

Water Builds Georgia

Trace how rivers, rapids, and ports shaped Georgia's growth.

SS8G1.d "Analyze the importance of water in Georgia's historical development and economic growth."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that show how water affected settlement, industry, or trade. Write 1, 2, or 3 beside each underlined phrase to label it as settlement, industry, or trade evidence.

Georgia's Waterways at Work

- ① Waterways shaped where Georgia communities grew. Long before railroads and highways, settlers used rivers as travel routes. The Savannah River linked inland farms and towns to the port city of Savannah. Boats carried goods such as cotton, lumber, and rice toward coastal markets. Along the Chattahoochee River, communities could trade with places beyond their region. Rivers also provided drinking water and fish. Access to dependable water helped people choose settlement sites and connect local work to wider markets.
- ② Water also powered economic change. Georgia's Fall Line is an area where rivers drop from the Piedmont to the Coastal Plain. The falling water turned waterwheels at mills, including textile and grain mills. Mill owners built near rapids because moving water supplied power before electricity became common. Cities such as Augusta, Macon, and Columbus developed industries near the Fall Line. Water power drew workers and businesses, showing how a natural feature could influence Georgia's growing economy.
- ③ At Georgia's coast, the Savannah River and Atlantic Ocean made overseas trade possible. Savannah's deep harbor allowed ships to load and unload cargo. During the colonial era, planters shipped rice, indigo, and other products through the port. Later, cotton and forest products supported trade and jobs. Today, the Port of Savannah handles containerized goods, connecting Georgia businesses to global customers. Maintaining channels and harbor access remains important because ships need safe, deep water. Water therefore supported Georgia's historical settlement, industry, trade, and continuing economic growth.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did the Savannah River help inland communities take part in trade?

2 Explain why mill owners built near Fall Line rapids before electricity became common.

3 What are two ways Savannah's water access supported trade in different time periods?

4 Use two details from the passage to support the conclusion that water helped Georgia's economy grow.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write four or five sentences explaining how dependable water access could help a new Georgia community develop. Include one historical use of water, one modern economic use, and a clear explanation of how water could affect jobs or settlement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that show how water affected settlement, industry, or trade. Write 1, 2, or 3 beside each underlined phrase to label it as settlement, industry, or trade evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Savannah River help inland communities take part in trade?	It linked inland farms and towns to the port city of Savannah, allowing goods to move toward coastal markets.
2	Explain why mill owners built near Fall Line rapids before electricity became common.	The falling, moving water at rapids turned waterwheels and supplied power for mills.
3	What are two ways Savannah's water access supported trade in different time periods?	In the colonial era, ships carried rice, indigo, and other products through Savannah. Today, the Port of Savannah handles containerized goods for global trade.
4	Use two details from the passage to support the conclusion that water helped Georgia's economy grow.	Answers may cite water-powered mills that drew workers and businesses, river transportation for farm goods, or the Port of Savannah's trade and jobs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new Georgia community beside a navigable river could first grow because boats can move farm products to buyers. If the site is near Fall Line rapids, moving water could power early mills. Today, a connection to a port could help businesses send goods to wider markets. These uses would attract workers and jobs, so water could support both settlement and economic growth.

Accept paraphrased evidence and explanations that accurately connect water access to settlement, power, transportation, trade, jobs, or markets. For the open response, look for both a historical and modern use plus a clear cause-and-effect explanation.