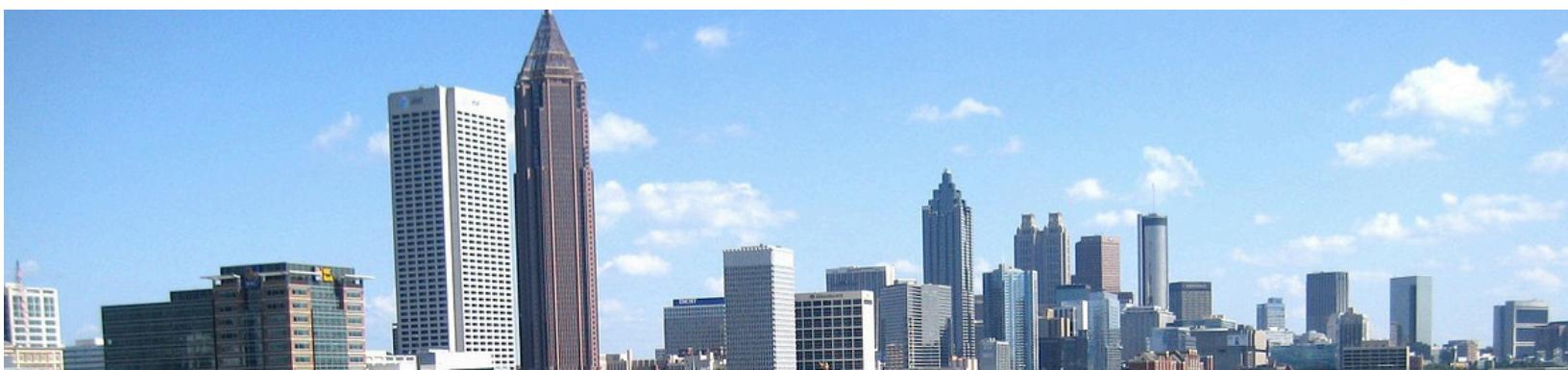


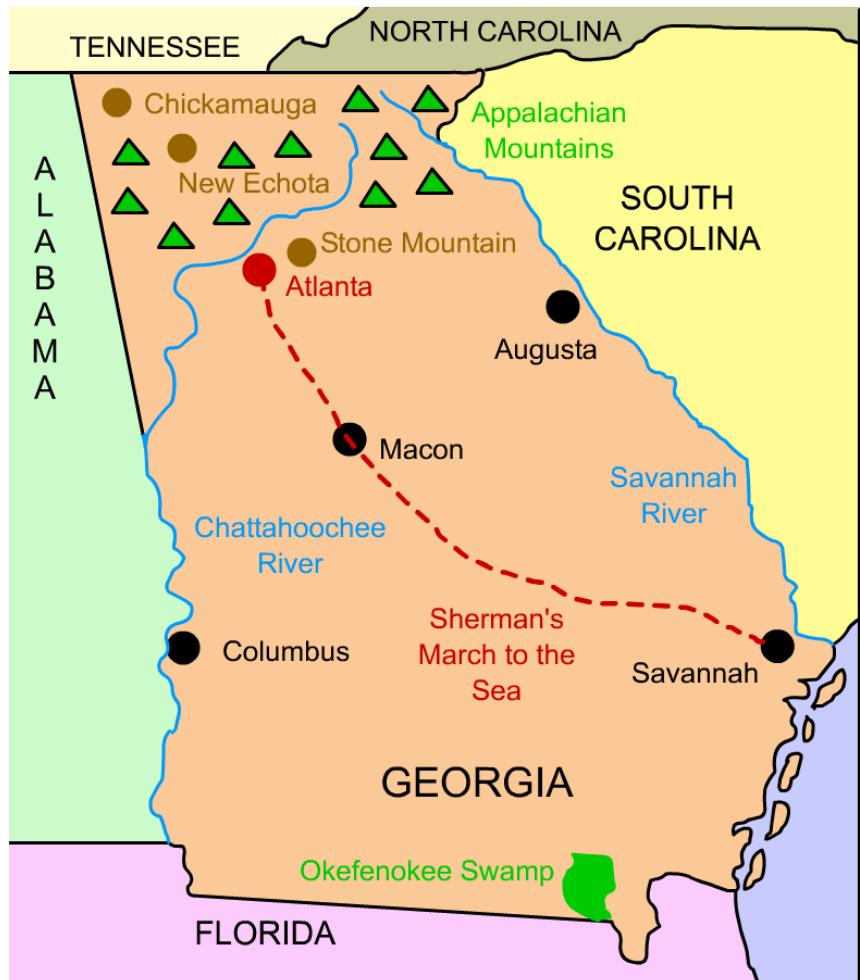
# GEORGIA ACTIVITY BUNDLE



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## Georgia



Capital: [Atlanta](#)

Area: [59,441 sq. miles \(24th\)](#)

Population: [10,429,000 \(8th\)](#)

Date of Union Entry: [1/2/1788 \(4th state\)](#)

State Bird: [Brown Thrasher](#)

State Flower: [Cherokee Rose](#)

State Tree: [Live Oak](#)

Highest Point: [Brasstown Bald \(4,784 feet\)](#)

Motto: [Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation](#)



### The Brown Thrasher - Georgia State Bird!

The brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) is a captivating bird species known for its rich musical repertoire and striking appearance. Found throughout North America, from southern Canada to Mexico, these medium-sized songbirds are easily recognizable by their warm brown plumage, distinctive streaks, and long, curved bills.

The brown thrasher derives its name from its behavior of "thrashing" through the underbrush while foraging for food. These birds are ground foragers, and their distinctive long bills are used to sweep away leaf litter and debris as they search for insects, spiders, and other prey hiding in the undergrowth. The vigorous, thrashing motion of their bills and their adeptness at flipping leaves earned them the name "thrasher." This behavior is a key characteristic associated with their feeding habits, and it reflects their preference for dense vegetation and shrubbery where they can efficiently hunt for a variety of food sources.

One of the most remarkable features of the brown thrasher is its singing ability. With a repertoire that can include over 1,000 different song variations, these birds are skilled mimics and often incorporate the sounds of other bird species, animals, and even mechanical noises into their songs. Their melodious tunes, typically delivered from elevated perches, contribute to the charm of the bird-rich environments they inhabit.

Brown thrashers are primarily ground foragers, using their long bills to probe the leaf litter for insects, spiders, and other small invertebrates. They also have a fondness for fruits and berries, making them omnivores with a diverse diet. Their preference for dense shrubbery and undergrowth provides them with ample cover while hunting for food.

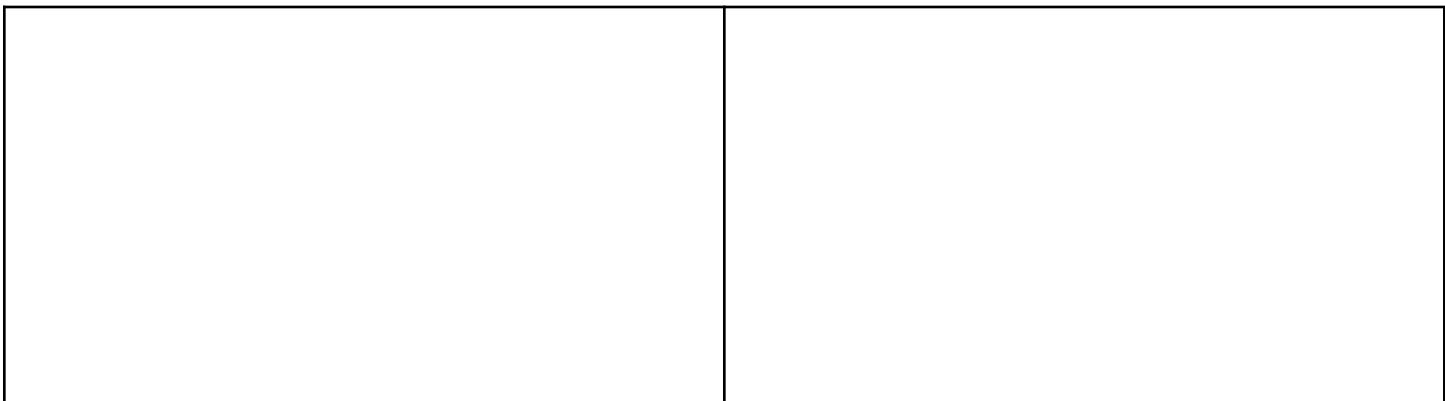
In terms of physical appearance, the brown thrasher boasts a rufous or reddish-brown upper plumage, with distinctive streaks on its white underparts. The bird's eyes are a bright yellow, and its long tail adds to its overall elegance. Despite their striking appearance, brown thrashers are well-camouflaged in their natural habitats, which include woodlands, thickets, and suburban gardens.

Breeding season for brown thrashers typically begins in late spring, with both male and female participating in nest-building. The female lays a clutch of eggs in a well-concealed location, usually low in a shrub or bush. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs and feeding the nestlings once they hatch.

1.) Design the perfect habitat for a brown thrasher



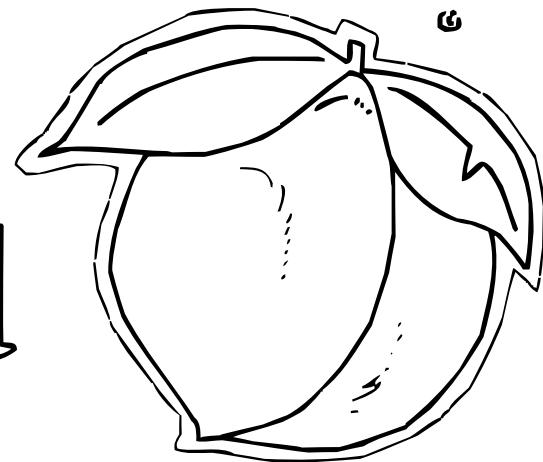
Draw a brown thrasher in the first box, and then design a new state flag with the brown thrasher as the focus in the second box.



Why do you think Georgia chose the brown thrasher as its state bird? Do you think it was a good choice?

What is the most interesting fact you learned about the brown thrasher?

