**Georgia’s Growth & Expansion After the Revolutionary War KEY**

**Lesson Essential Question 1: How did land obtainment lead to population shifts in Georgia?**

1. What is meant in the essential question by the phrase “land obtainment”? get, find, gain, or acquire land

2. What is meant in the essential question by the phrase “population shifts”? people living in an area move

The map to the right shows the state of Georgia. The

black outline on the map shows what was considered

Georgia before the end of the Revolutionary War.

**Headright System**

Prior to 1803, Georgia distributed land using the

Headright system.

3. Conditions of the Headright System:

The head of a family was granted two hundred acres of land,

together with 50 acres for each member of his family. For each

slave, the family received up to 10 acres.

4. Limitations of the Headright System: No family would be granted more than a thousand acres of land.

5. Describe other methods used to distribute land during and immediately following the Revolutionary War.

Soldiers who enlisted in the Revolutionary War for three years were offered 100 acres and if they remainedin the war until the end, they received 250 more acres. Other men who had fought in the war received land grants ranging from 2,000 to 20,000 acres.

After the Revolutionary War, Georgia gained access to a large amount of land from the Native

Americans who sided with the British. The land Georgia claimed stretched all the way to the Mississippi River. In turn, Revolutionary War veterans, amongst others, believed that all citizens had the right to land ownership. Due to the ideas supported by the Declaration of Independence, Georgia’s political leadership agreed. Though the people and their leaders were in agreement about the people’s need for land to support a healthy democracy, the question became what was the best way to distribute land to the people of the state.

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The map above shows the land ceded to Georgia after the Revolutionary War.

6. Where was the population of Georgia concentrated prior to and during the Revolutionary War?

Along the coast and eastern portion of the colony

7. After the Revolutionary War, when Georgia gained more land, what type of population shifts do you think occurred? Why?

People started moving west in hopes of gaining more land or more valuable land.

The map to the right shows changes in Georgia’s capital cities from 1785 to 1806.

8. Where did Georgia’s capital move in 1796?

Louisville

9. Why were there changes in the location of Georgia’s

capital cities?

As the population moved westward, it became necessary to

move the capital to a more central location.

10. What do you notice about the location of all of Georgia’s

capitals? Explain.

All of the capitals were located around water (either the coast

or rivers). Capitals were located around water sources for transportation and trade purposes.

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**Yazoo Land Fraud**

The maps to the right show land

involved in the Yazoo Land Fraud

11. What did the Yazoo Act of 1794 do? It approved four land companies to buy Georgia’s land west of the Chattahoochee for a very low price.

12. How did land speculation companies get

members of the legislature to pass the act? Land speculators who worked for the four companies bribed the members of the legislature.

13. How did the citizens of Georgia respond to

the Yazoo Land Fraud? Citizens of Georgia learned about this fraud and elected new members to the legislature who promised to repeal the act. The Legislature repealed the Act and regained the land.

14. What deal was made between the state of

Georgia and the United States’ government as a

result of the Yazoo land controversy in 1802?

**Land Lottery System**

15. Describe the Land Lottery System.

The state wanted good citizens to settle the western lands instead of Indians so they gave tracts of land away. This land was laid out in lots of 202 acres each. The Land Lottery System was used to give out the land. Each piece of land was given a number. Each lot number

was placed on a piece of paper. These pieces of paper, all of

the same size, were put in a box. Other pieces of paper

without numbers were added to the box since there were

always more citizens desiring free land than there were

tracts of land available. Pieces were mixed together and a

drawing was held. Some men drew blank pieces of paper

and got no land at that drawing. A man who drew a paper

with a lot number received the piece of land bearing that

number.

16. What were the advantages and disadvantages to the

Land Lottery System?   
There were more people than

available land