



2008 Georgia History Festival Featured Historical Figure Teaching Guide

James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785)

The teacher guide includes vocabulary terms and suggested classroom activities to go accompany the online James Edward Oglethorpe Featured Historical Figure resources.

Brief Biography

Vocabulary:

- Parliament - The British Parliament is the governing body of the United Kingdom and is composed of the House of Lords and the House of Commons.
- House of Commons – One half of Parliament, members of the House of Commons are elected by the people, while the members of the House of Lords are appointed.
- Smallpox – A disease common to Europe during the 1700s, victims developed a rash and often were left blind or with scars, if they survived. Humanitarian – Someone who promotes human welfare, believing that all people deserve to be treated equally with respect and kindness.
- Plight – A difficult or unfortunate situation that someone finds themselves in.
- Artisan – A craftsman, someone who creates goods or materials using traditional methods.
- Trustee – A member of a Board of Trustees that governed Georgia during the first 20 years of its existence. Trustees were not allowed to own land, hold office or receive a salary for their work.
- Motto – A short phrase used as a guiding principle or to represent a group, institution or person.
- Debt – Something owed, usually money.

Teaching Tips

- Have students study a map of Europe and North America, looking at all the places Oglethorpe traveled, from his birthplace in England, his service fighting the Turks in Europe, to settling Georgia. Point out that there weren't any cars, planes or trains at this time and Oglethorpe was traveling on ships and horses, which are very slow compared to what we're used to now.
- Teach students about Parliament, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Compare this system of government to that of the United States.

Sources

Jackson, Edwin L.. "James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785)." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*.
<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/james-edward-oglethorpe-1696-1785>

The Man Who Founded Georgia by J. Gordon Vaeth

Oglethorpe, Georgia's Trustee

Vocabulary

- *Appoint* – To officially choose, often to lead a group or be in a position of power.
- *Cultivate* – To grow an object, usually a plant in a garden or farm.
- *Mercantile* – Relating to trade or buying and selling of a product or products.
- *Missionary* – A person who tries to bring others to their way of thinking, often a person who tries to bring others to Christianity.
- *£* – The symbol for “pounds sterling,” the monetary unit of England.
- *Prime Minister* – The executive leader of the United Kingdom and Member of Parliament.

Teaching Tips

- Have students explore the role of the Trustees in and for Georgia, and discuss what it was like for the Trustees to govern the new colony from all the way across the Atlantic. Some issues students should consider are how did Oglethorpe keep the Trustees aware of the progress of the colony and how did he request items needed by the colonists from England. Alternately, when the Trustees made decisions that concerned the colonists, how did they enforce them?
- Have students role-play, attending a meeting as Georgia's Trustees. They should discuss some of the problems facing the colony; decide how much money and what types of resources they should send the colony, and debate how can they encourage the colony to become more self-sufficient.
- Ask students to create a seal for themselves and their family, with a pictures and a motto depicting what is important to them and what they want others to know about them.

Sources

Jackson, Edwin L.. "James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785)." New Georgia Encyclopedia.
<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/james-edward-oglethorpe-1696-1785>

Georgia Journeys 1732 – 1754 by Sarah Gober Temple and Kenneth Coleman

Settling Savannah

Vocabulary

- *Agrarian* –Relating to fields and farming, agriculture.
- *Bluff* – A cliff with a flat front overlooking a river or another area. Botanical –Plants, usually herbs that are used as raw materials.
- *Buffer* – A location between two areas, often serving as protection or a divider.
- *Ideal* – Something perfect and without flaws, an often unreachable goal.

- *Medicinal* – A plant or other beneficial item used to cure a disease or relieve pain.
- *Military* – Relating to soldiers and the army.
- *Namesake* – A person or object named after another person, Georgia is named for King George II.
- *Overshadowed* – When an event or person becomes less important because of another event or person.
- *Trader* – A person who exchanges goods and services for money or for other goods and services.

Teaching Tips

- Have students locate the Savannah and Altamaha Rivers on a Georgia map to obtain a sense of the large area the colonists were traveling to and how they would determine where to settle.
- Tell students to design and draw their own garden like the Trustee's Garden, with different plants that would be helpful to the colonists. They can research vegetables and fruits that grow in coastal Georgia, and discover herbs that can help cure the sick.

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Jackson, Edwin L.. "James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785)." New Georgia Encyclopedia.

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/james-edward-oglethorpe-1696-1785>

Savannah 1733 to 2000, Photographs from the Collection of the Georgia Historical Society by Susan E. Dick and Mandi D. Johnson.

Georgia: History Written By Those Who lived It edited by Mills Lane The Man Who Founded Georgia by J. GordonVaeth.

Savannah's City Plan

Vocabulary

- *Acre* – A unit of measurement of land, 43,650 square feet.
- *Historic District* – An area of historically and culturally significant buildings that are grouped together to form a district.
- *Encroach* – To move into an area, usually in a gradual manner.
- *Freemen* – A person with their freedom and all the rights of a citizen of where they live.
- *Clapboard* – Wood boards that are used on the outside of a building or house.
- *Loft* – A room or floor above the main floor, but not a separate floor because of the openness of the space.
- *Tything* – A row of ten house lots centered around one square.
- *Ward* – A community of buildings surrounding a square with tything lots and public buildings located in it.