Welcome  
We're glad  
Georgia's  
on your mind .

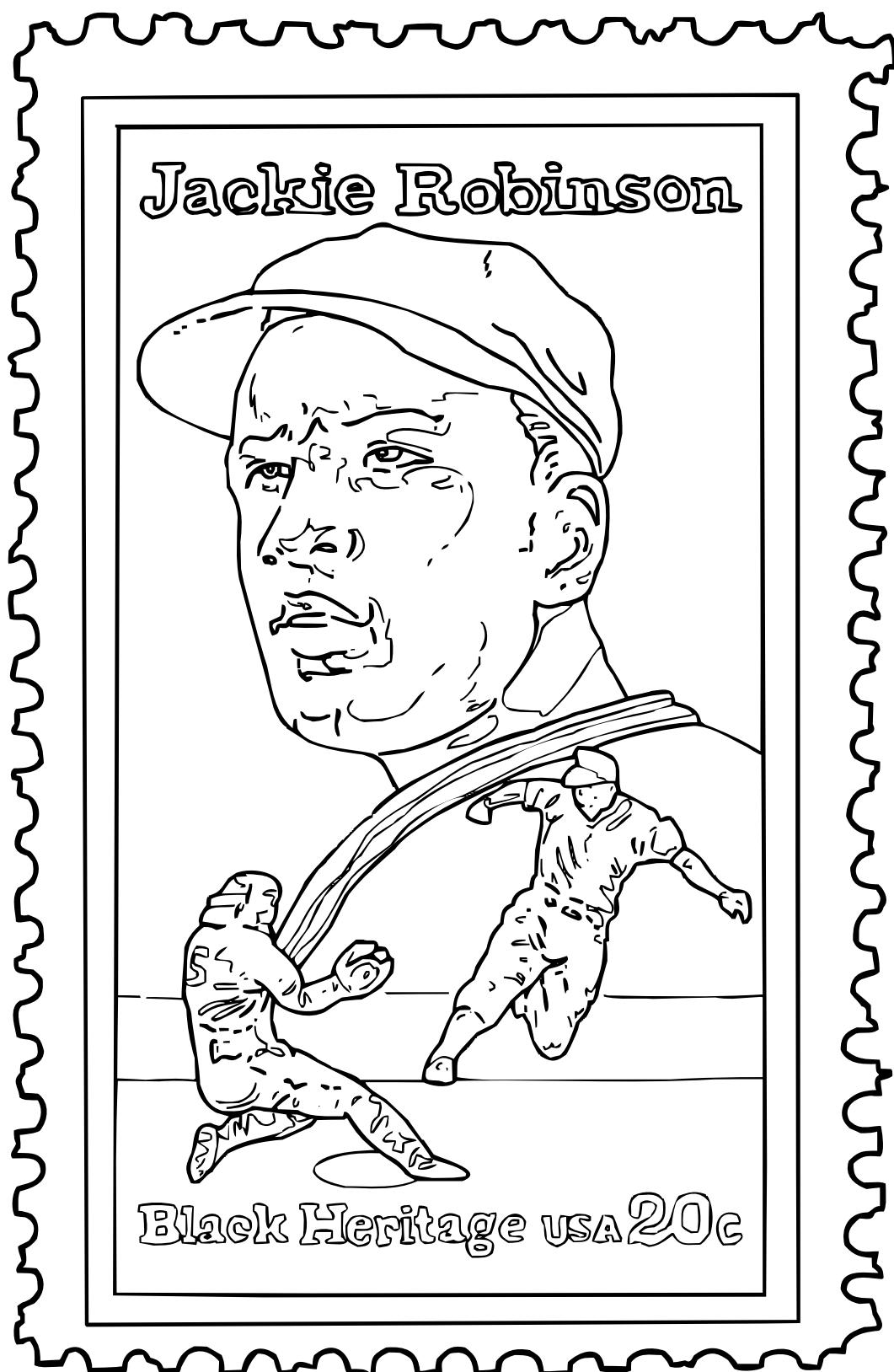


GEORGIA

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Jackie Robinson stamp

20 cents

## **HANK AARON Reading Comprehension**

Hank Aaron was born February 5, 1934, in Mobile, Alabama. He was the third of eight children. When his father took him to hear a speech given by Jackie Robinson, Hank committed himself to playing baseball. Aaron showed an early propensity for sports and played both baseball and football at Central High School in Mobile and Josephine Allen Institute, a private school. Aaron started played semi-pro baseball at age 15 and earned \$10 per day playing for the Mobile Black Bears, an all-black baseball team. In 1951, Aaron was signed by the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro Baseball League. In 1952, he helped his team to the Negro League World Series.

Aaron became the last Negro League player to make the jump to the Major Leagues when he was signed by the Boston Braves in 1952. By the time that Aaron reached the Majors, the Boston Braves had become the Milwaukee Braves. Aaron played brilliantly in the minor leagues and even became MVP of the South-Atlantic League despite being the constant target of prejudice. In 1954, the Boston Braves called him up to the Major Leagues when left-fielder Bobby Thompson broke his ankle.

Despite going 0–5 in his major league debut (no hits in five at-bats), Aaron was in the Majors to stay. During his first year, he batted .280 (this means he would average 28 hits per 100 at-bats) with 13 home runs. These totals were among the lowest of his amazing career. In 1955, Aaron made his first of 24 All-Star games and batted .314 with 27 home runs. Hank would hit 20 or more home runs for 20 consecutive years. The next year, in Aaron's third year in the Majors, he won the batting title with a .328 average. He was also named the Sporting News National League Player of the Year. 1957 would become one of the best years of his career. After being switched to cleanup (fourth in the batting order), Aaron responded with 44 home runs and 132 RBI's (runs batted in—this means that as a result of something he did with the bat, like get a hit, sacrifice fly, ground out, or walk, a player(s) on his team scored). That year, he led the Milwaukee Braves to their only World Series title. In the years following the World Series, the Milwaukee Braves never again reached the playoffs. Nevertheless, Aaron continued to establish himself as one of the game's great hitters and began amassing impressive batting statistics. In 1962, the Milwaukee Braves moved to Atlanta and became the Atlanta Braves.

Despite the move to Atlanta, the Braves never made another World Series during Aaron's career. Many fans in Atlanta, however, were satisfied by watching Hank's on-field heroics. In 1970, Hank became the first player in history to get 3,000 hits and 500 home runs in a career. By the end of 1973, he had accumulated 713 home runs. He was only two away from eclipsing the most hallowed record in American sports—Babe Ruth's career home run record. On April 4, 1974, at the age of 40, Aaron hit a pitch from Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Al Downing over the left field fence in Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium. He had broken Babe Ruth's record. To this day, one of the most memorable highlights in sports history is the image of Aaron's rounding second base with two fans running after him trying to congratulate him. After the 1974 season, Hank played two more years with the Milwaukee Brewers. He ended his career with 755 home runs (the record still stands but is in jeopardy of being broken by Barry Bonds). He remains the all-time leader in RBIs with 2,297. On August 1, 1982, Hank Aaron was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. Both the Braves and Brewers retired (which means no one can wear it again) his uniform number "44." Today, Turner Field (Atlanta's new stadium) is located at 755 Hank Aaron Drive SE.

**1.) How many younger brothers and sisters did Hank Aaron have?**

- a.) 3
- b.) 4
- c.) 5
- d.) 6

**2.) Which of the following baseball teams did Hank Aaron not play for?**

- a.) Indianapolis Clowns
- b.) Boston Brewers
- c.) Atlanta Braves
- d.) Milwaukee Brewers

**3.) When Hank Aaron made the major leagues, the Boston Braves had become the...**

- a.) Boston Brewers
- b.) Milwaukee Brewers
- c.) Indianapolis Clowns
- d.) Milwaukee Braves

**4.) What does "debut" mean?**

- a.) His last appearance
- b.) His first appearance
- c.) A bad appearance
- d.) A good appearance

**5.) How many home runs did Hank Aaron hit his first year?**

- a.) 27
- b.) 44
- c.) 32
- d.) 13

**6.) Which of the following must be true?**

- a.) Hank hit at least 20 home runs in 1977.
- b.) Hank hit at least 20 home runs in 1952.
- c.) Hank hit at least 20 home runs in 1960.
- d.) All of the answers are correct.

**7.) What phrase would describe Hank Aaron's batting statistics during his first year in the major leagues?**

- a.) Uncharacteristically low
- b.) Uncharacteristically high
- c.) About average
- d.) Very high

**8.) In 1955, Aaron...**

- a.) made his first All-Star Game.
- b.) batted .314.
- c.) hit 27 home runs.
- d.) All of the answers are correct.

