

# Georgia State History Lapbook Journal



Designed for  
6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades,  
but could be  
adjusted for  
younger grade  
levels.

Written & designed by  
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of Knowledge Box Central



Georgia State History Lapbook Journal  
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# Georgia State History Lapbook Journal

Thanks for purchasing this product. Please check out our Lapbook Journals for other states. The Lapbook Journals are designed for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades but could be adjusted for use with younger students.

Please also check out our Lapbooks for each state, and these are designed for K-8<sup>th</sup> grades.

We are designing these products, Lapbook Journals and Lapbooks, so that they follow the same Study Guide. This will allow for a family to study State History TOGETHER, with each age group using the product (Lapbook Journal or Lapbook) that best suits that group. The parent may teach from ONE Study Guide and allow each student to document what he is learning in his own way.

# How to Use This Product:

- 1. Supplies:** Gather the following supplies: 3-ring binder (2 inches), scissors, white paper, colored paper, light colored cardstock, glue, staples & stapler, ribbon, hole punch, metal brad fasteners (optional), and crayons or colored pencils. (If you purchased the printed format of this product, then you will need all of the listed supplies except the paper.)
- 2. Brochures/Pamphlets:** Contact a Chamber of Commerce or travel agent within your state, and request brochures and pamphlets. Place a pocket inside your binder, and keep your brochures and pamphlets there. During your study, you may refer to these to help with answering the questions. You may also choose to cut out some of the words or pictures from them and decorate the pages of your notebook.
- 3. Study Guide:** This guide contains an overview of this state's history. Websites where you can find additional information are included on the last page of the Study Guide.
- 4. Journal Pages:** These pages contain many questions that you will need to answer during your study of this state's history. There are 2 blank pages at the end of this section, and these are for your State Report. This will be a short essay that tells a brief overview of what you have learned during your study. You may add pages, as needed.
- 5. Lapbook Pages:** This is where you will create 6 booklets that further document what you have learned during your study. If you enjoy hand-on projects, you may complete these and glue them on the last 2 pages of this section. If you choose not to complete these booklets, then we suggest that you make sure to cover the requested information in your State Report in the previous section.

# **Georgia State History Lapbook Journal**

**The following  
pages contain the  
Study Guide**

**Print on white paper.**

# Georgia State History Lapbook Journal Study Guide



The Great Seal of Georgia

The last of the thirteen original British colonies was named after England's King George II in 1733. The terms of the charter granted by the king specified that the colony to be founded by James Oglethorpe be named after the king and so it was.

People who live in Georgia or who come from Georgia are called Georgians.

Aligning with some of the nicknames that have been given to Georgia, Georgians have been referred to as Buzzards, Crackers, Goober-grabbers and Sand-hillers.



Map of Georgia – Capital, Major Cities and Rivers

## STATEHOOD

Georgia was one of the thirteen original colonies, providing signatories to the Declaration of Independence and the 1787 United States Constitution. Georgia ratified the Constitution on January 2, 1788, becoming the fourth state to join the union.

## STATE CONSTITUTION

### The Constitution of 1777

Georgia's first attempt at constitutional government was initiated in April 1776 by the Provincial Congress called by the Georgia Trustees in response to a series of mass meetings held throughout the colony. This document provided a framework for the transition from colony to state. Soon after Georgia moved toward independence by accepting the Declaration of Independence, its first constitutional convention was organized. Completed in February 1777 and executed without having been submitted to voters for ratification, this constitution remained in effect for twelve years. It vested most governmental authority in a state legislative body, incorporated the separation of powers doctrine, and included a number of basic rights, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of the press, and trial by jury.

### The Constitution of 1789

On January 2, 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the United States Constitution. In November of that year, to assure conformity with the federal document, Georgia began a revision of its state constitution in convention. The shortest of Georgia's constitutions, the Constitution of 1789 was modeled after the U.S. Constitution. It provided for a bicameral legislature, an executive branch, and a judicial branch. (The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms.) The legislature, or General Assembly, was elected and had the power to select a governor. The judicial branch received little attention. Civil liberties protections normally found in a bill of rights were also included in the constitution.

