

Pressure for Land

Trace the causes and effects of Georgia's westward expansion.

SS8H4 "Explain significant factors that affected westward expansion in Georgia between 1789 and 1840."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each factor that affected westward expansion, number the factors in the order they appear, and circle words that tell how each factor changed settlement.

Why Georgia Expanded West

- ① After the Revolution, Georgia claimed land stretching west to the Mississippi River, but other states challenged that claim. In 1802, Georgia gave its western lands to the United States. In return, the federal government promised to extinguish Native American title from land inside Georgia when it could do so peacefully. As the state's population grew, many white settlers wanted farms beyond the Oconee River. Georgia leaders pressed federal officials to obtain Native land, while the federal government held the power to make treaties.
- ② New cotton markets made fertile land more valuable. The cotton gin, invented in 1793, made it faster to separate seeds from short-staple cotton. Planters expanded cotton farming with enslaved labor and sought new fields. After Native land was ceded to the United States through federal treaties, Georgia surveyed much of the land and distributed it by lotteries. Lotteries gave many white men a chance to receive acreage, although the land had first been home to Creek or Cherokee communities. Speculators also bought and sold land, hoping prices would rise.
- ③ Pressure increased. Gold was discovered on Cherokee land in north Georgia in 1828, and miners rushed in during the following year. Georgia tried to extend laws over Cherokee territory. The Cherokee Nation challenged this policy, and Supreme Court ruled in *Worcester v. Georgia* in 1832 that Georgia's laws had no force in Cherokee territory. Even so, federal removal policy moved forward. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 supported negotiations for western land. Under the Treaty of New Echota, ratified by the U.S. Senate, most Cherokee were forced west in 1838. Their removal opened Georgia land to settlement.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Georgia give up in 1802, and what did the federal government promise to do?

2 How did the cotton gin help create pressure for westward expansion in Georgia?

3 How did land lotteries affect settlement after land was ceded through federal treaties?

4 Explain how the discovery of gold increased pressure on Cherokee land in north Georgia.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence explanation comparing two factors from the passage. Name each factor, explain how it encouraged westward expansion, and decide which factor created more immediate pressure for land.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each factor that affected westward expansion, number the factors in the order they appear, and circle words that tell how each factor changed settlement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Georgia give up in 1802, and what did the federal government promise to do?	Georgia gave its western land claims to the United States. The federal government promised to extinguish Native American title to land inside Georgia peacefully when possible.
2	How did the cotton gin help create pressure for westward expansion in Georgia?	It made processing short-staple cotton faster, making fertile land more valuable and leading planters to seek new fields.
3	How did land lotteries affect settlement after land was ceded through federal treaties?	Georgia surveyed and distributed land by lotteries, giving many white men a chance to receive acreage and encouraging settlement.
4	Explain how the discovery of gold increased pressure on Cherokee land in north Georgia.	Gold was discovered on Cherokee land in 1828, and miners rushed in the next year. Georgia also tried to extend its laws over Cherokee territory, increasing pressure for control of the land.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The cotton gin increased the value of land because planters could process short-staple cotton faster and wanted new fields. Gold discovery created immediate pressure in north Georgia because miners entered Cherokee land in 1829. Gold caused the more immediate pressure, but cotton farming encouraged expansion over a longer period.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For Question 1, students should distinguish Georgia's pressure for land from the federal government's authority to make treaties and obtain Native land title.