

Contacts and Consequences

Trace how exploration and settlement changed American Indian life in Georgia.

SS8H1 "Evaluate the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action taken by Europeans. Circle the effect on American Indian communities, then number the circled effects 1, 2, and 3 to show the three paragraphs.

European Contact in Georgia

- ① In 1540, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto led soldiers through parts of what is now Georgia. His expedition demanded food, guides, and labor from American Indian communities, including chiefdoms organized around powerful leaders. Soldiers fought some groups and took people captive. Europeans also brought unfamiliar diseases. Because Native people had no immunity to illnesses such as smallpox, disease could spread rapidly during and after contact. Population losses weakened communities and made it harder for some leaders to protect their people, farms, and trade networks.
- ② Spain built Catholic missions along Georgia's coast beginning in the late 1500s. At missions, Franciscan friars tried to convert Guale and other Native peoples to Christianity. Mission residents supplied labor and food, while Spanish officials sought to control the coast. Some American Indians used mission ties to gain new tools or military support. Others resisted Spanish demands, and the Guale Revolt of 1597 destroyed several missions. Missions changed religious practices, work, and political power, even when Native communities made choices within the system.
- ③ When English colonists founded Georgia in 1733, they entered a region already shaped by Native nations and European rivalries. Creek and Cherokee people traded deerskins with British merchants for cloth, metal tools, and guns. The trade created opportunities, but it also increased hunting pressure and could lead to debt. As colonial settlements expanded, colonists wanted more land. Treaties and trading relationships sometimes brought cooperation, yet land loss and competition increased conflict. Evaluating this history means weighing both Native resistance and adaptation against the severe losses caused by disease, warfare, labor demands, and land seizure.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did de Soto's expedition weaken some American Indian communities? Explain the chain of cause and effect.

2 How did the Spanish mission system affect Native life in two ways? Include one Spanish goal or demand and one American Indian response.

3 What was one benefit and one harmful result of trade between Creek or Cherokee people and British merchants?

4 Why does the passage describe European settlement as having both cooperation and conflict? Use two details from the final paragraph.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 3-sentence historical judgment about whether European settlement had a mostly harmful or mixed impact on American Indians in Georgia. State a claim, use two specific details from different paragraphs, and explain how they support your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action taken by Europeans. Circle the effect on American Indian communities, then number the circled effects 1, 2, and 3 to show the three paragraphs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did de Soto's expedition weaken some American Indian communities? Explain the chain of cause and effect.	The expedition demanded supplies and labor, fought groups, and brought unfamiliar diseases. Disease caused population losses that weakened communities and their leaders.
2	How did the Spanish mission system affect Native life in two ways? Include one Spanish goal or demand and one American Indian response.	Spain tried to convert Native peoples, use their labor and food, and control the coast. American Indians sometimes gained tools or military support, while others resisted, including during the Guale Revolt.
3	What was one benefit and one harmful result of trade between Creek or Cherokee people and British merchants?	Trade brought goods such as cloth, metal tools, and guns. It also increased hunting pressure and could lead to debt.
4	Why does the passage describe European settlement as having both cooperation and conflict? Use two details from the final paragraph.	Treaties and trading relationships sometimes brought cooperation and useful goods. However, expanding settlements caused land loss and competition, which increased conflict.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

European settlement had a mostly harmful impact on American Indians in Georgia. Diseases connected to early Spanish contact caused population losses, and expanding English settlements took land and increased conflict. Although some people gained trade goods or mission support, those benefits did not erase the damage to communities and independence.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that use accurate details from the passage. For the open response, require a clear judgment, evidence from two different paragraphs, and reasoning that connects the evidence to the judgment.