Georgia has been governed under 7 constitutions between 1789 and 1983: Constitutions of 1798, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1877, 1945 and 1976. For detailed information, visit: <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-588>

### The Constitution of 1983 (Current Constitution)

In 1977, after the ratification of the 1976 Constitution, the General Assembly created the Select Committee on Constitutional Revision. Members included the governor as chair, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house, the attorney general, and representatives from both houses of the legislature and the judicial branch. Beginning their work in 1977, the committee members agreed to a total revision. Each article would be drafted and approved individually by the Select Committee and the General Assembly. After a series of lengthy and public meetings, agreement on a proposed new constitution was reached in late August 1981, and a document was submitted to the General Assembly in an August/September 1981 special session called to consider both reapportionment and constitutional revision. On September 25, 1981, the General Assembly approved the new constitution. Amended at the 1982 session of the legislature, the proposed constitution was submitted to the voters for ratification at the 1982 general election. Supported by leadership from all three branches of state government and bolstered by a strong effort to educate the public about its content, the Constitution of 1983 was overwhelmingly approved by voters and became effective on July 1, 1983.

The rallying cry of the Select Committee on Constitutional Revision had been "brevity, clarity, flexibility." The final product reflected this goal. The document as ratified was about half as long as the 1976 Constitution; it was better organized and wherever possible used simple modern English in place of arcane and cumbersome terminology. It gave the General Assembly greater flexibility to deal by statute with many matters that had been covered in the constitution itself. By far the most significant change between the Constitutions of 1976 and 1983 was that the latter document prohibited the inclusion of any further constitutional amendments relating to only a particular city, county, or other local political subdivision.

The 1983 Constitution was the first truly "new" constitution since 1877. It was the culmination of almost twenty years of discussion, debate, and compromise. A mixture of old and new, it contained provisions that first appeared in the Constitution of 1877 and incorporated other provisions that had never existed before, such as an equal protection clause, a division of the courts into seven distinct classes, a requirement for uniform court rules and record-keeping rules by class for all classes of courts, and nonpartisan election of judges. Like the nine constitutions preceding it, the Constitution of 1983 was, and is, a reflection of the state's rich political and social history.

**PREAMBLE:** *To perpetuate the principles of free government, insure justice to all, preserve peace, promote the interest and happiness of the citizen and of the family, and transmit to posterity the enjoyment of liberty, we the people of Georgia, relying upon the protection and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish this Constitution.*

## STATE GOVERNMENT

In Georgia the executive branch of government is by far the largest, with 99 percent of the state budget devoted to its activities. The governor is the state's chief executive and presides over the executive branch. In doing so, the governor wields strong budgetary powers. To be elected governor, a person must be at least thirty years old and must have been a U.S. citizen for fifteen years and a Georgia resident for six years. Governors serve a four-year term of office and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

The Georgia Constitution names seven other executive officers elected statewide by the voters. They are the lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of labor, commissioner of insurance and state school superintendent. In addition, members of the Georgia Public Service Commission are elected statewide. These officers, along with other heads of state departments, agencies, commissions, and boards, administer departments that directly address areas of importance to state government. The name of the agency generally indicates its work: the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Forestry Commission, Department of Transportation, or Department of Community Health. There are more than twenty-five major departments in the executive branch and hundreds of smaller agencies, boards, and commissions.

The General Assembly and its staff agencies form the legislative branch of state government. The bicameral legislature consists of a House of Representatives and a senate. Members of both houses are elected for two-year terms with no limit on the number of consecutive terms that may be served. The Georgia Constitution requires legislators to be U.S. citizens, Georgia citizens for at least two years, and legal residents of their districts for at least one year. The only difference in



qualifications between the two chambers is that senators must be at least twenty-five years of age and representatives only twenty-one. The house has 180 members, who elect their presiding officer, the Speaker. The senate has fifty-six members, and the lieutenant governor serves as its presiding officer. In that capacity the lieutenant governor is styled as the president of the senate. The General Assembly meets for a forty-day period each year, beginning on the second Monday in January. Because the legislative term is a biennium (a two-year period), legislation that is introduced in the first year after an election, can be carried over to the second year. At the end of the second year, all legislation not passed dies and must be reintroduced in the next biennium.

Georgia's judicial system consists of ascending levels of courts. The most important trial court in Georgia's judicial branch is the superior court. The state is divided into circuits, with one or more superior-court judges elected in each circuit. In 1845 the Georgia Supreme Court was established as the highest court in the state. It has exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional issues, contested elections, capital felonies, titles to land, wills, and divorces. Later, in 1906, the Court of Appeals of Georgia was established to hear appeals, review decisions, and correct errors from lower trial courts in cases not reserved to the supreme court.

