

Building Westward

Trace how education and changing population shaped Georgia's decisions.

SS8H4.a "Explain reasons for the establishment of the University of Georgia, and for the westward movement of Georgia's capitals."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that gives a reason for establishing the university or moving a capital. Then write 1, 2, 3, and 4 beside the destination capitals in order, beginning with Augusta and ending with Atlanta.

Education and a Moving Government

- ① In 1785, Georgia lawmakers chartered the University of Georgia. The new state needed educated citizens and leaders for its republican government. Lawmakers hoped the university would prepare young men for public service and other useful work. They also believed that wider access to higher education could strengthen the state. The charter created a state-supported university, one of the earliest such institutions in the United States. Land grants were set aside to help support it financially.
- ② Georgia first made Savannah its capital, near the coast where the colony began. As settlers and new counties spread westward, lawmakers wanted the seat of government closer to more residents. The capital moved to Augusta in 1786, Louisville in 1796, and Milledgeville in 1807. Each destination lay farther west than the last. These changes made government more central and easier for many Georgians to visit for court business, laws, and meetings with their elected representatives at the new seat.
- ③ After the Civil War, Atlanta had become a major railroad center and a growing commercial city. In 1868, delegates to Georgia's constitutional convention selected Atlanta as the state capital. Rail connections made it easier to travel and move goods, while its location served a growing part of the state. The new constitution placed the government there, but voters would decide whether Atlanta would be permanent in 1877. Voters then finally chose Atlanta over Milledgeville in a statewide vote.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two goals did Georgia lawmakers have when they chartered the University of Georgia?

2 How were land grants connected to the establishment of the University of Georgia?

3 Why did Georgia move its capital from Savannah to Augusta, Louisville, and Milledgeville?

4 Who selected Atlanta as the capital in 1868, and what did voters decide in 1877?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence historical explanation of how Georgia leaders responded to changing needs by establishing the University of Georgia and moving the capitals. Include one detail about the university and two details about capital locations or transportation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that gives a reason for establishing the university or moving a capital. Then write 1, 2, 3, and 4 beside the destination capitals in order, beginning with Augusta and ending with Atlanta. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two goals did Georgia lawmakers have when they chartered the University of Georgia?	They wanted to prepare educated citizens and leaders for republican government, including young men for public service and useful work.
2	How were land grants connected to the establishment of the University of Georgia?	Land grants were set aside to help support the state-supported university financially.
3	Why did Georgia move its capital from Savannah to Augusta, Louisville, and Milledgeville?	As settlers and counties spread westward, lawmakers moved the capital closer to more residents so government would be more central and easier to reach.
4	Who selected Atlanta as the capital in 1868, and what did voters decide in 1877?	Delegates to Georgia's constitutional convention selected Atlanta in 1868. In 1877, voters chose Atlanta over Milledgeville as the permanent capital.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1785, Georgia lawmakers chartered the University of Georgia to prepare citizens and leaders for republican government. As settlers moved west, the capital moved from Savannah to Augusta, then to Louisville and Milledgeville, so more residents could reach government. In 1868, the constitutional convention selected Atlanta because railroads connected it to a growing part of the state. Voters made Atlanta permanent in 1877.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect UGA to educating citizens and leaders, and capital moves to westward population growth, access, central location, or Atlanta's railroad connections. For the capital sequence, accept Augusta, Louisville, Milledgeville, and Atlanta in that order.