

Georgia Ground and Sky

Trace how landforms, water, and climate vary across Georgia.

SS8G1 "Describe Georgia's geography and climate."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that describes a Georgia landform or region. Circle each phrase that describes climate or weather, so you can compare how location affects Georgia.

From Peaks to Marshes

- ① Georgia's land changes from the mountains in the north to the Atlantic coast in the southeast. The Blue Ridge Mountains have steep slopes, higher elevations, and cooler temperatures than much of the state. South of the mountains, the Piedmont has rolling hills and red clay soil. Farther south, the Coastal Plain is mostly flat. Georgia's five geographic regions also include the Ridge and Valley and Appalachian Plateau in the northwest, where ridges, valleys, and plateaus shape the land. These regions influence travel, farming, and settlement.
- ② Georgia has a humid subtropical climate, so summers are usually hot and humid, while winters are generally mild. The state's location near the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean brings moist air that helps produce rainfall during every season. Georgia receives about 50 inches of precipitation in a typical year, although amounts vary by location. Higher mountain areas may receive snow in winter, but snow is less common in the warmer southern and coastal areas. Thunderstorms are frequent in summer, especially on warm afternoons.
- ③ Water connects Georgia's landforms and climate to daily life. The Chattahoochee River begins in the Blue Ridge Mountains and flows southwest, supplying water to communities and helping form part of Georgia's western border. Along the coast, tidal marshes lie near barrier islands and the Atlantic Ocean. Warm, moist air can fuel heavy rain and tropical storms, especially near the coast. Because Georgia has varied elevations and distances from the ocean, weather conditions can differ across the state on the same day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does Georgia's landscape change from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Coastal Plain?

2 Why does Georgia receive rainfall during every season?

3 Compare winter snowfall in Georgia's mountains with winter snowfall in southern and coastal Georgia.

4 What are two ways the Chattahoochee River affects Georgia?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence summer travel advisory for someone driving from the Blue Ridge Mountains to Georgia's coast. Describe two changes in landforms, name two weather or climate conditions, and explain how location or elevation affects one condition.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that describes a Georgia landform or region. Circle each phrase that describes climate or weather, so you can compare how location affects Georgia. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Georgia's landscape change from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Coastal Plain?	The Blue Ridge Mountains have steep slopes and high elevations, the Piedmont has rolling hills, and the Coastal Plain is mostly flat.
2	Why does Georgia receive rainfall during every season?	Moist air from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean helps produce rainfall during every season.
3	Compare winter snowfall in Georgia's mountains with winter snowfall in southern and coastal Georgia.	Higher mountain areas may receive snow in winter. Snow is less common in the warmer southern and coastal areas.
4	What are two ways the Chattahoochee River affects Georgia?	It supplies water to communities and helps form part of Georgia's western border.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A summer traveler leaving the Blue Ridge Mountains will start among steep slopes and higher elevations. Farther south, the route crosses rolling Piedmont hills and then the flat Coastal Plain near the coast. Expect hot, humid air and frequent afternoon thunderstorms as moist air arrives from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. The mountain start may be cooler than the warmer coastal destination because elevation affects temperature.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Georgia's regions, water features, and humid subtropical climate that match the passage. For the travel advisory, accept four sentences that include two landform changes, two climate or weather conditions, and a logical explanation involving elevation or location.