

Why Georgia Began

Read how the Charter of 1732 connected Georgia's purpose to three settlement goals.

SS8H2.a "Explain the importance of the Charter of 1732, including the reasons for settlement (philanthropy, economics, and defense)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle details that show what the Charter allowed or limited, then underline each reason for settlement and label it P, E, or D for philanthropy, economics, or defense.

A Charter With Purposes

- ① In 1732, King George II granted a charter that created the colony of Georgia. A charter was an official document that gave a group legal permission and rules for starting a colony. The Charter of 1732 gave twenty-one Trustees responsibility for Georgia for twenty-one years. The Trustees could manage the colony, but they could not own land or make profits from it. Their decisions were meant to serve the colony and Britain, not private investors alone.
- ② One reason for settlement was philanthropy, or helping people in need. James Oglethorpe and other supporters hoped Georgia would offer a fresh start to worthy poor people, including some who had been imprisoned for debt. The Trustees planned to provide small farms and a chance to work. This goal mattered because supporters believed the colony could reduce poverty and give struggling people a new opportunity. Not every poor person was promised passage, but the goal shaped early plans.
- ③ Georgia also had economic and defense purposes. Britain expected Georgia to produce raw materials, such as silk and wine, that could be sent to Britain. British leaders hoped this trade would reduce their reliance on goods from other countries. Georgia also stood south of South Carolina, near Spanish Florida. A settled colony could help protect British land from Spanish attacks and claims. Thus, the charter supported Britain's economy and created a defensive buffer in North America.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Charter of 1732 limit the Trustees, and why did those limits matter?

2 What was the philanthropic reason for settling Georgia? Give two details that show how supporters planned to meet this goal.

3 Explain Britain's economic reason for supporting Georgia's settlement.

4 Why did Georgia's location make settlement important for defense?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are advising a British official during Georgia's first year. Write exactly four sentences explaining which purpose, philanthropy, economics, or defense, should guide the colony first, using at least two details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle details that show what the Charter allowed or limited, then underline each reason for settlement and label it P, E, or D for philanthropy, economics, or defense. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Charter of 1732 limit the Trustees, and why did those limits matter?	The Trustees could not own land or make profits from Georgia. These limits were meant to keep them focused on serving the colony and Britain instead of private interests.
2	What was the philanthropic reason for settling Georgia? Give two details that show how supporters planned to meet this goal.	Supporters wanted to help worthy poor people have a fresh start. They planned small farms and opportunities to work, and some people imprisoned for debt were included in the idea.
3	Explain Britain's economic reason for supporting Georgia's settlement.	Britain wanted Georgia to produce raw materials, including silk and wine, for shipment to Britain. This trade could reduce Britain's reliance on goods from other countries.
4	Why did Georgia's location make settlement important for defense?	Georgia was south of South Carolina and near Spanish Florida. A settled colony could protect British land from Spanish attacks and claims.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Defense should guide Georgia's first year because the colony stood near Spanish Florida. If Spain attacked or claimed the land, the colony could not meet its other goals. Settlers could still build farms that support the economic plan while helping establish a protective community. Philanthropy mattered, but safety had to come first.

Accept equivalent explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, accept any clearly chosen purpose if the student uses at least two accurate passage details and explains the choice in exactly four sentences.