Teaching Tips

- Show students the map of early Savannah and ask them to figure out where the squares, Trustee's Garden and other landmarks are located.
- Have students plan and draw their own city, showing where they would live and work, where they would shop for food and other essentials, and where the city leaders would be.
- Have students measure out a 24 by 16 foot space to get an idea of the actual size of the buildings the colonists were living in.
- Noble Jones' family was prominent during early Georgia history; discuss some other family members and their contribution to Georgia during the years.

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Jackson, Edwin L.. "James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785)." New Georgia Encyclopedia.
<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/james-edward-oglethorpe-1696-1785>

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<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/counties-cities-neighborhoods/savannah>

Historic Savannah, Survey of significant buildings in the Historic and Victorian Districts of Savannah, Georgia, edited by Mary L. Morrison

Oglethorpe and the Creeks

Vocabulary

- *Mico* – The word for chief or leader for the Lower Creek Indians.
- *Diplomatic* – The use of tact and respect to establish good relations with another person or group.
- *Interpreter* – A person who speaks two or more languages and translates from one language to another to allow two other people to communicate.
- *Plaque* – A sheet of metal usually inscribed with commemorative information used to decorate an object.

Teaching Tips

- Have students research the different tribes of Indians that lived in Georgia during the early days of the colony and the state. Discuss what happened to the Indians as more settlers came to Georgia.
- Tell students to form groups and act out diplomatic relations as they might have occurred between Oglethorpe and Tomochichi and the two leaders' followers.
- Have students research how Tomochichi and his family and followers were received in England when they traveled there with Oglethorpe.

- Ask students to write about Tomochichi's accomplishments to be included on the plaque that commemorates him in Savannah, remind them that visitors and native Georgians alike will read it and need to understand how important the mico was to the early colony.

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<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/james-edward-oglethorpe-1696-1785>

Sweet, Julie A.. "Tomochichi (ca. 1644-1739)." New Georgia Encyclopedia.
<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/tomochichi-ca-1644-1739>

Georgia: History Written By Those who lived It, edited by Mills Lane

Georgia Historical Markers: Coastal Counties, by Kenneth W. Boyd

Defending the New Colony

Vocabulary:

- *Advance Force* – A smaller group of a military force sent ahead to find out information about the enemy and their location.
- *Besiege* – To surround a location, such as a fort or city, with armed forces with the intent to overtake. *Privateer* – A sailor on a ship that is able to attack enemy ships.
- *Scout* – To go ahead of a larger group to get information about a spot to which everyone is traveling.
- *Surveyor* – A person who examines a tract of land to determine its condition, position or size.
- *Tabby* – A building material commonly used during colonial times for walls, floors, and roofs. It was composed of equal parts and, lime, oyster shell and water, which was mixed into a mortar and poured into forms.

Teaching Tips

- Show students pictures of tabby houses and have them identify the different items that made up the materials, such as shells.
- Tell students to research the different roles Noble Jones played: doctor, surveyor, constable and carpenter. See if they can find the similarities and differences among the roles; determine why one person knew so much, and why it would have been useful to have such a range of skills.
- Have students choose a military installation and write the text for a historical marker to be placed at the location for all visitors to read. For more information about the [Georgia Historical Marker Program](#) on our website.
- Show students a map of Georgia and Florida, and ask them to locate the Savannah River, the Altamaha River and St. John's River. These rivers were the different boundaries between the English colonies and Spanish Florida, have students come to

understand how much land Spain gave up when they agreed to the St. John's River boundary.

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Oglethorpe and Religion in Georgia

- *Church of England* – The official Christian Church of England and mother church to all Anglican dominations.
- *Fanaticism* – One who engages in excessive or intense devotion to a cause or person.
- *Hymns* – A song of praise to God, usually sung by a congregation in church.
- *Minister* – A Christian religious leader who is head of a church and leads the congregation in worship
- *Plight* – An unfortunate situation.

Teaching Tips

- Have students research John and Charles Wesley and their impact on religion.
- Have students discuss how different religions impacted the new colony, why the Trustees tried to keep Jewish people and Catholics from settling Georgia, and why Oglethorpe defied those rules.
- Discuss with students how religion shaped communities in all the colonies, such as the Pilgrims and compare that with the different religions that settled in Georgia.
- Explore how Reverend Whitefield was beneficial and detrimental to the people and orphans in Georgia, and determine with students whether the negatives are outweighed by the positive in the situations he created.

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Oglethorpe's Georgia Communities

Vocabulary

- *Highlanders* – People from the Highlands area of Scotland, usually known as independent and strong.
- *Kilt* – A traditional garment of Scotland, skirt-like but worn by men and made using wool woven into a tartan, or plaid, pattern.
- *Marsh* – An area of land usually alongside a river or other body of water that is influenced by the tides and populated with grass.
- *Persecution* – To harass a group of people or person for their beliefs, often their religious beliefs.
- *Regiment* – A military unit of soldiers, usually made up of battalions

Teaching Tips

- Show students where the different groups who came to settle Georgia traveled from to make a new life, discuss why they left the lives they knew and came to the unknown.
- Have students fill in a blank map of Georgia with the communities discussed above to see where Oglethorpe went while he lived in the new colony and the communities he influenced.
- Have students research marshes and discover why marshes are such important ecosystems to the Georgia coast.

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Early Days of Coastal Georgia by Margaret Davis Cate