Local government is the oldest form of government in Georgia, and the city of Savannah is recognized as the oldest government in the state. There are three types of local governments in Georgia—counties, cities, and special districts. Georgia has four consolidated city-county governments. The constitution limits Georgia to 159 counties, although there is no limit on the number of cities and special districts.

County government is based in the county seat and generally housed in the county courthouse. Due to increases in population and service demands, many county governments are expanding operations into government annexes and satellite offices outside the county seat. As an arm of state government, county governments carry out many functions for the state, such as elections, road building and repair, health and welfare programs, record keeping, and automobile licensing. The state constitution requires that four officers be elected in each county: sheriff, clerk of the superior court, tax commissioner, and judge of the probate court. Local law establishes the county's form of government, either a board of commissioners or a sole commissioner.

Cities are governments that have been chartered or incorporated by the state legislature. Generally, cities are formed when citizens want services provided beyond those available from the county. Cities must meet certain qualifications of population, distance from other cities, and degree of development. The city charter not only creates the city but also spells out the form of government and describes boundaries. Cities are typically governed by a mayor and city council. Many cities hire a manager to direct the day-to-day administration of city affairs. Georgia has more than 500 incorporated cities. By law, counties and cities must agree on the provision and payment of local government services to eliminate service duplication.

A more limited form of local government in Georgia is the special district or authority. These are small units of government set up by a county or city for a special purpose, such as operating public schools, a transit system, an airport, or a water and sewer system, or encouraging economic development. These units are authorized to borrow money or charge users for their services. By establishing an authority a city can make a service available to citizens without raising taxes.

Georgia's constitution, like that of most states, requires that a balanced budget be introduced and passed by the General Assembly. The governor is responsible for submitting to the legislature an annual budget based on revenue estimates made by the Office of Planning and Budget. Because local governments are creatures of the state, state law controls their revenue sources. Property taxes, sales taxes, and utility revenue fees are major sources of income at the local level. Citizens of a locality may vote to impose additional local taxes to fund special projects for educational or other purposes.

## **U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**

The legislative branch of the United States government makes laws for our nation and raises and distributes money to run the United States government. The most evident part of the legislative branch is the United States Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, called houses. The two parts are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is referred to as a bicameral body because it is made up of two houses. The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms. Members of the Senate are called Senators and members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Senators and representatives serving in these two bodies are sometimes referred to as congressmen, or women, and sometimes as legislators because their business is to legislate or make laws. The role of the legislative branch is defined in the United States Constitution.

Each state elects people to represent them in the United States Congress in Washington, DC. The citizens of each state elect two senators to represent them in the Senate. They also elect representatives to represent them in the House of Representatives. The number of representatives each state sends to the House of Representatives is not a specific number like the Senate, but is based on the population of the state. The people, that are elected to represent the state's citizens in the United States Congress, are referred to as the congressional delegation.

There are 100 senators in the U.S. Senate. Each is elected to a term, in the Senate, of six years. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each is elected to a term, in the "House," of two years.

The citizens of Georgia elect two people, like every other state, to represent them in the Senate and 14 people, based on Georgia's current population in the most recent federal census, to represent them in the House of Representatives.

## STATE SEAL

The state seal of Georgia was adopted by the State Constitution in 1798.

The obverse (main face) features the state coat of arms. The three pillars are symbols of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government. The man standing with drawn sword defends the *Constitution* and its principles of *Wisdom, Justice* and *Moderation*. 1776 is of course the year the United States declared independence. The Georgia coat of arms also appears on the state flag.



### Reverse Side of State Seal



The reverse of the state seal displays a scene of *Agriculture* and *Commerce* - a ship with cotton and tobacco, and a man plowing.

## STATE CAPITAL (Atlanta)

One of the most recognizable features of the Atlanta skyline is Georgia's gold-domed state capitol, located several blocks southeast of the center of downtown. Although dwarfed by nearby skyscrapers, the dome glistens from the same hill that supported the first state capitol building in Atlanta.



The Georgia State Capitol, completed in 1889, is a landmark in the history of 19th-century American architecture. In style, form, and plan, it is a perfect expression and symbol of the idea of a Capitol building for the "Capital of the New South," as Atlanta was called after Reconstruction. Reminiscent of the U.S. Capitol Building, it directly expressed Atlanta's new nationalism when city leaders were rebuilding the destroyed Confederate railroad center in a new image. Atlanta became the temporary location of the State capital in 1868, and when this became permanent in 1877, the city offered the State five acres on which to erect a capitol building. It took several years of legislative appropriations and bids before construction began in 1884. At the cost of nearly one million dollars, the architectural firm of Edbrooke and Burnham of Chicago designed the Neo-Classical style building.

