## **GEORGIA**

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Symbols of the World and their meanings

Georgia is a constituent state of the United States and is located on the country's Southeastern mainland. Not to be confused with Georgia, a country in southwest Asia that was a former member of the Soviet Union.

The state was named after King George II of Great Britain, who approved the colony's charter in 1732.

Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi River. The state was established as the Province of Georgia in 1732 and first settled in 1733, becoming a British royal colony in 1752. Of the original Thirteen British Colonies, it was the latest and most southern to be founded. Georgia became the 4th state to ratify the United States Constitution on January 2, 1788. Georgia, one of the original seven Confederate States, announced its independence from the Union on January 19, 1861. It was the final state to be restored to the Union following the Civil War, on July 15, 1870.

The state is also known as *The Peach State* because of its reputation for producing high-quality peaches. Peaches produced in Georgia are renowned for their excellent flavor, texture, appearance, and nutritious value. Georgia made the peach its official state fruit in 1995.

Georgia is bordered to the north by Tennessee and North Carolina, to the northeast by South Carolina, to the southeast by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by Florida, and to the west by Alabama.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in this city, and it served as the headquarters for the civil rights movement in the middle of the 20th century.

The state tree of Georgia is the Southern live oak, which grows from southeastern Virginia to southern Florida. It grows on sandy soils, along stream banks, and alongside city roadways.

With a population of 10,711,908, as recorded in the United States Census (2020), Georgia ranks 8th in terms of population. With a total area of 59,425 sq mi (153,911 km), it is the twenty-fourth largest state in terms of area.

The fun fact is that Georgia was home to the first Europeans. The earliest human skulls in the Caucasus were discovered during an archaeological excavation in Dmanisi. They belonged to a 1.8 million-year-old couple named Zezva and Mzia. They are considered a crucial bridge connecting African and European ancestors. This makes it an intriguing archaeological site to visit.

As part of the broader Sun Belt phenomena, Georgia has experienced significant population and economic growth. Fourteen Georgia counties were among the top hundred fastest-growing in the country from 2007 to 2008.

The state bird of Georgia is the Brown thrasher. The Cherokee rose was chosen as the state flower of Georgia, in 1916, with assistance from the Georgia Federation of Women's Club (GFWC Georgia).

The state song is "Georgia on My Mind", and the official language of the state is English.

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