

War Changes Georgia

Trace how war reshaped Georgia's people, places, and economy.

SS8H5 "Analyze the impact of the Civil War on Georgia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four details that show an impact of the Civil War on Georgia. Write E for economic, P for physical, or S for social beside each detail.

Georgia During and After the War

- ① Before 1861, Georgia's economy depended heavily on cotton grown by enslaved people and shipped by rail. When Georgia joined the Confederacy, farms and factories shifted toward supplying soldiers. Men left homes to serve, so women, children, and enslaved laborers carried more of the daily work. Blockades and military needs disrupted trade. As food and supplies became scarce, prices rose sharply. The war therefore reached far beyond battlefields, changing how Georgians worked, traveled, and provided for their families.
- ② In 1864, Union forces under General William T. Sherman fought toward Atlanta, an important railroad and industrial center. After Confederate forces left the city, fires and destruction damaged rail lines, factories, warehouses, and many homes. Sherman then led troops from Atlanta to Savannah. Along this route, soldiers tore up railroads, took or destroyed food, and burned many buildings. These actions weakened the Confederacy's ability to move supplies and caused immediate hardship for civilians, especially people whose property or crops were lost.
- ③ Georgia also held Andersonville prison, where thousands of captured Union soldiers died from disease, hunger, and poor sanitation. The prison showed the human cost of a long war. In 1865, Confederate defeat ended slavery in Georgia, freeing about 460,000 people. Freedom brought hope, but formerly enslaved Georgians faced poverty and discrimination while seeking land, work, education, and family members. Rebuilding roads, rail lines, farms, and cities took years. The war left Georgia with physical damage, economic loss, and major social change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the war disrupt Georgia's economy before the fighting reached Atlanta? Use two details from the first paragraph.

2 How did the destruction of railroads during Sherman's campaign affect both the Confederacy and Georgia civilians?

3 Why was the end of slavery a major social change in Georgia? What challenge did formerly enslaved people face afterward?

4 Identify one physical impact and one economic impact of the Civil War on Georgia. Explain why each would make rebuilding difficult.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 5-6 sentence museum label titled "Georgia After the Civil War." Include one wartime event, at least two different impacts on Georgia, and an explanation of why rebuilding took years.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline four details that show an impact of the Civil War on Georgia. Write E for economic, P for physical, or S for social beside each detail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the war disrupt Georgia's economy before the fighting reached Atlanta? Use two details from the first paragraph.	Farms and factories shifted to military supplies, while blockades and military needs disrupted trade. Food and supplies became scarce, causing prices to rise.
2	How did the destruction of railroads during Sherman's campaign affect both the Confederacy and Georgia civilians?	Destroyed railroads weakened the Confederacy's ability to move supplies. Civilians suffered when soldiers destroyed food, crops, property, and buildings.
3	Why was the end of slavery a major social change in Georgia? What challenge did formerly enslaved people face afterward?	It freed about 460,000 people. Formerly enslaved Georgians faced poverty and discrimination while seeking land, work, education, and family members.
4	Identify one physical impact and one economic impact of the Civil War on Georgia. Explain why each would make rebuilding difficult.	Physical impacts included damaged railroads, factories, homes, farms, and cities. Economic impacts included disrupted trade, shortages, high prices, and lost crops or property. These problems made travel, trade, work, and recovery harder.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Georgia After the Civil War. The Civil War reshaped Georgia long after battles ended. During Sherman's campaign, damaged railroads and destroyed food supplies hurt civilians and made it harder for the Confederacy to move goods. Families also faced higher prices and shortages as trade was disrupted. After defeat ended slavery, formerly enslaved people gained freedom but had to seek work, education, land, and separated relatives while facing discrimination. Together, destruction, economic loss, and emancipation made rebuilding Georgia a difficult, long process.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations that distinguish economic, physical, and social impacts. For the museum label, accept different valid events and impacts from the passage if the student explains how they affected rebuilding.