### *Current State Capitol Facts:*

Began Construction: 1884

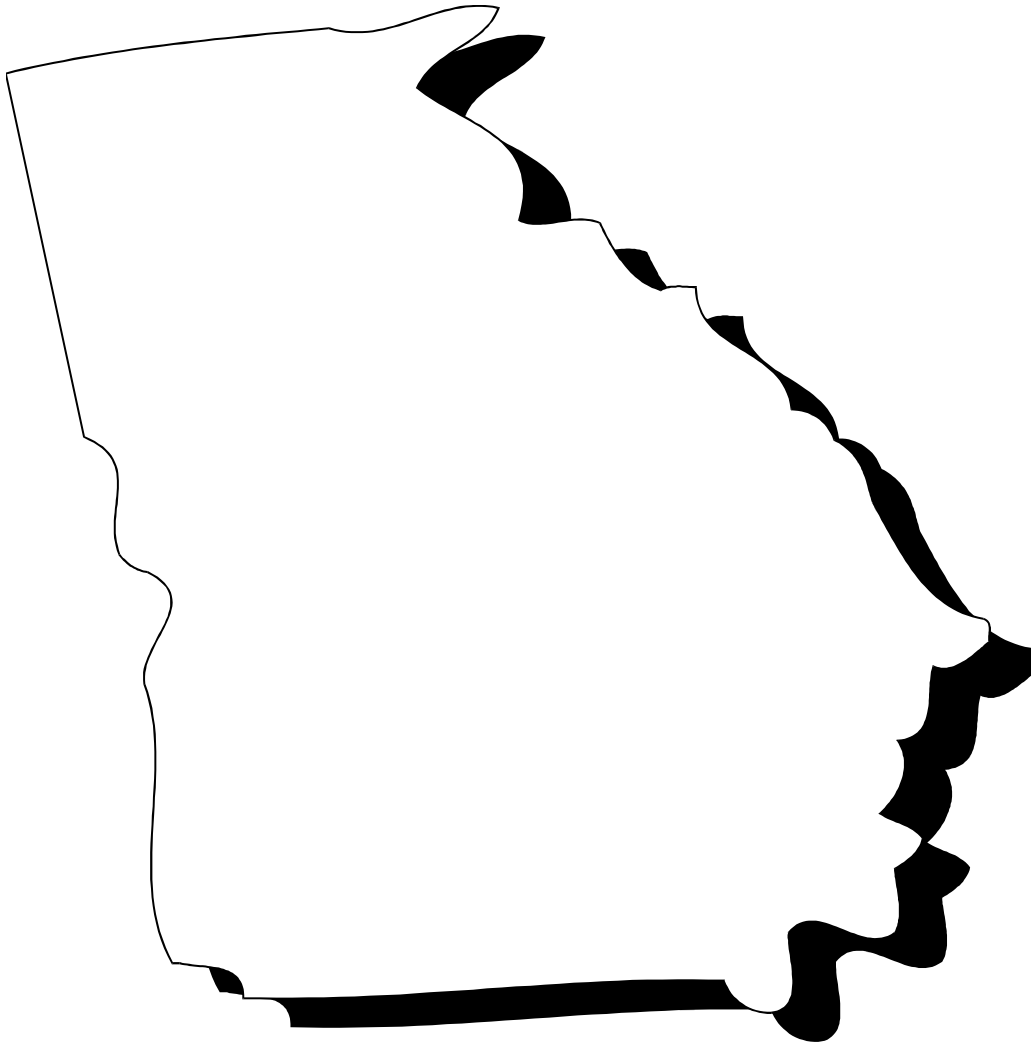
Completed Construction: July 4th, 1889

**Georgia State History  
Lapbook Journal**

**The following  
pages contain the  
Journal Pages**

**Print on white paper.**

# Georgia



Label the capital city, major cities, and major bodies of water.

