

Georgia Changes Course

Trace how royal rule reshaped colonial life and government.

SS8H2.d "Explain the transition of Georgia into a royal colony with regard to land ownership, slavery, alcohol, and government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence for each topic that tells what changed as Georgia became a royal colony: land ownership, slavery, alcohol, and government. In the margin, number the four underlined sentences 1 through 4 by topic.

From Trustee Rules to Royal Rule

- ① Georgia began in 1732 as a proprietary colony run by Trustees in Britain. The Trustees hoped small farmers would create a protective colony between South Carolina and Spanish Florida. They gave settlers small land grants, but rules limited ownership. A man could not sell his grant, and inheritance generally passed to a male heir. The Trustees also banned slavery and rum. Many colonists disliked these limits because neighboring colonies used enslaved labor, sold land, and traded alcohol.
- ② In 1752, the Trustees gave Georgia's charter back to the king, and Georgia became a royal colony. This change followed years of complaints from settlers and financial problems for the Trustees. Royal officials allowed people to buy and sell land, which encouraged larger farms and plantations. Slavery had been legalized in 1751 after the Trustees' ban was removed. The rum ban had ended earlier, in 1742. These policy changes helped connect Georgia's economy more closely to those of other southern British colonies.
- ③ Government changed as well. Under the Trustees, men in Britain made most major decisions, and Georgia had no elected assembly. After royal control began, the king appointed a governor to enforce British policy. In 1755, colonists elected representatives to the Commons House of Assembly. The governor, an appointed council, and the elected assembly shared parts of colonial government, although the governor and Crown kept strong power. Georgia's shift to royal rule therefore changed who controlled decisions while earlier policy changes reshaped daily economic life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did rules for owning land change after Georgia became a royal colony?

2 What does the passage show about the timing of the slavery ban and the rum ban?

3 Compare government under the Trustees with government under royal control.

4 Why did the new land rules encourage larger farms and plantations?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly five sentences explaining how Georgia's transition to royal rule changed land ownership, slavery, alcohol, and government. Include one sentence that makes clear that the slavery and alcohol rules changed before or during the transition.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence for each topic that tells what changed as Georgia became a royal colony: land ownership, slavery, alcohol, and government. In the margin, number the four underlined sentences 1 through 4 by topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did rules for owning land change after Georgia became a royal colony?	People could buy and sell land, unlike under the Trustees' rules.
2	What does the passage show about the timing of the slavery ban and the rum ban?	The slavery ban was removed and slavery was legalized in 1751. The rum ban ended earlier, in 1742.
3	Compare government under the Trustees with government under royal control.	Under the Trustees, men in Britain made most major decisions and Georgia had no elected assembly. Under royal control, the king appointed a governor, and colonists elected representatives to the Commons House of Assembly.
4	Why did the new land rules encourage larger farms and plantations?	Allowing people to buy and sell land made it easier to acquire and combine land into larger holdings.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Georgia became a royal colony in 1752 when the Trustees returned its charter to the king. Under royal officials, people could buy and sell land, making larger farms and plantations more likely. Slavery was legalized in 1751 after the Trustees' ban was removed. The rum ban had already ended in 1742. The king appointed a governor, while colonists later elected representatives to the Commons House of Assembly.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately contrast Trustee restrictions with the policies and government of the royal colony. Students should recognize that the slavery and rum bans ended before or around the formal 1752 transition, not because every policy changed on the same day.