**9.) How many times was Hank Aaron on a team that won the World Series?**

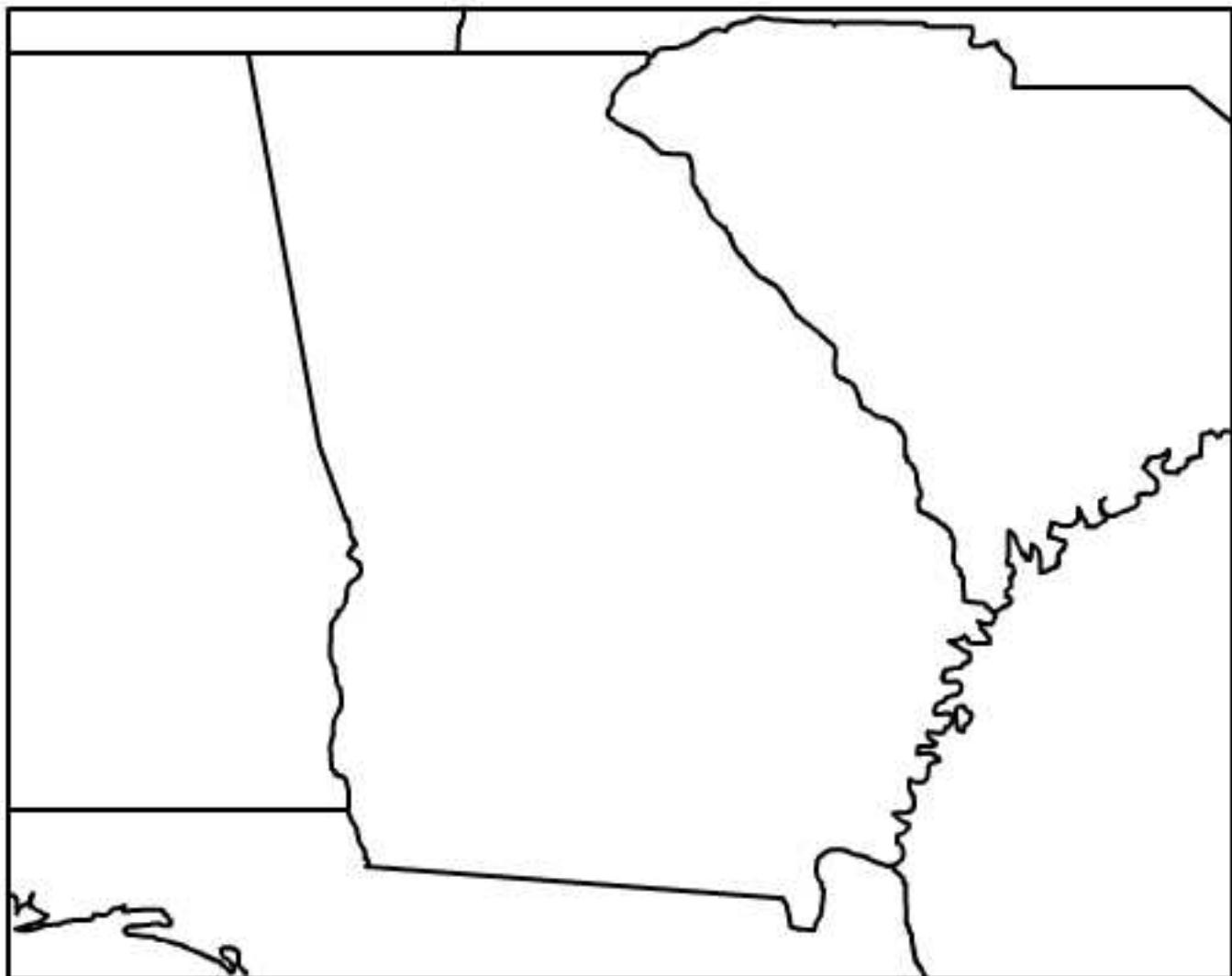
- a.) 0
- b.) 1
- c.) 2
- d.) 3

**10.) What happened last?**

- a.) Hank Aaron hit his 755th home run.
- b.) Hank Aaron was elected into the Hall of Fame.
- c.) April 4, 1974
- d.) Hank joined the Milwaukee Brewers.



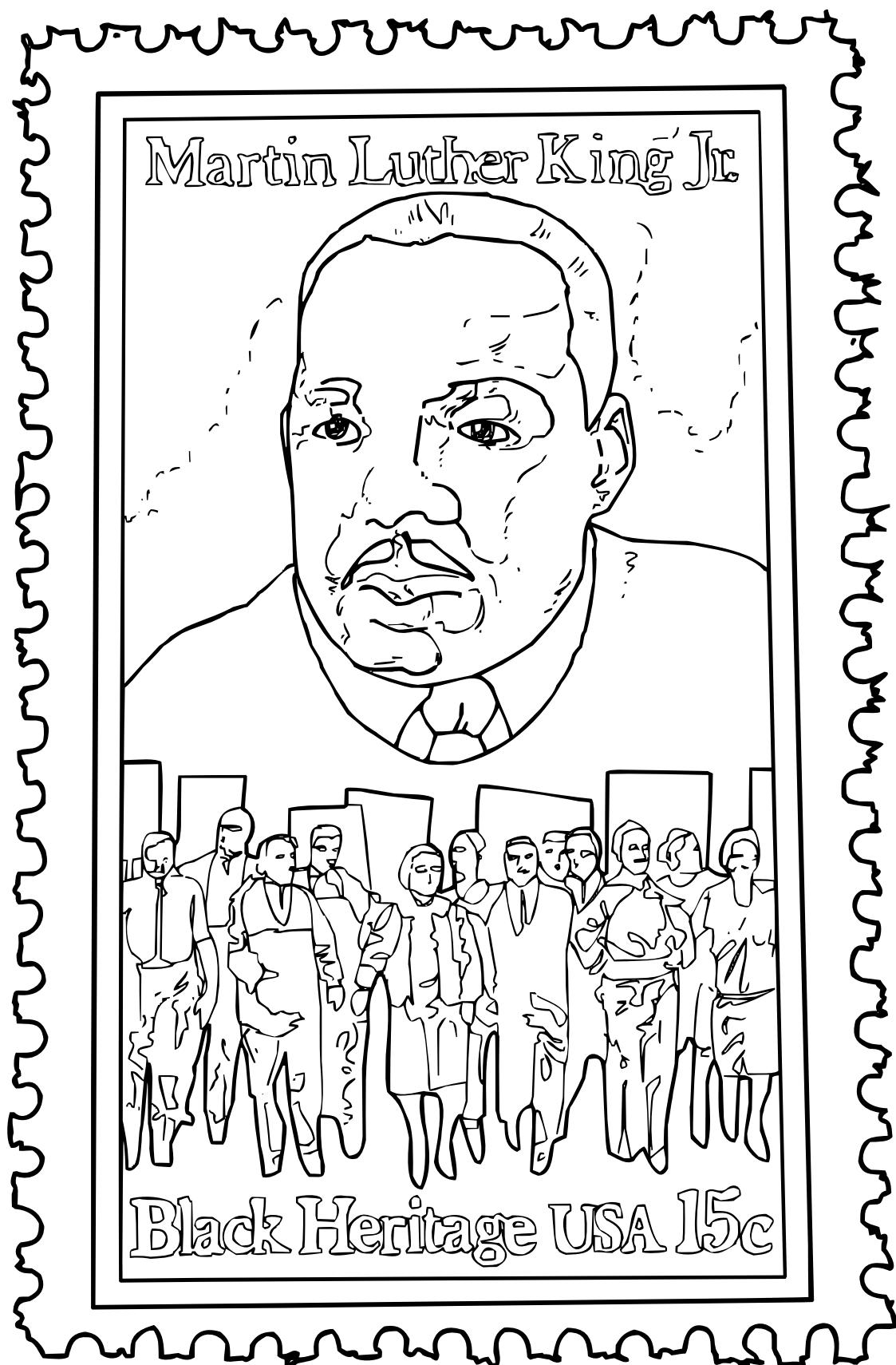
Georgia Printable Outline Map



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Martin Luther King Jr. stamp

15 cents

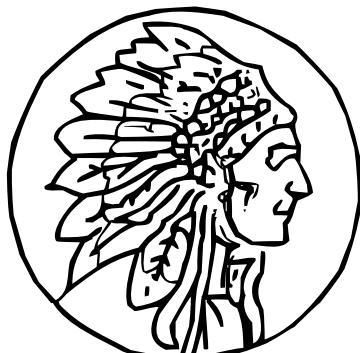
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# HENRY AARON

*outfield MILWAUKEE BRAVES*



Henry Aaron

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Georgia stamp

**22** cents

## Comparing and Contrasting Florida and Georgia

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Florida

Florida, aptly nicknamed The Sunshine State, was purchased from Spain in 1819. It became America's 27<sup>th</sup> state on March 3, 1845. Located entirely within the Atlantic Coastal Plain in the southeastern United States, Florida features beautiful beaches, wetlands, and grasslands. It borders two states: Georgia and Alabama. Most of Florida is a peninsula, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Gulf of Mexico to the west and the Caribbean Sea to the south. Key West, Florida, is the southernmost point in the United States. Florida is America's third most populous state with over 21 million people. Its capital is Tallahassee, but its largest city is Jacksonville. Orlando, Florida, is home to Disney World, Universal Studios, and other theme parks. Orlando is one of the most visited cities in America. The Everglades, located in southern Florida, is one of the world's most important wetlands and national parks.

### Georgia

In 1732, Georgia became the last of the original 13 colonies to receive a royal charter. It was originally a colony designed for people crowded into debtors prisons in England. Georgia became America's fourth state on January 2, 1788. It is located in the southeastern United States and borders Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina. It is nicknamed the Peach State. Atlanta is Georgia's capital and largest city. In 1996, it hosted the Olympic Summer Games. Atlanta's airport, Hartsfield International, is the world's busiest airport. With over 10.6 million people, Georgia is the eighth most populous state in America. Like many east coast states, Georgia features beautiful beaches on its east coast, piedmont in the central parts of the state, and mountains in the northwestern part of the state.

Which facts belong in each category?

**Borders Alabama**

**Was a state first**

**Its capital and largest city are different**

**Has mountains**

**Has more people**

**Has beaches**

**One of the original 13 colonies**

**Nicknamed the Peach State**

**Borders three large bodies of water**

**Became a state in 1832**

**Florida**

**Both**

**Georgia**

**Neither**

## Answers:

### Florida

**Its capital and largest city are different**  
**Has more people**  
**Borders three large bodies of water**

### Both

**Borders Alabama**  
**Has beaches**

### Georgia

**Was a state first**  
**Has mountains**  
**One of the original 13 colonies**  
**Nicknamed the Peach State**

### Neither

**Became a state in 1832**

## Comparing and Contrasting Georgia and South Carolina

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Georgia

In 1732, Georgia became the last of the original 13 colonies to receive a royal charter. It was originally a colony designed for people crowded into debtors prisons in England. Georgia became America's fourth state on January 2, 1788. It is located in the southeastern United States and borders Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina. It is nicknamed the Peach State. Atlanta is Georgia's capital and largest city. In 1996, it hosted the Olympic Summer Games. Atlanta's airport, Hartsfield International, is the world's busiest airport. With over 10.6 million people, Georgia is the eighth most populous state in America. Like many east coast states, Georgia features beautiful beaches on its east coast, piedmont in the central parts of the state, and mountains in the northwestern part of the state.