When did this state become a state? \_\_\_\_\_

Rank in statehood: \_\_\_\_\_

Capital city &  
its population:

Northern border: \_\_\_\_\_

Southern border: \_\_\_\_\_

Eastern border: \_\_\_\_\_

Western border: \_\_\_\_\_

Total area:

\_\_\_\_\_

State's rank in size  
(area):

\_\_\_\_\_

State's total population: \_\_\_\_\_

City with largest population: \_\_\_\_\_

State's rank in population: \_\_\_\_\_

State's total area: \_\_\_\_\_

State's rank in size (area): \_\_\_\_\_

**Georgia**



## State Flag

Draw the state flag above.

### State Flag Information:

When adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Colors: \_\_\_\_\_

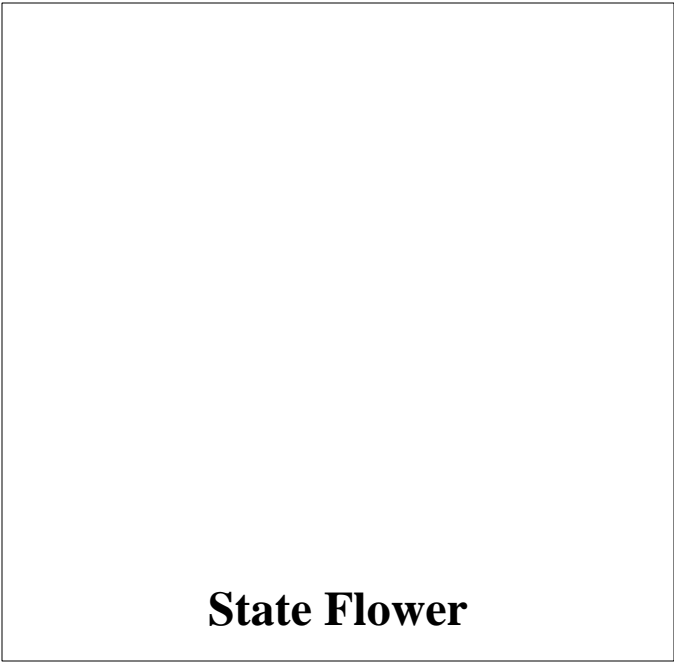
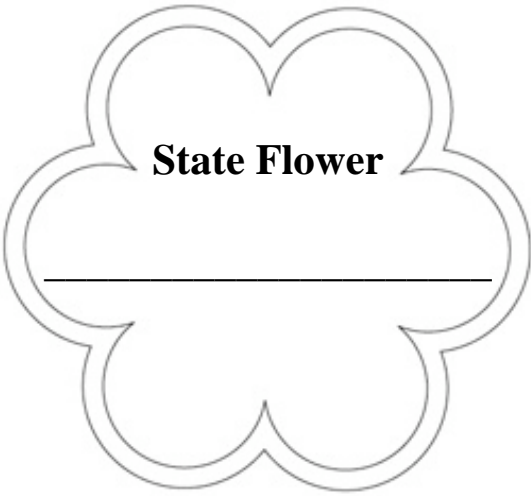
Specific design: \_\_\_\_\_

History: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

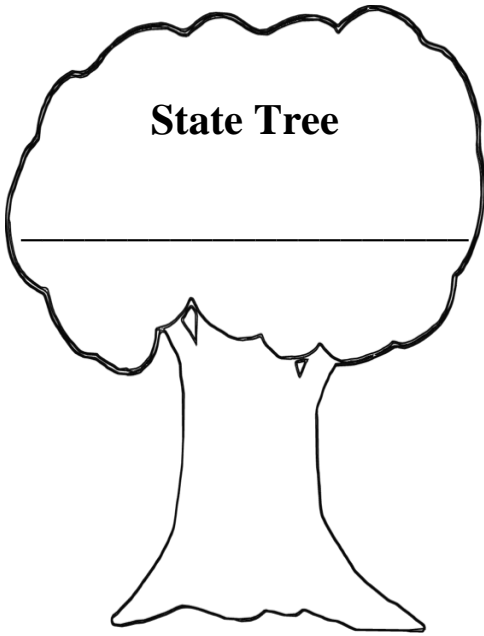
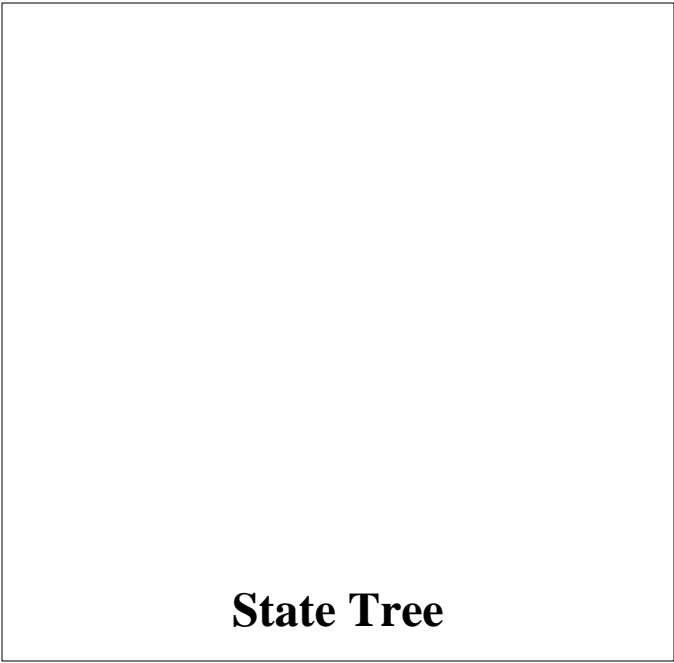
\_\_\_\_\_

