

Prehistory to



*Age of Exploration*

## *Prehistoric Indians to European Explorers*

- What is prehistory?
- The time period before written records were kept.
- Before Europeans came to North America, there is no written history of the land that we call Georgia.
- Prehistoric Native Americans only kept an oral (verbal) history; therefore, it is hard to pinpoint absolute answers about this time period. Therefore, we mostly rely on archaeological research to find answers.

# I. HUMANS ARRIVE IN NORTH AMERICA

- A. Approximately 12,000 years ago humans the first humans reached North America.
- B. Theories suggest that they came to modern-day Alaska from Asia, during an **Ice Age**, across a land bridge called Beringia. (Today, it's beneath the waters of the Bering Strait.)
- C. They came to Georgia about 10,000 B.C.
- D. Next 11,700 years of Georgia's prehistory are divided into four Indian Cultures (Traditions):
  - 1. Paleo
  - 2. Archaic
  - 3. Woodland
  - 4. Mississippian



## II. PALEO-INDIAN CULTURE

Time Period: 10,000 – 8000 B.C.

### B. Lifestyle: Hunter-gatherers

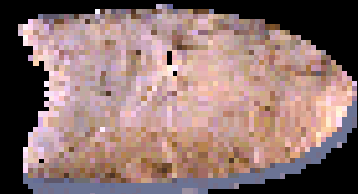
1. Lived in small groups 25-50 people
2. Nomadic-always on the hunt for food
3. Life expectancy: 30 to 40 years

### C. Food

1. Hunted big game animals: Bison, Mastodons, giant sloths, etc.
2. Ate: berries, fruits and veggies

### D. Weapons: “Clovis” point spears; atlatl

### E. Tools were made of stone: Paleolithic (old stone) Age



### III. ARCHAIC PERIOD



- A. Time Period: 8,000 B.C. – 1,000 B.C
- B. As larger animals became extinct, hunting shifted to smaller game such as deer, bear, turkey, rabbit, birds, fish and reptiles.
- C. Invented new tools: choppers, chipping tools and drills from rock and animal bones. Some items were made from stone that is not native to Georgia. This suggests people in different regions traded with one another.

- D. Nomadic Culture: people moved with each season of the year to find food. For example, seasonal trips to coastal Georgia to eat shellfish
- E. Weapons: atlatl & stone weighted spears (round stones w/ hole in center)
- F. Invented pottery – improved cooking and storage of food
- G. Learned to save and replant seeds
- H. Near the end of this period larger groups began to form and they became less and less nomadic.

# IV. WOODLAND PERIOD



- A. Time Period: 1000 B.C. to 1000 A.D.
- B. Tribes began to form as more people lived in the same area; they stopped being nomads.
- C. People quit moving around because:
  - 1. The bow and arrow was invented which made hunting easier.
  - 2. Indians became more dependant on farming: squash, wild greens, sunflowers.
- D. Built permanent settlements using wood supported huts.
- E. The first mounds were built during this period.
- F. Effigies, such as Rock Eagle, were built.
- G. Pottery was improved using crushed rock with clay and stamped designs

H. Anthropologists think that these Indians believed in an afterlife (religion).

1. Mounds were built for burials and religious festivals.

2. Useful artifacts have been discovered buried with the dead.

I. Woodland religious ceremonies were similar to the Hopewell Culture in Ohio which suggests a trade amongst tribes.



# V. MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD

- A. Time Period: A.D. 1,000 to 1,600
- B. Also known as Temple Mound Age.
- C. Most food came from farming: corn, pumpkins, squash and beans.
- D. Grew tobacco for religious ceremonies.
- E. Hunted deer and turkey
- F. Lived in large permanent settlements protected by **palisades** and moats
- G. Developed more complex and political organization: **chiefdom**.



H. This period is so named because during this era the Indians began living near rivers, such as the Mississippi, where flood waters would keep the lands fertile.

I. Clothing became simpler; beads and body ornaments were worn; bodies were painted or tattooed; sometimes elaborate masks or headdresses were worn.

J. Major Archaeological Mississippian sites in Georgia:

1. Etowah Mounds

2. Kolomoki Mounds

3. Rock Eagle (bird effigy)

4. Ocmulgee Mounds

5. Stallings Island (shell middens)

6. Fort Mountain (rock wall)

## VI. The Vikings

- A. Although most people think of Columbus as the discoverer of the New World, he was not the first European to find it.
- B. The Vikings discovered North America about five hundred years before Columbus landed at San Salvador.
- C. Being a very secretive people, the Vikings did not tell anyone about their discovery. They called it Vinland.
- D. The Vikings didn't stay here permanently

## VII. Christopher Columbus

- A. European nations were eager to profit from the trade goods that came from the Far East over the Silk Road and the Mediterranean.
- B. Christopher Columbus believed that he could reach the Far East by sailing West around the globe.
- C. In 1492, Columbus found the continent of North America. The discovery of the New World brought other European explorers to North and South America.
- D. After this time, life would never be the same for the Native Americans.