### South Carolina

Nicknamed the Palmetto State, South Carolina is located in the southeastern United States. It is bordered to the north by North Carolina and to the south and west by Georgia. The Atlantic Ocean washes ashore on its east coast. Its beach destinations such as Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head draw millions of visitors each year. South Carolina was one of America's original 13 colonies. It became the eighth state on May 23, 1788. Before the Civil War, it became the first state to leave the United States. South Carolina's capital is Columbia and its largest city is Charleston. The eastern portion of South Carolina is dominated by the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Here, the Savannah River forms the border between it and Georgia. Central South Carolina features the piedmont, and western South Carolina is hilly and mountainous. Today, a little more than five million people live in South Carolina.

Which facts belong in each category?

<b>Called the Palmetto State</b>
<b>Capital is Columbia</b>
<b>Its capital and largest city are the same</b>
<b>Has mountains</b>
<b>Has more people</b>
<b>Has beaches</b>
<b>One of the original 13 colonies</b>
<b>Became the first state to leave the United States before the Civil War</b>
<b>Has the busiest airport in the world</b>
<b>Borders more states</b>

Georgia

Both

South Carolina

Neither

## Answers:

### Georgia

**Its capital and largest city are the same**  
**Has more people**  
**Has the busiest airport in the world**  
**Borders more states**

### Both

**Has mountains**  
**Has beaches**  
**One of the original 13 colonies**

### South Carolina

**Called the Palmetto States**  
**Capital is Columbia**  
**Became the first state to leave the United States before the Civil War**

### Neither

## Comparing and Contrasting Georgia and Tennessee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Georgia

In 1732, Georgia became the last of the original 13 colonies to receive a royal charter. It was originally a colony designed for people crowded into debtors prisons in England. Georgia became America's fourth state on January 2, 1788. It is located in the southeastern United States and borders Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina. It is nicknamed the Peach State. Atlanta is Georgia's capital and largest city. In 1996, it hosted the Olympic Summer Games. Atlanta's airport, Hartsfield International, is the world's busiest airport. With over 10.6 million people, Georgia is the eighth most populous state in America. Like many east coast states, Georgia features beautiful beaches on its east coast, piedmont in the central parts of the state, and mountains in the northwestern part of the state. Georgia's state bird is the Brown Thrasher.

### Tennessee

Tennessee is located in the southeastern United States. It is nicknamed the Volunteer State. It borders eight other states including Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri. Nearly seven million people live in Tennessee. Tennessee is landlocked, which means it has no beaches. Tennessee became America's 16th state on June 1, 1796. Its capital and largest city is Nashville. Both the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers wind through the state, with the Mississippi forming its entire western border. Eastern Tennessee features some of the highest peaks in the Appalachian Mountains. Great Smoky National Park, the nation's most visited national park, lies partly in Tennessee and partly in North Carolina. The Mockingbird is the state bird of Tennessee, and four other southern states.

Which facts belong in each category?

**Mockingbird is the state bird**

**Was a state first**

**Its capital and largest city are different**

**Has mountains**

**Has more people**

**Has beaches**

**One of the original 13 colonies**

**Is Landlocked**

**Hosted the Summer Olympics**

**Located in the southeastern United States**

**Georgia**

**Both**

**Tennessee**

**Neither**

## Answers:

**Georgia**

**Was a state first**  
**Has more people**  
**Has beaches**  
**One of the original 13 Colonies**  
**Hosted the Summer Olympics**

**Both**

**Has mountains**  
**Located in the southeastern United States**

**Tennessee**

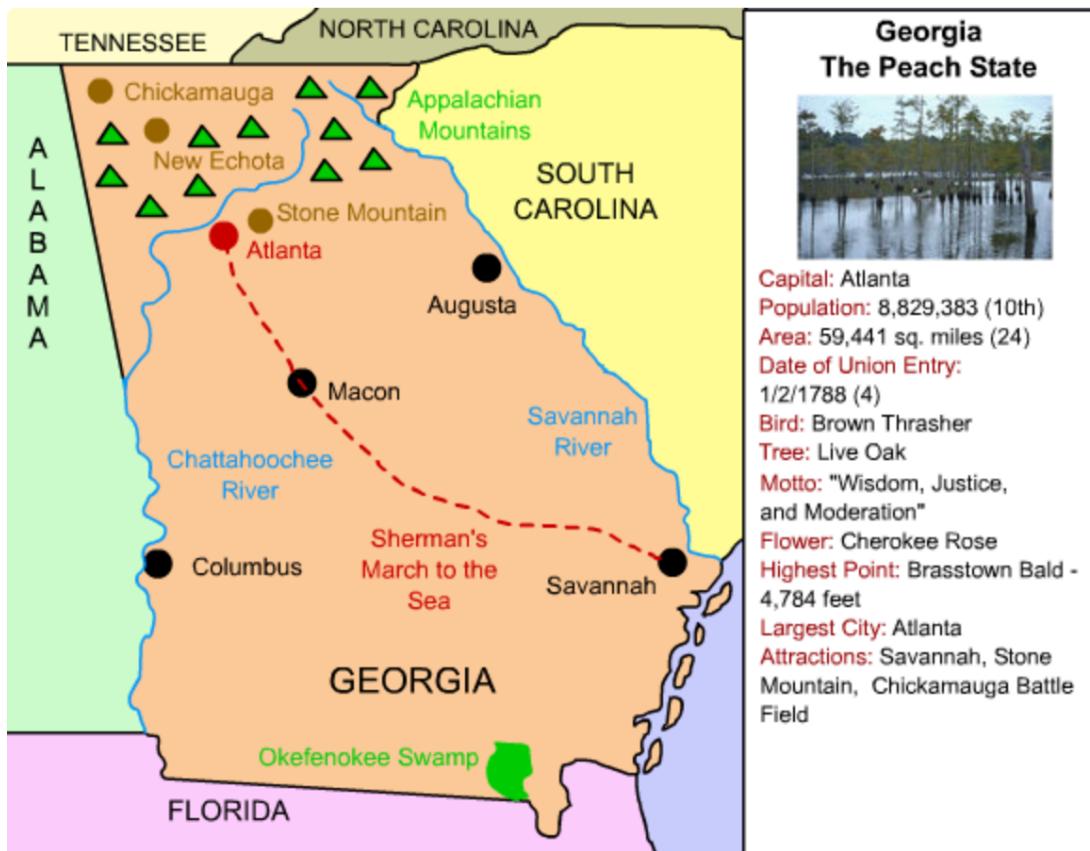
**Mockingbird is the state**  
**Is landlocked**