# Georgia



Draw the state flower above.

## State Symbols



Draw the state tree above.

# Georgia



**Georgia State History  
Lapbook Journal**

**The following  
pages contain the  
Lapbook Pages**

On the pages in this section, you will find:

**1. Pictures of completed Lapbook Page:**

This is just a SAMPLE (The one in the picture is for Alabama, but each state will have the same booklets).

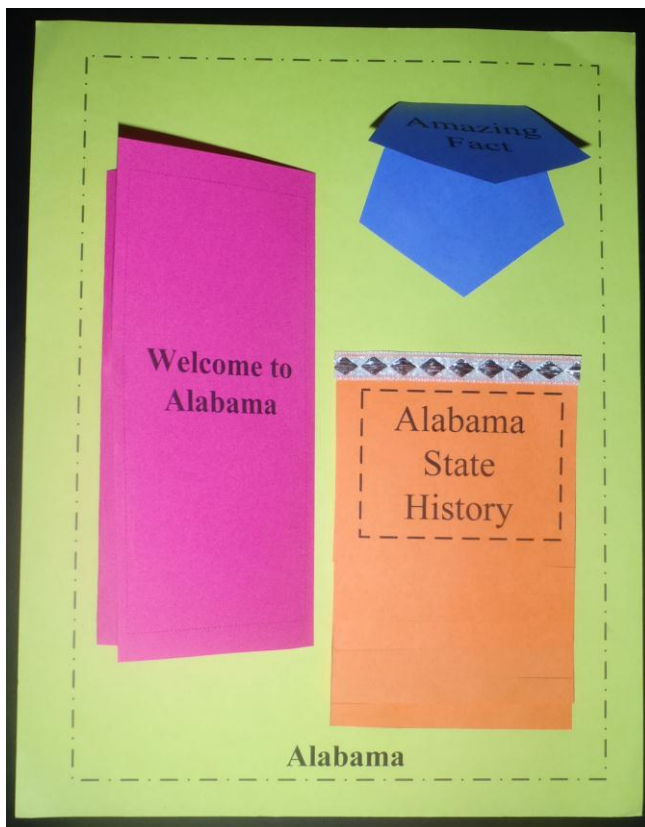
**2. Lapbook Booklet Instructions:** This is where you will find instructions for cutting out, assembling, and completing each booklet.

**3. Lapbook Booklet Templates:** Each booklet will be labeled so that you can easily find them when reading through the Lapbook Booklet Instructions. Print these on colored paper.

