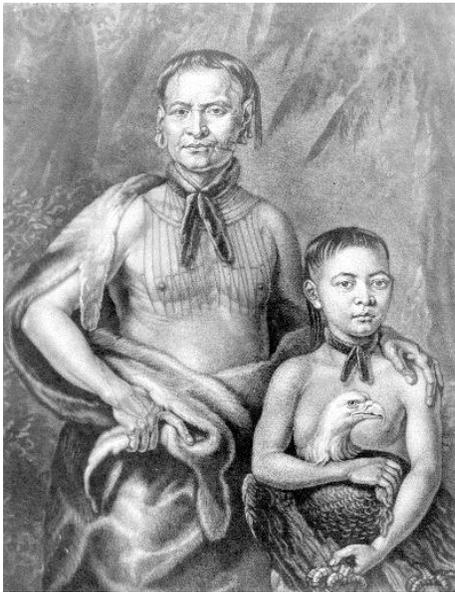


GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Featured Historical Figure Teaching Guide

Tomochichi (ca. 1644-1739)



Tomochichi and Toahahwi, 1739. From Georgia Historical Society, Foltz Photography Studio Photographs, MS 1360.

Description: This teacher guide was developed to accompany the Tomochichi Featured Historical Figure pages on the Georgia Historical Society Website (<http://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/online-exhibits/featured-historical-figures/tomochichi/>).

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Georgia Standards of Excellence

Second Grade

- SS2H1 Describe the lives and contributions of historical figures in Georgia history.
- SS2H2 Describe the Georgia Creek and Cherokee cultures of the past in terms of tools, clothing, homes, ways of making a living, and accomplishments.
- SS2G2 Describe the cultural and geographic systems associated with the historical figures in SS2H1 and Georgia's Creek and Cherokee in SS2H2.

Third Grade:

- SS3H3 Explain the factors that shaped British Colonial America.

Eighth Grade

- SS8H1 Evaluate the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia.
- SS8H2 Analyze the colonial period of Georgia's history.

High School

- SSUSH1 Compare and contrast the development of English settlement and colonization during the 17th Century.

Suggested Vocabulary Terms

Vocabulary Term	Definition
bluff	a cliff with a flat front overlooking a river or another area
delegate	a person chosen to act for or represent another individual or group
interpreter	a person who speaks two or more languages and translates from one language to another to allow other people to communicate
mediate	to act as a middleman between two individuals or groups to reach an agreement
petition	a formal request by a person or group addressed to another person or group in a position of authority
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.
Prime Minister	the executive leader of the United Kingdom and a Member of Parliament
smallpox	a disease common to Europe during the 1700s, victims developed a rash and often were left blind or with scars, if they survived.
treaty	a formal contract or agreement negotiated between countries or other political entities
Trustee	a member of a Board of Trustees that governed Georgia during the first 20 years of its existence
Yamacraw	a tribe consisting of Lower Creek and Yamasee Indians who left their respective tribes over disagreements regarding future relations with Europeans settlers
Yamasee War	The Yamasee War took place between 1715 and 1717. It was fought mainly between the British settlers of South Carolina and the Yamasee tribe. The Yamasee were angry over settlers encroaching on their lands and unresolved debts arising from the fur trade. They attacked the colonists along the South Carolina frontier. Many other Native American tribes near South Carolina and the Savannah River joined forces with the Yamasee except for the Cherokees and Creeks.

Classroom Activity: Tomochichi and the Practice of Gift Giving

Background:

Within Native American communities, giving has often been an expectation of individuals as a means of sharing and survival. Giving gifts was a way to show respect to others and a sign of peace and friendship.¹

When General James Edward Oglethorpe selected Yamacraw Bluff as the site for Georgia's first settlement, Tomochichi welcomed him and the colonists. Oglethorpe wanted to avoid problems between the English and Indians that had developed in other colonies. About a month after the colonists arrived, Tomochichi came to visit Oglethorpe in Savannah. Since the two men did not speak the same languages they used an interpreter, Mary Musgrove, to communicate with each other.

Once an agreement was reached, Oglethorpe and Tomochichi exchanged gifts. Tomochichi gave Oglethorpe buffalo skins "on which an eagle head and feathers was painted." In return, Oglethorpe presented the chief with European-styled clothing, cloth, gun powder, tobacco, and pipes.

Similarly, when Tomochichi and the Yamacraw delegation travelled with General Oglethorpe to Great Britain, the Natives brought gifts with them to present to King George II. During his meeting with the king, Tomochichi presented him with the feathers of an eagle, the fastest of the birds in their lands, as "a Sign of Peace in our Land."² The Yamacraw delegation also brought a live eagle and a bear cub as gifts for the king.

Tomochichi and the Yamacraw delegation visited Great Britain for six months. Before returning to Georgia, they attended a special farewell celebration in London's Hyde Park. At the celebration, Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, presented Toonahowi (sometimes spelled Toahahwi), Tomochichi's nephew, with a gold repeating watch that contained a mechanism to sound the time by pressing a button.

Classroom activity:

- 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 the entire Yamacraw delegation were received in England when they traveled there with Oglethorpe.
- Have students discuss the gifts that Tomochichi and Oglethorpe exchanged as well as the gifts exchanged between the Yamacraw delegation and the British monarchy in Great Britain. What gifts might they exchange today? If giving a gift to someone is a sign of respect and friendship, what might be the consequences of not giving someone a gift after you received one?

¹ Heather Francis, "Native American Culture of Giving," Learning to Give, accessed September 27, 2017, <https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/native-american-culture-giving>.

² Sweet, Julie Anne. "Bearing Feathers of the Eagle: Tomochichi's Trip to England." *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 86, no. 3 (2002): 353. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40584568>.

Writing Activity: Commemorating Tomochichi

Background:

On April 21, 1899, the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America dedicated the Tomochichi Monument-- a granite boulder—in Savannah. The boulder can still be found in the southeast corner of Wright Square, along with a copper plaque commemorating Tomochichi.

The plaque reads, “In memory of Tomochichi – the Mico of the Yamacraws – the companion of Oglethorpe – and the friend and ally of the Colony of Georgia.”

In 1952, the State of Georgia erected a historical marker about Tomochichi in Savannah’s Wright Square. The marker honors Tomochichi as the co-founder, along with General Oglethorpe, of Georgia. It also tells the story of the chief’s negotiations with Oglethorpe and his voyage to Great Britain.

Writing Activity:

Imagine that you have been asked to write a new plaque or historical marker about Tomochichi’s accomplishments. Since plaques and historical markers have limited space for text, you will be limited to 100-words. Remember that visitors to Savannah and native Georgians alike will read it and need to understand how important Tomchichi was to the early colony.

Tomochichi Bibliography

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