**Neither**

**Its capital and largest city are different**

**Fact or Fiction?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

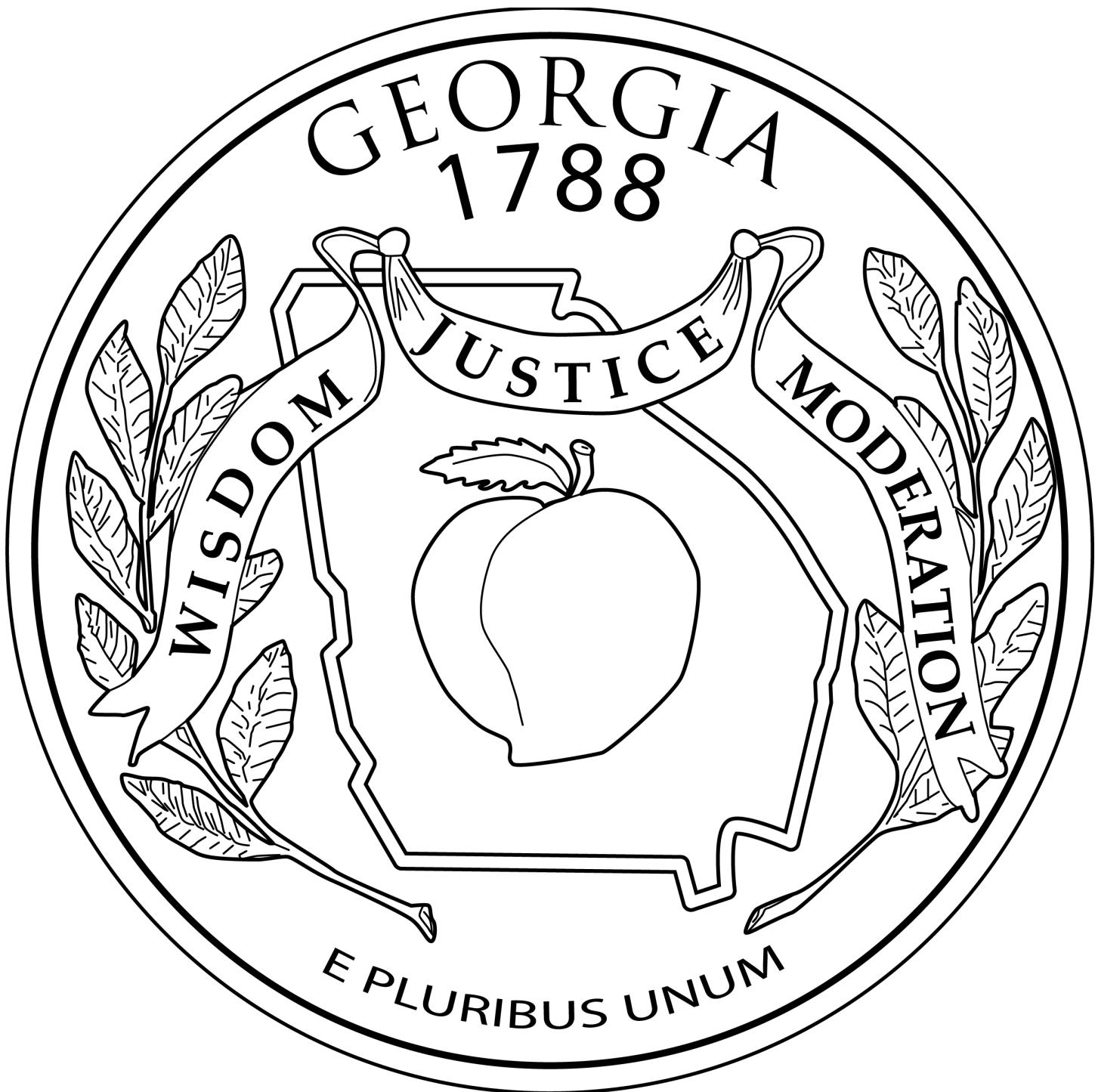


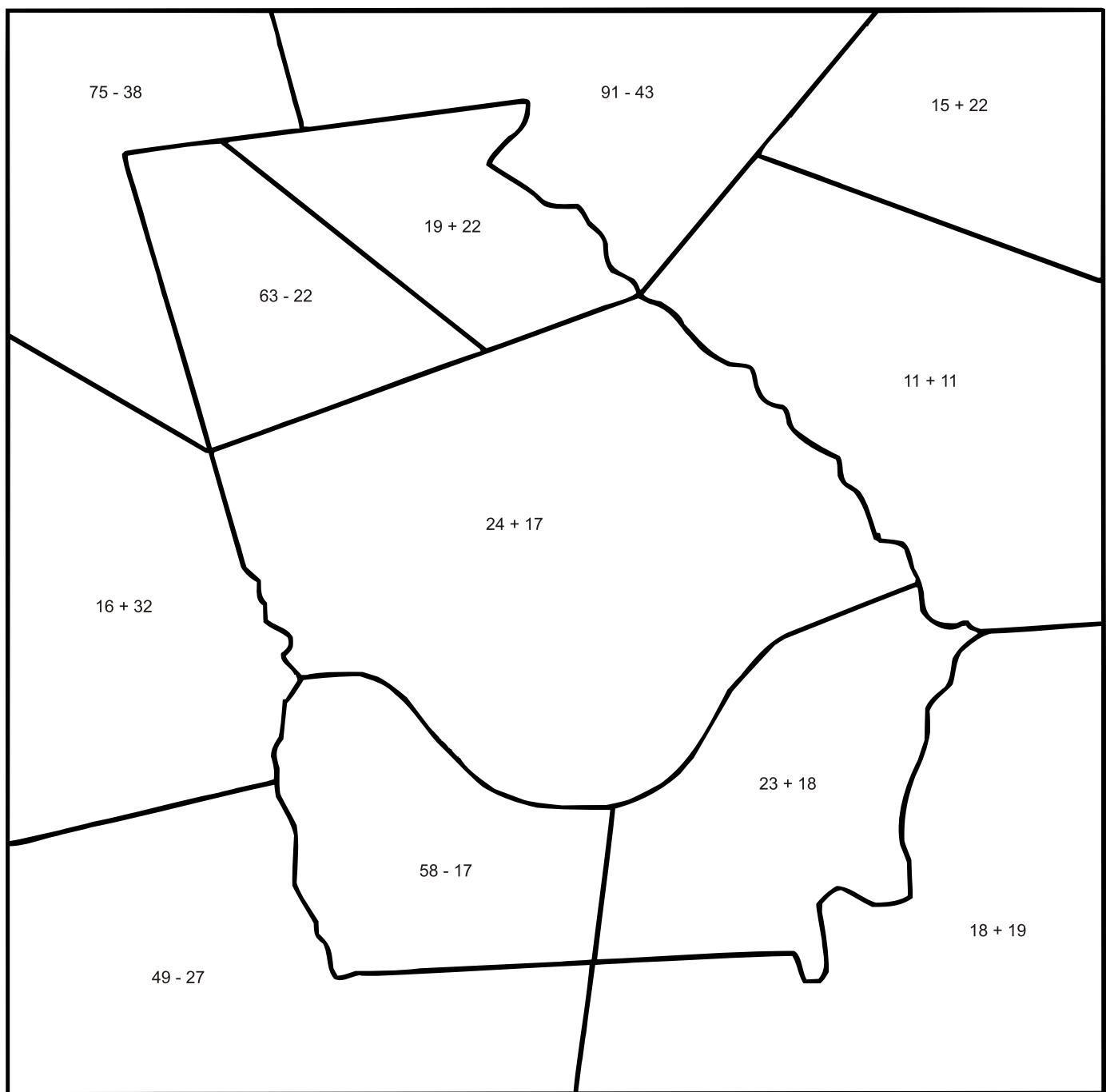
	<b>FACT</b>	<b>FICTION</b>
Georgia is NORTH of Florida		
Alabama is EAST of Georgia		
Augusta is NORTHEAST of Macon		
Columbus is NORTHWEST of Atlanta		
Savannah is WEST of Columbus		
The Savannah River forms part of the EASTERN border of Georgia		
The Appalachian Mountains are in NORTHERN Georgia		
Chickamauga is NORTHEAST of Atlanta		

**Answers:**

	<b>FACT</b>	<b>FICTION</b>
Georgia is NORTH of Florida	X	
Alabama is EAST of Georgia		X
Augusta is NORTHEAST of Macon	X	
Columbus is NORTHWEST of Atlanta		X
Savannah is WEST of Columbus		X
The Savannah River forms part of the EASTERN border of Georgia	X	
The Appalachian Mountains are in NORTHERN Georgia	X	
Chickamauga is NORTHEAST of Atlanta		X

Georgia State Quarter

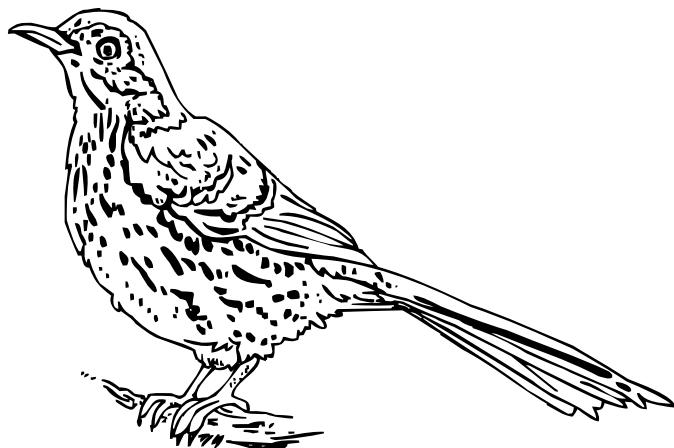




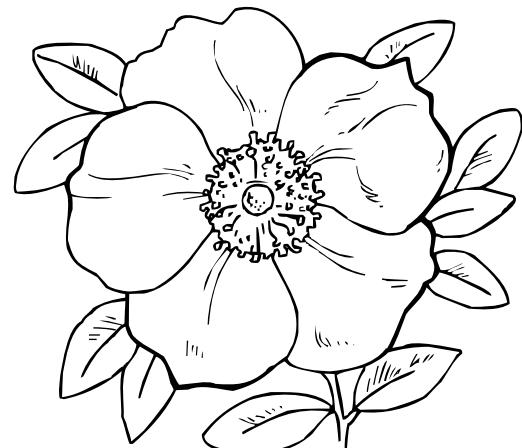
Do you know what state is pictured?