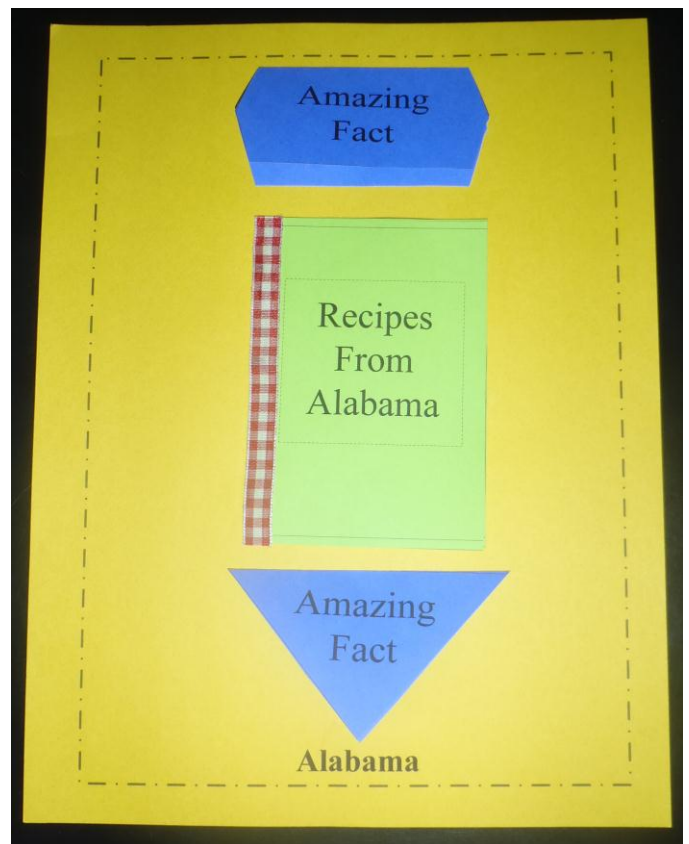
**2. Lapbook Background Pages** – This is where you will glue each of your Lapbook Booklets. We suggest printing this page on white or another light color of cardstock.

# Georgia State History Lapbook Journal Lapbook Pages

This is a SAMPLE of completed Lapbook Pages.  
You may choose to arrange your booklets  
differently. Be creative!



**Page 1**



**Page 2**

# Georgia State History

## Lapbook Journal

### Lapbook Pages

#### **Booklet #1: State History**

**Assembly Instructions:** Cut out each page along the outer black lines. Stack the pages so that the title is on top and the pages get longer toward the back of the stack. Along the top of the stack, secure with staples. You may choose to cover the stapled area with a ribbon like in the picture. Instead of staples, you may choose to punch 2 holes and secure with metal brad fasteners or tie a ribbon.