## VIII. European Exploration

A. In the 1400s, what caused Europeans like Christopher Columbus to sail West into unknown waters?

1. Europeans were seeking an all water route to the Orient: China, Japan, India. This part of the world was also referred to as the Far East or the Indies.
2. Europeans desired Orient goods such as dyes, silk, perfumes, drugs, gold, jewels and spices.
3. Muslim traders were the Middlemen who controlled both land and sea routes to the Orient.
  - a. Europeans & Muslims had fought in the Crusades.
  - b. The Middleman drove up the cost of Orient goods for Europeans.



B. Portugal and Spain were competing for rights to the New World.

1. In 1493, to keep these two Catholic nations out of a war, the Pope created the “Line of Demarcation.” This line divided the New World lands between the two countries.

2. Portugal was unhappy with the Pope’s decision because it favored Spain.

3. In 1494, the Treaty of Tordesillas moved the line further west.

4. Although they didn’t know at the time, Portugal only received a small portion of the new world...the modern country of Brazil.

# IX. Hernando de Soto



- A. de Soto was a Spanish Conquistador (conqueror) who came to present-day Georgia in 1540. This ended Georgia's prehistoric period because his men kept journals.
- B. de Soto brought about 600 men with him to look for gold. He also brought armor, weapons, horses, pigs & servants to go on this expedition.
- C. Their trek lasted about four years. Some men kept journals which are the first written records about the land. This ended Georgia's prehistoric period.





D. de Soto's mission was a failure. No gold was found; he & many others died.

E. Thousands of Indians were killed by the Spaniards as they roamed throughout the southeast portion of the continent.

F. Legacy of de Soto's mission:

1. The journals provide a priceless description of a prehistoric Mississippian culture that vanished.
2. The Spanish gave smallpox & other deadly diseases to the Indians that caused the death of untold numbers & brought an end to their culture.

## X. Spanish Missions on Barrier Islands

- A. 1566 – Spain creates first mission in Georgia – Santa Catalina de Guale on St. Catherines Island.
- B. A mission was a Catholic church outpost usually operated by a friar sometimes accompanied by a garrison where soldiers lived.
- C. Missions were built on the Georgia barrier islands of St. Simons and Sapelo.
- D. Spain divided what is now Georgia into two regions: Guale in the north and Mocama in the south.
- E. Besides trying to convert the Indians to Christianity, the missions were intended to protect Spanish land claims from being invaded by other Europeans.
- F. These missions in Georgia were founded after the military base of St. Augustine was built in Florida.

G. The Spanish missions were promptly began after the French sent Huguenots (Protestants) to live in present day Georgia where they founded Port Royal and built Charles Fort (near Savannah).

H. The Spanish Catholics killed these French Protestants for invading their land claims.

## XI. England comes to N. America

A. England had no regard for the Line of Demarcation or Treaty of Tordesillas because its people were mainly Protestant.

B. England used the explorations of John Cabot in 1497 and 1498 to claim land in North America.

- C. In the 1500s English sea captains (i.e. Sir Francis Drake) raided Spanish treasure ships and burned Spanish colonies like St. Augustine.
- D. England took a dominant role in North America when the Spanish Armada was sunk.
- E. 1607 – Jamestown (Virginia) becomes the first English colony in N. America.
- F. 1620 – Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts
- G. England burned Spain's mission on St. Catherine's Island and eventually Spain

abandoned its missions along the barrier islands but still claimed the land.

H. 1733 Great Britain (England) started the Georgia Colony when James Oglethorpe landed with the first settlers and built Savannah.

I. Georgia was the 13<sup>th</sup> British Colony in America

## XII. What about France?

- A. France did not give up on North America.
- B. France used the voyage of Giovanni de Verrazano in 1524 to make its claims of discovery.
- C. French land claims were in the St. Lawrence River area (Montreal), Great Lakes Region, Ohio River Valley, Mississippi River area down to the Gulf of Mexico (New Orleans).
- D. Consequently, England claimed some of the same land and so did Spain. Therefore, fighting for North America would continue as each nation continued to practice mercantilism - a trade policy in which a country exports more than it imports.
- E. The colonies were expected to supply raw materials to the mother country.
- F. The mother country sold finished goods or products back to the colonies.