GEORGIA

THE PEACH STATE *Became a state January 2, 1788 (4th)*

Georgia was the last of the 13 original colonies. It stretches from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the north to swamps and sandy islands along the Atlantic coast.



Why the Peach State?

Before the Civil War, Georgia's farms grew mostly cotton. After the war, many farmers looked for new crops. In 1870 grower Samuel Rumph raised a new yellow peach and named it Elberta, after his wife. It was sweet and firm enough to travel. Ice-cooled railroad cars carried Georgia peaches to northern cities, and the nickname followed. Today California and South Carolina grow more peaches.



A Colony for a Fresh Start

In February 1733, James Oglethorpe and about 114 colonists landed on a bluff above the Savannah River. Oglethorpe wanted a colony where poor English families could start over. It was named for King George II. Tomochichi, chief of the Yamacraw people, welcomed the settlers and helped keep the peace. Savannah was laid out around open squares, and most are still parks.



A Five-Cent Fizzy Drink

In 1886 Atlanta pharmacist John Pemberton cooked up a new syrup and sold it as a medicine. On May 8, Jacobs' Pharmacy began selling it for five cents a glass. The syrup was mixed with fizzy water at the soda fountain. Pemberton's bookkeeper, Frank Robinson, thought up the name and its curly lettering. Today the cola is sold in more than 200 countries.



Land of the Trembling Earth

The Okefenokee Swamp covers about 700 square miles. Much of its ground is peat, a thick mat of dead plants that can float on the water. Step on it and nearby bushes and trees shake, so the swamp is often called the land of the trembling earth. The plants also stain the water brown like tea.



From Bedspreads to Carpets

In 1895 a teenager near Dalton named Catherine Evans sewed a bedspread covered with rows of fluffy tufts. Soon families across the area were making tufted bedspreads to sell. Later, factories used machines to tuft carpet the same way. Today mills around Dalton produce most of the carpet made in the United States.



Peanuts and a President

In the 1910s a beetle called the boll weevil began ruining Georgia's cotton, so many farmers planted peanuts instead. Peanuts are not nuts. They are related to beans and ripen underground. Georgia now grows about half of the country's peanuts. Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer from Plains, became the 39th president in 1977.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 11.3 million (8th most)
Size	About 59,400 square miles (24th largest)
Highest point	Brasstown Bald, 4,784 feet
Counties	159, more than any state but Texas
Neighbors	Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina

DID YOU KNOW?

- The brown thrasher, Georgia's state bird, is known for having more than 1,000 different songs.
- Juliette Gordon Low started the Girl Scouts in Savannah in 1912. Eighteen girls signed up that first spring.
- By law, only onions grown in 20 Georgia counties can be called Vidalia onions.
- Each winter, right whales swim to the warm waters off Georgia to have their calves. The right whale is the state marine mammal.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which city is closest to Stone Mountain?
2. How high is Brasstown Bald?
3. Which state is south of Georgia?

Answers: 1. Atlanta 2. 4,784 feet 3. Florida