---

22 = Blue  
37 = Red  
41 = Olive Green  
48 = White



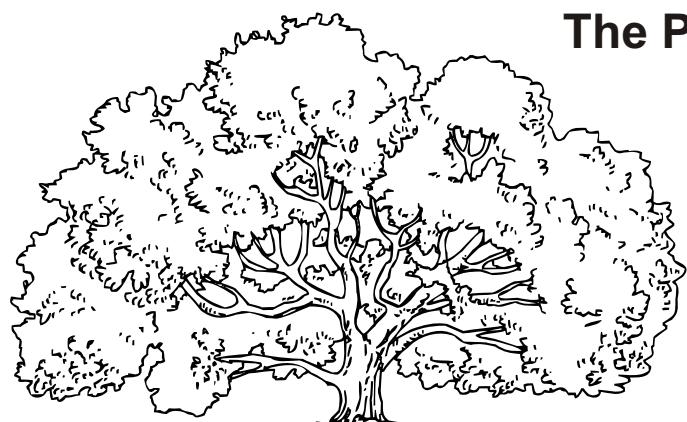
**Brown Thrasher**



**Cherokee Rose**



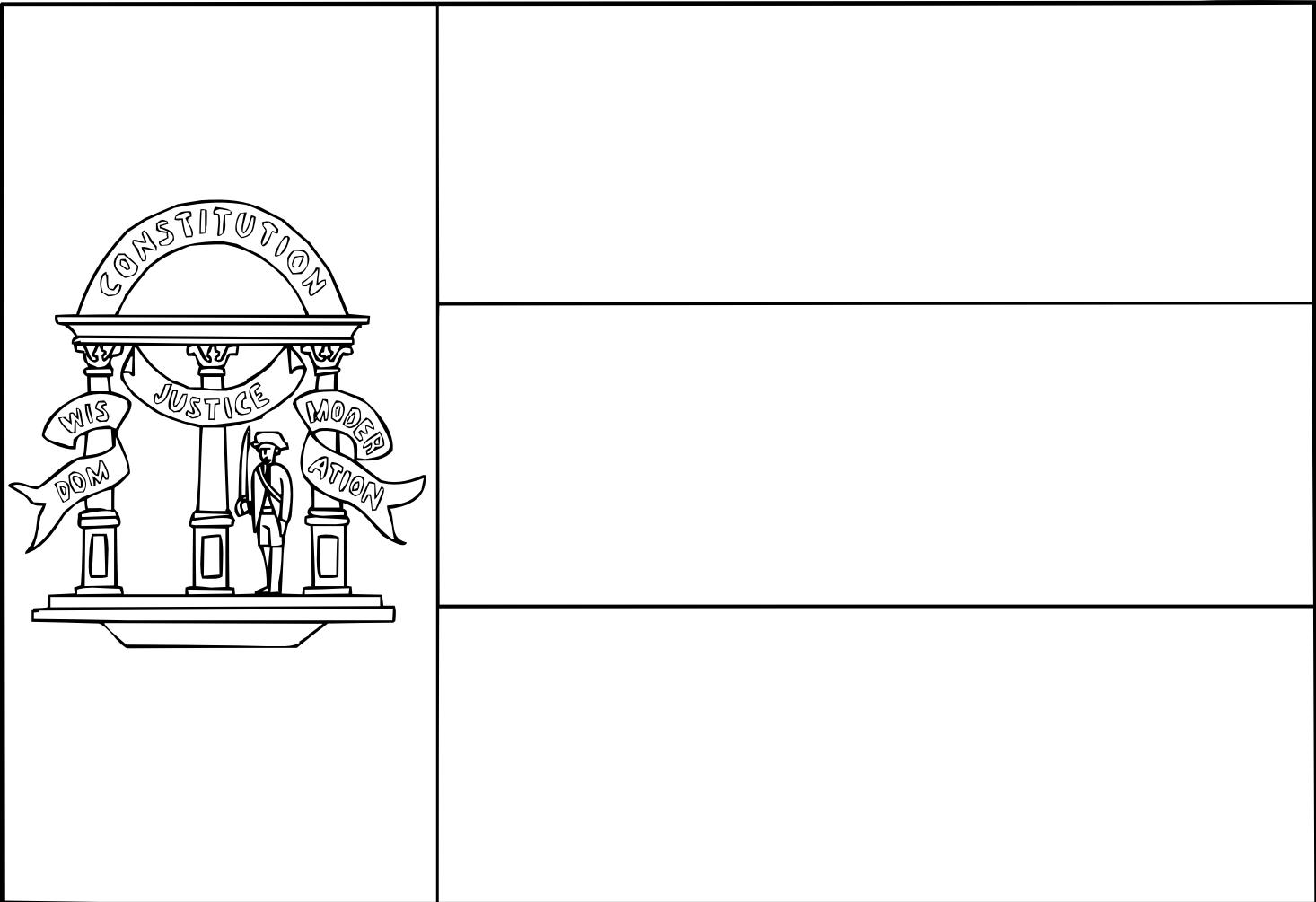
**The Peach State**



**Charter Oak**



**State license plate**



**GEORGIA**



**Georgia - The Peach State**

## **GEORGIA COLONY Reading Comprehension**

The colony of Georgia, located directly in between the English colony of South Carolina and the Spanish colony of Florida, was the subject of frequent military invasions by both sides until the Yamasee War (1715–1716) left the area devoid of people.

In 1732, James Oglethorpe received a royal charter for the Province of Georgia. It was named after King George I. Oglethorpe imagined the area as a refuge for England's poor people, who were crowded together in debtors' prisons. In 1733, 116 settlers arrived in modern-day Savannah aboard the HMS Anne. Georgia would become the last of the English colonies in the New World. Soon, immigrants throughout the world came to Georgia in the hopes of being awarded generous land grants, and Georgia quickly became a major center for the export of rice, indigo, beef, and pork.

In 1742, British forces, under James Oglethorpe, attacked a garrison of Spanish soldiers near present-day St. Simon's Island in what came to be known as the Battle of Bloody Run. After about an hour, the Spanish were defeated and permanently abandoned their attempts to invade Georgia.

**1.) Why was Georgia the subject of many military invasions?**

- a.) It was near the sea.
- b.) There were different Native tribes in the region.
- c.) The land was thought to have a lot of gold.
- d.) it was in between Spanish and English territory.

**2.) What does the word "devoid" mean as used in the first paragraph?**

- a.) empty
- b.) a few
- c.) filled
- d.) totally

**3.) What happened in 1732?**

- a.) Settlers arrived in Georgia
- b.) The Yamasee War
- c.) Georgians under Oglethorpe attacked the Spanish
- d.) A royal charter for Georgia was granted

**4.) At first, James Oglethorpe imagined Georgia as a place for...**

- a.) slaves
- b.) plantation owners
- c.) farmers
- d.) debtors

**5.) Georgia was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the English colonies in the New World.**

- A. richest
- B. first
- C. poorest
- D. last

**6.) Why did so many people come to Georgia?**

- a.) Other colonies were too crowded
- b.) To practice religion freely
- c.) They hoped they would receive land
- d.) A lot of people were in debt

**7.) Georgia was NOT a center of \_\_\_\_\_ production.**

- a.) wheat
- b.) beef
- c.) indigo
- d.) rice

**8.) Which question is answered in the third paragraph?**

- a.) When did Spain colonize Georgia?
- b.) When was Savannah established?
- c.) When did Spain abandon attempts to colonize Georgia?
- d.) When did England colonize Georgia?

**9.) What happened last?**

- a.) The attack near St. Simon's Island
- b.) 1743
- c.) Yamasee War
- d.) HMS Anne arrives in Georgia

**10.) Which of the following assumptions IS NOT supported in the text?**

- a.) There seemed to be a lot of fighting and violence in Georgia's early history.
- b.) Savannah is probably one of the oldest settlements in Georgia.
- c.) Georgia seemed to become prosperous after immigrants came.
- d.) Georgia was a bad choice of location if you were a debtor.

## **JACKIE ROBINSON** Reading Comprehension

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. Just a year after his birth, his mother moved him and his four siblings to Pasadena, California, after Jackie's father deserted them. Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles). He would become the first person in the history of UCLA to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He excelled in all four sports and led the Pacific Coast Conference (now the Pac-12) in scoring as a basketball player. Furthermore, he was a national champion long jumper.

In 1941, however, Jackie left college because of financial difficulties and joined the U.S. Army. Robinson became first lieutenant of the 761st Tank Battalion, a group of black soldiers. By federal law, black soldiers were not allowed to fight alongside white soldiers. Robinson, however, never accompanied the battalion in combat. He was court-martialed for refusing an order from a bus driver to move to the back of the bus. He was eventually acquitted of the charges.

In 1944, Jackie joined the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Baseball League. He was soon noticed by a baseball scout for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although there was no law against signing black baseball players in the Major Leagues, there was an "unwritten rule" against it. Attempts to sign players from the Negro Leagues had been rebuffed in the past. Nevertheless, the Dodgers owner, Branch Rickey, had begun a secret mission to sign the top players from the Negro Leagues. In 1946, Rickey signed Jackie Robinson to a Major League contract and designated him for assignment on the Dodgers minor league team in Montreal, Quebec (Canada). While Robinson was welcomed in Canada, the situation in the United States was less than cordial. On April 15, 1947, amidst incredible fanfare and controversy, Jackie Robinson was called up to the Major Leagues. He became the first black player in 57 years to play in a Major League baseball game.

During Robinson's first year he endured racism, taunting, and intolerance. Some of his teammates even threatened to stop playing rather than have Jackie as a teammate. Nevertheless, Branch Rickey and several of the Dodgers players supported Jackie. Despite the obstacles that stood in his way, Jackie proved his integrity and strength as a person. He went on to have a stellar baseball career. He led the Major Leagues in stolen bases in 1947 and became the Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player (MVP). That year, he had 203 hits and belted 16 home runs. He also knocked in 124 runs and stole 37 bases. He batted .342. After five more stellar years, Jackie Robinson led the Brooklyn Dodgers to their only World Series victory in 1955. They won the championship in seven games over the rival New York Yankees (although when the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles they won several more titles). In 1956, Jackie Robinson chose to end his baseball career after eight seasons at the age of 37. He ended his career with a .311 lifetime average. Furthermore, Jackie Robinson stole home 19 times. To this day, no other player since the World War II era has stolen home as many times. He was an all-star 6 times in his short career.

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. He died on October 24, 1972. On the 50th anniversary of his Major League debut (April 15, 1947), Major League Baseball retired his number, 42. It will never be worn again by any major league player on any team. April 15 was also named Jackie Robinson Day. To this day, Jackie Robinson remains a hero. He was a pioneer in breaking the "Color Barrier" in professional sports and paved the way for thousands of African-American athletes in dozens of sports. On October 29, 2003, United States Congress honored him (after his death) with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest honor Congress can give.

**1.) How many children were in the Robinson family?**

- a.) 4
- b.) 2
- c.) 3
- d.) 5

**2.) Which of the following did Jackie Robinson NOT play at UCLA?**

- a.) basketball
- b.) football
- c.) baseball
- d.) soccer

**3.) Which of the following best describes the phrase "unwritten rule"?**

- a.) An official rule
- b.) A rule that can be broken
- c.) A rule that is not written down
- d.) A rule that is understood but not official

**4.) In which of the following places did Jackie Robinson play for the Dodgers minor league team?**

- a.) Montreal
- b.) UCLA
- c.) Kansas City
- d.) Brooklyn

**5.) What does the word "endured" mean as it written in this passage:**

During Robinson's first year he endured racism, taunting, and intolerance.

- a.) understood
- b.) claimed
- c.) experienced
- d.) tried

**6.) Which of the following happened first?**

- a.) Jackie became the first black baseball player to play in the Major Leagues in 57 years.
- b.) Jackie played for the Dodgers' minor league team in Montreal.
- c.) April 16, 1947
- d.) Jackie played for the Kansas City Monarchs.

**7.) Which of the following did Jackie Robinson likely not experience very much during his first year in the Major Leagues?**

- a.) taunting
- b.) racism
- c.) intolerance
- d.) respect

**8.) Which of the following is false?**

- a.) Jackie Robinson stole home more than any other player since the World War II era.
- b.) Jackie Robinson was born in California.
- c.) Jackie Robinson stole home 19 times.
- d.) Jackie Robinson retired at age 37.

**9.) Select all that are true.**

- a.) Jackie Robinson's number was retired by all Major League baseball teams in 1947.
- b.) Jackie Robinson played in 6 all-star games.
- c.) Jackie led the New York Yankees to the World Series in 1955.
- d.) Jackie Robinson became a Hall-of-Fame member before his baseball career was over.

**10.) Which of the following BEST explains why Jackie Robinson was so important**

- a.) He had a Hall-of-Fame baseball career.
- b.) He paved the way for black athletes to compete in professional sports.
- c.) He showed dignity and strength as a person.
- d.) His number was retired by Major League baseball.

## Jackie Robinson

In 1997, Major League Baseball retired Jackie Robinson's number 42. "Retiring" a number is an honor and means it can no longer be used. No player on any team can wear the number 42 because Jackie Robinson wore 42 when he played baseball in the 1940s and 1950s.

Jackie Robinson was the first African American man to play in Major League Baseball. In the 1940s and 1950s, African Americans were not welcomed in some places. As Jackie traveled to different cities, people would call him names just because of the color of his skin. Jackie carried on and showed incredible bravery through it all. He became a hall-of-fame player and even led his team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, to a World Series Championship. Jackie's courage made it so other African Americans could play in the Major Leagues.

