fresh start. It was also created as a buffer between the British colonies and Spanish Florida. The colony prospered with the cultivation of rice, indigo, and later, cotton, which became known as "King Cotton."

Revolutionary War

During the American Revolution, Georgia played a significant role in the fight for independence. The Battle of Kettle Creek in 1779 was a pivotal moment, leading to the eventual liberation of Georgia from British control.

Native American Removal

The early 19th century saw the forced removal of Native American tribes, including the Cherokee, from their ancestral lands in Georgia. The infamous Trail of Tears resulted in the suffering and death of thousands.

Civil War and Reconstruction

Georgia was a major battleground during the American Civil War (1861-1865). The state's pivotal role in the conflict is evident in battles like Chickamauga and Sherman's March to the Sea. The post-war period, known as Reconstruction, brought significant changes to the state.

Modern Era

Georgia continued to evolve throughout the 20th century, experiencing the effects of both World Wars, the Civil Rights Movement, and economic growth driven by industries such as manufacturing, film, and technology.