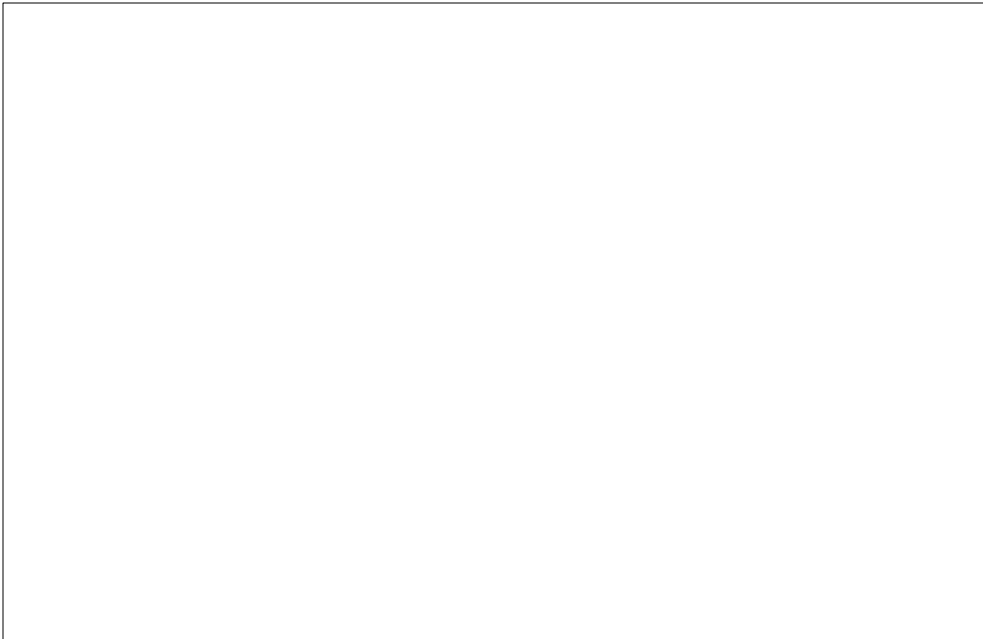
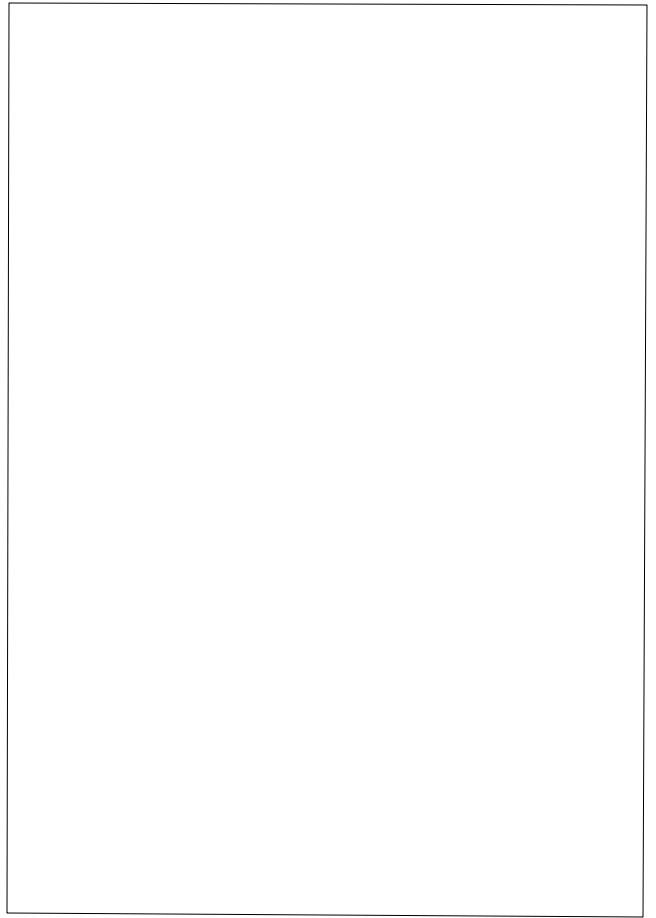
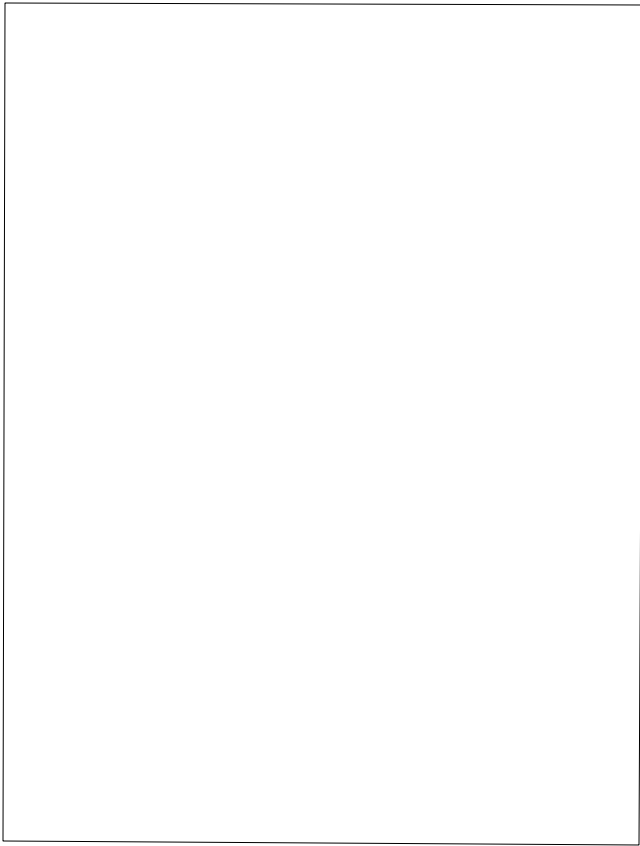
**Completion Instructions:** During your study of this state, you have learned about many different aspects of the state's history. Inside this booklet, tell what you remember from your study. You may choose to also draw/glue pictures in this booklet. Notice how each page is a little longer than the one before. This creates "tabs" on the bottom of each page. Use this space (bottom of each page) to write the subject of what you will tell about on each page. For example, you may want to label one page "War" or "Constitution" or whatever you choose.

#### **Booklet #2: State Brochure**

**Assembly Instructions:** Cut out each page along the outer black lines. Tri-fold this booklet so that the title is on the front.

**Completion Instructions:** There are so many wonderful places to visit and facts to know about each state. Pretend that you are creating a travel brochure that would be seen by people who were considering visiting this state. Inside (and on the outside) this booklet, tell about all of the reasons that someone should visit. You may choose to draw and/or glue pictures also.

Georgia  
State  
History



**Welcome to  
Georgia**