**1. Why was number "42" retired?**

- A. Because Jackie Robinson was a Hall-of-Fame baseball player
- B. Because Jackie Robinson was sometimes treated badly when he played baseball
- C. Because Jackie Robinson was African American
- D. To honor Jackie Robinson and the courage he showed

**2. Who can wear number 42 in baseball today?**

- A. All-star players
- B. African American Players
- C. No one
- D. Players that show courage

**3. Because of Jackie Robinson...**

- A. other baseball players can wear number 42 proudly.
- B. other African Americans could play Major League baseball.
- C. bravery is honored in Major League baseball.
- D. the Baseball Hall-of-Fame opened.

**4. Why did people call Jackie Robinson names?**

- A. They did not think he was a good baseball player
- B. They did not like him because he wore number 42
- C. They did not like him because of the color of his skin
- D. They did not like him because he was on the Brooklyn Dodgers

**Jackie Robinson and Text Elements** – What Heading Goes at the Beginning of Each Paragraph?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Below are the headings. Insert them above the correct paragraphs.

<b>Military Experience</b>	<b>A Negro-League Star Becomes a Big-Leaguer</b>
<b>Powerful Legacy</b>	<b>Great Adversity and Great Success</b>
<b>Exceptional Athlete</b>	

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. Just a year after his birth, his mother moved him and his four siblings to Pasadena, California after Jackie's father deserted them. Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (The University of California at Los Angeles). He would become the first person in the history of UCLA to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He excelled in all four sports and led the Pacific Coast Conference (now the Pac-10) in scoring as a basketball player. Furthermore, he was a national champion long jumper.

In 1941, however, Jackie left college because of financial difficulties and joined the U.S. Army. Robinson became first lieutenant of the 761st Tank Battalion, a group of Black soldiers. By federal law, Black soldiers were not allowed to fight alongside White soldiers. Robinson, however, never accompanied the battalion in combat. He was court-martialed for refusing an order from a bus driver to move to the back of the bus. He was eventually acquitted of the charges.

In 1944, Jackie joined the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Baseball League. He was soon noticed by a baseball scout for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although there was no law against signing Black baseball players in the Major Leagues, there was an "unwritten rule" against it. Attempts to sign players from the Negro Leagues had been

rebuffed in the past. Nevertheless, the Dodgers owner, Branch Rickey, had begun a secret mission to sign the top players from the Negro Leagues. In 1946, Rickey signed Jackie Robinson to a Major League contract and designated him for assignment on the Dodgers minor league team in Montreal, Quebec (Canada). While Robinson was welcomed in Canada, the situation in the United States was less than cordial. On April 15, 1947, amidst incredible fanfare and controversy, Jackie Robinson was called up to the Major Leagues. He became the first Black player in 57 years to play in a Major League baseball game.

During Robinson's first year he endured racism, taunting, and intolerance. Some of his teammates even threatened to stop playing rather than have Jackie as a teammate. Nevertheless, Branch Rickey and several of the Dodgers players supported Jackie. Despite the obstacles that stood in his way, Jackie proved his integrity and strength as a person. He went on to have a stellar baseball career. He led the Major Leagues in stolen bases in 1947 and became the Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player (MVP). That year, he had 203 hits and belted 16 home runs. He also knocked in 124 runs and stole 37 bases. He batted .342. After five more stellar years, Jackie Robinson led the Brooklyn Dodgers to their only World Series victory in 1955. They won the championship in seven games over the rival New York Yankees (although when the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles they won several more titles). In 1956, Jackie Robinson chose to end his baseball career after eight seasons at the age of 37. He ended his career with a .311 lifetime average. Furthermore, Jackie Robinson stole home 19 times. To this day, no other player since the World War II era has stolen home as many times. He was an all-star 6 times in his short career.

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame. He died on October 24, 1972. On the 50th anniversary of his Major League debut (April 15, 1947), Major League Baseball retired his number, 42. It will never be worn again by any major league player on any team. April 15th was also named Jackie Robinson Day. To this day, Jackie Robinson remains a hero. He was a pioneer in breaking "The Color Barrier" in professional sports and paved the way for thousands of African-American athletes in dozens of sports. On October 29, 2003, United States Congress honored him (after his death) with the Congressional Gold Medal - the highest honor Congress can give.

## **Answers:**

- 1. Exceptional Athlete**
- 2. Military Experience**
- 3. A Negro-League Star Becomes a Big-Leaguer**
- 4. Great Adversity and Great Success**
- 5. Powerful Legacy**

Martin Luther King Cloze Reading for Grade 4, 5, and 6

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Fill in the correct blanks**

In 1963, King \_\_\_\_\_ the immortal speech “I have a Dream” in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington. Over 250,000 people \_\_\_\_\_ around the National Mall in support. King’s speech \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd and is \_\_\_\_\_ one of the greatest speeches in American history. King later led \_\_\_\_\_ and gave speeches for the African American right to vote, desegregation, and \_\_\_\_\_ hiring. In 1964, King’s hopes were \_\_\_\_\_ when congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and then, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. On October 14, 1964, King was \_\_\_\_\_ the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in non-violent protest.

**Words:**

protests

realized

fair

electrified

awarded

considered

delivered

gathered

## Fact or Fiction?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a biography on Martin Luther King, Jr. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

## Introduction

The reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most influential and inspirational Civil Rights leaders in American history. Born in 1929, King graduated from Morehouse College in 1948 and then from the Crozer Theological Seminary with a Bachelor's in Divinity in 1951. He received a Ph.D in Systematic theology in 1955 from Boston University.

## Standing with Rosa Parks

In 1954, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama where he led the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus. The boycott lasted 381 days and resulted in King being arrested. Despite his arrest, the boycott ultimately resulted in the Supreme Court outlawing discrimination on intrastate buses.

## Perfecting the Peaceful Protest

After the boycott, King helped in the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which advocated the peaceful protest of Black churches concerning Civil Rights (especially in the American south). Primarily inspired by the non-violent protests conducted by Mahatma Gandhi in India, King was instrumental in helping his cause gain national attention through the media. Because of his efforts, civil rights became the top political issue of the early 1960's.

## He Had a Dream

In 1963, King delivered the immortal speech "I have a Dream" in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington. Over 250,000 people gathered around the National Mall in support. King's speech electrified the crowd and is considered one of the greatest speeches in American history. King later led protests and gave speeches for the African American right to vote, desegregation, and fair hiring.

# King is Instrumental in the Passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

In 1964, King's hopes were realized when congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and then, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. On October 14, 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in non-violent protest.

## Anti-war Sentiments

King became a prominent political figure and expressed his opposition of American involvement in the Vietnam War. In 1967, King called America "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." Although King was always hated by southern white segregationists, his speech against America turned many in mainstream media against him.

## Assassination

In 1968, while he was organizing a march to protest the working conditions of black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray at the Lorraine Hotel. Because he was under FBI surveillance at the time, many believe the agency was involved in the assassination (although there is no proof). Furthermore, some reports have suggested that the FBI, and its chief officer J. Edgar Hoover, threatened to reveal evidence of extra-marital affairs King engaged in if he refused to curtail his Civil Rights efforts.

## Powerful Legacy

300,000 people attended King's funeral. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a national day of mourning. Today, numerous schools, buildings, and highways are named for Martin Luther King Jr. In 1986, a U.S. national holiday was established in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., which is called Martin Luther King Day. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King's birthday. On January 18, 1993, for the first time, Martin Luther King Day was officially observed in all 50 U.S. states. Below is an excerpt from King's famous *I have a Dream* speech.

*I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.*

*I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor, having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful*

*symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.*

	FACT	FICTION
Martin Luther King was involved in the Montgomery Bus Boycott		
Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize		
Some believe the FBI was involved in King's assassination		
Martin Luther King graduated from Harvard University		
All 50 states began observing Martin Luther King Day in 1986		
King's I have a Dream Speech was given in front of the Lincoln Memorial		
Martin Luther King was rarely controversial		
King's non-violent protests were inspired by Mother Theresa's work in India		
King was opposed to American involvement in the Vietnam War		
Although few people attended the I have a Dream Speech, it became one of the most famous in American history		
King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee		

**Answers:**

	<b>FACT</b>	<b>FICTION</b>
Martin Luther King was involved in the Montgomery Bus Boycott	X	
Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize	X	
Some believe the FBI was involved in King's assassination	X	
Martin Luther King graduated from Harvard University		X
All 50 states began observing Martin Luther King Day in 1986		X
King's I have a Dream Speech was given in front of the Lincoln Memorial	X	
Martin Luther King was rarely controversial		X
King's non-violent protests were inspired by Mother Theresa's work in India		X
King was opposed to American involvement in the Vietnam War	X	
Although few people attended the I have a Dream Speech, it became one of the most famous in American history		X
King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee	X	

## Dr. King

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for the rights of African-American people. In 1963, he gave his most famous speech to over 250,000 people in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It became known as the “I have a Dream” speech. In his speech, he called for an end to discrimination. Discrimination is the practice of treating people differently or unfairly because of their color, religion, age, gender, culture, or beliefs. King’s “dream” was that all people would be treated equally and that all people would come together as Americans.

**1. What was Martin Luther King’s “dream”?**

- A. He would give a speech at the Lincoln Memorial
- B. That people were being treated unfairly
- C. That all people would be treated equally
- D. That discrimination was unfair

**2. What would be an example of discrimination?**

- A. Your teacher telling you that you need to study harder
- B. Somebody telling you they don’t like a kind of food in your lunch
- C. Somebody telling you they don’t like you because of your hair color
- D. Somebody telling you they don’t like your pet

**3. What is NOT true about the “I have a Dream” Speech?**

- A. Few people actually came to hear it
- B. It was given in 1963
- C. It was given at the Lincoln Memorial
- D. It was King’s most famous speech

**4. What question is not answered in the paragraph above?**

- A. When was Dr. King born?
- B. What is discrimination?
- C. Why did Dr. King give the speech?
- D. Can people be discriminated about because of their age?

## Dr. King

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. King graduated from Morehouse College in 1948 and then from the Crozer Theological Seminary with a Bachelor's in Divinity in 1951. He received a Ph.D. in Systematic theology in 1955 from Boston University.

In 1954, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama where he led the bus boycott after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus. The boycott lasted 381 days and resulted in King being arrested. Despite his arrest, the boycott ultimately resulted in the Supreme Court outlawing discrimination on intrastate buses.

After the boycott, King helped in the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which advocated the peaceful protest of Black churches concerning Civil Rights (especially in the American south). Primarily inspired by the non-violent protests conducted by Mahatma Gandhi in India, King was instrumental in helping his cause gain national attention through the media. Because of his efforts, civil rights became the top political issue of the early 1960's.

In 1963, King delivered the immortal speech "*I have a Dream*" in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington. Over 250,000 people gathered around the National Mall in support. King's speech electrified the crowd and is considered one of the greatest speeches in American history. King later led protests and gave speeches for the African American right to vote, desegregation, and fair hiring. In 1964, King's hopes were realized when congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and then, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. On October 14, 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in non-violent protest.

In 1968, while he was organizing a march to protest the working conditions of black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, King was assassinated by James Earl Ray at the Lorraine Hotel. Following his assassination, major riots erupted in more than 100 American cities, including in Washington D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland. King was buried on April 9, 1968. 300,000 people attended his funeral. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a national day of mourning.

Today, numerous schools, buildings, and highways are named for Martin Luther King Jr. In 1986, a U.S. national holiday was established in his honor on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of his birthday. On January 18, 1993, for the first time, Martin Luther King Day was officially observed in all 50 U.S. states.

### 1. What was the main effect of King's bus boycott?

- A. Rosa Parks became famous
- B. It led to the "I have a Dream speech"
- C. It led to King's arrest
- D. It led to an outlaw on discrimination on intrastate buses

**2. What does “instrumental” mean in the following sentence?**

King was instrumental in helping his cause gain national attention through the media.

- A. helpless
- B. very helpful
- C. musical
- D. unsuccessful

**3. What inspired Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?**

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- C. Boycotts
- D. Boston University

**4. Which of the following was the culminating effect of Dr. King’s efforts?**

- A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- B. The “I Have a Dream” speech
- C. Non-violent protests
- D. The founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

**5. Which is NOT true about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?**

- A. He won the Nobel Peace Prize
- B. He gave his “I Have a Dream” speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial
- C. He was assassinated by James Earl Ray
- D. By 1986, all states had declared Martin Luther King Day a national holiday

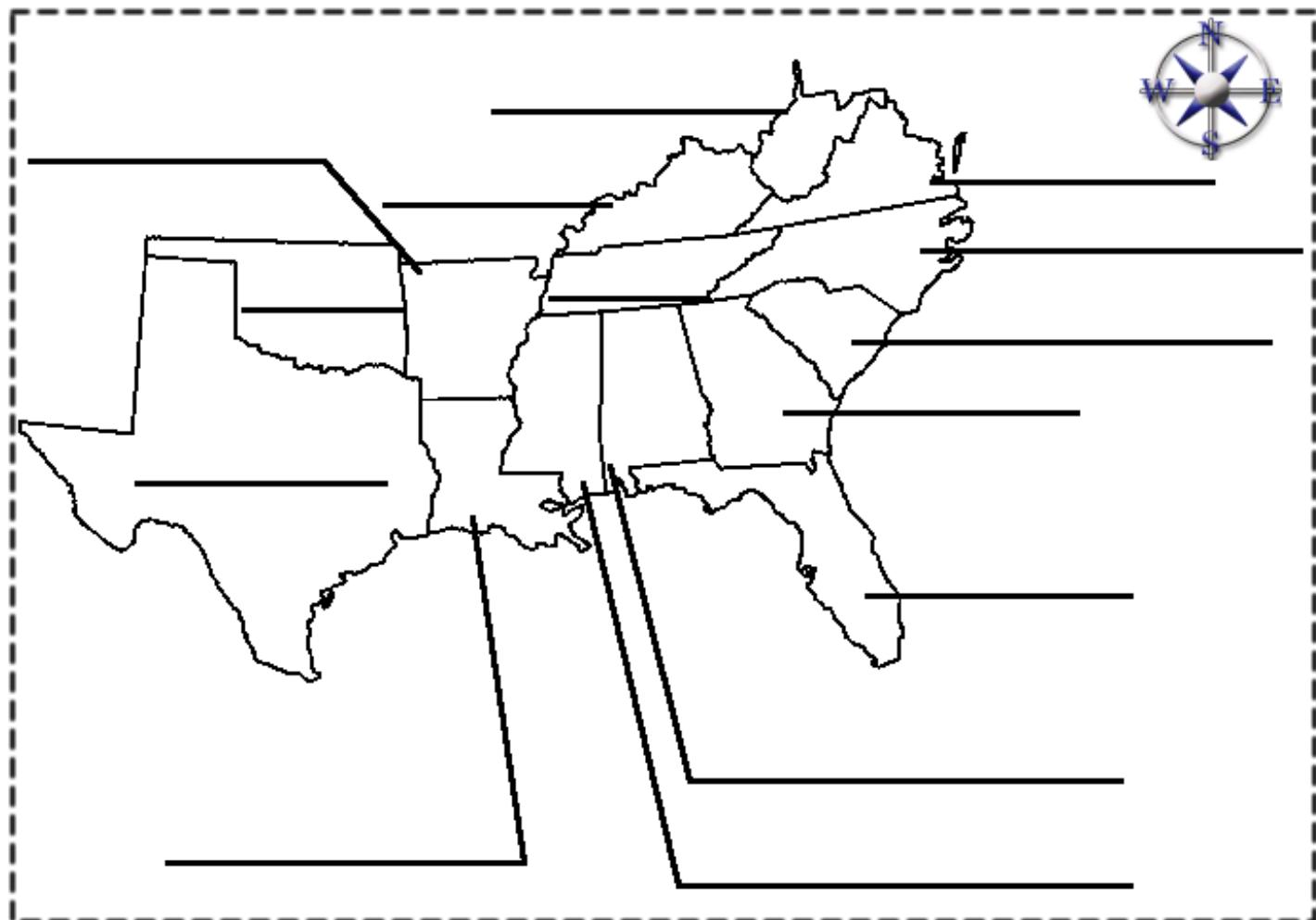
**6. Which of the following details supports the fact that people were enraged after the assassination of Dr. King?**

- A. 300,000 people attended his funeral
- B. Riots broke out in over 100 cities following his assassination
- C. A national holiday was named in his honor
- D. President Johnson declared a national day of mourning following his death

**7. The final paragraph describes the...**

- A. death of Dr. King.
- B. legacy of Dr. King.
- C. schools named in his honor.
- D. memorial built in his honor in Washington, D.C.

Southern States Label Map





## TRAIL OF TEARS Reading Comprehension

In the early 1800s, America's population was booming and people were moving west. Westward expansion came mostly at the expense of the Indians who were often forced to move from their native lands.

In the state of Georgia, the population increased 600 percent in a matter of 40 years. As a result, many of its native tribes were pushed out. The Cherokee Indians of western Georgia had managed to keep their land until gold was discovered in their territory in 1828. In 1830, however, President Andrew Jackson authorized the Indian Removal Act. The Cherokees fought the law, and it was overturned by Chief Justice John Marshall two years later.

Just three years later, however, in 1835, the Treaty of New Echota was signed. The treaty was not authorized by the Cherokee Nation, but rather a small group of Cherokee radicals led by John Ridge. Under the treaty, the Cherokee were to leave Georgia and the government would compensate them at a price determined to be about 5 percent of the value of the land. The majority of the Cherokee Nation would never have agreed to the treaty, but the U.S. government ratified it anyway. John Ridge was thus seen as a traitor by the Cherokees and would later pay with his life. The Georgia government then staged a land lottery in which Cherokee land was divided into 160 equal portions. They were sold to anyone who had \$4.00 and who had won a chance to own land.

In 1838, General Winfield Scott and 7,000 troops invaded Cherokee land. Men, women, and children were forced to walk westward from Georgia nearly 1,000 miles with minimal facilities and food to reservations set up for them in Oklahoma. Cherokee Chief John Ross eventually was able to convince Winfield Scott that his people should lead the tribe west. Scott agreed and Ross divided the people into smaller groups so they could forage for food on their own. Although Ross may have saved countless lives, nearly 4,000 Indians died walking this Trail of Tears.

**1.) What is a "treaty?"**

- a.) A prize
- b.) A battle
- c.) A sale
- d.) An agreement

**2.) Where were the Cherokee forced to walk?**

- a.) From Oklahoma to Georgia
- b.) From one part of Cherokee territory to the other
- c.) From Georgia to Oklahoma
- d.) To Georgia from Oklahoma

**3.) Who saved countless Cherokee lives on the brutal Trail of Tears?**

- a.) John Ross
- b.) John Marshall
- c.) John Ridge
- d.) None of the above

**4.) The Indian Removal Act was authorized after the discovery of \_\_\_\_\_ in western Georgia.**

**5.) Why was John Ridge viewed as a traitor by the Cherokees?**

- a.) He sold his land to the U.S. government.
- b.) He represented the U.S. government.
- c.) He signed a treaty for the Cherokees that most of the Cherokee Nation would have never accepted.
- d.) He staged a land lottery for the U.S. government.

**6.) What general invaded Cherokee lands for the purpose of removing them?**

- a.) John Ross
- b.) Winfield Scott
- c.) John Ridge
- d.) Andrew Jackson

**7.) What does "ratified" mean?**

- a.) made official
- b.) overturned
- c.) constructed
- d.) classified

**8.) What happened first?**

- a.) John Ross convinced Winfield Scott that he should lead his people to the Oklahoma reservation.
- b.) Treaty of New Echota
- c.) Indian Removal Act
- d.) the Georgia land lottery

**9.) In 1830, \_\_\_\_\_ authorized the Indian Removal Act.**

**10.) Which of the following best describes the 1835 Treaty of New Echota?**

- a.) Fair to the Cherokees
- b.) Unfair to the government
- c.) Unfair to the Cherokees
- d.) None of the above