



**Georgia**  
*Its Heritage and Its Promise*







# Georgia

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**Lee Ann Caldwell**

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# Introduction

**W**elcome to the story of Georgia, past and present. This book is designed to help you achieve several goals: (1) to learn about the geography, government, economy, and history of our state; (2) to gain a new appreciation of your state's assets—its land and resources, its people, and its accomplishments; (3) to recognize the state's uniqueness while also seeing how it fits into the larger context of the region, nation, and increasingly the world; (4) to understand the problems and challenges the state faces and have the desire to become part of the solution; (5) to realize that decisions you make affect not only you but others, sometimes many others; and (6) to know that our state has been an important participant in the story of our country.

We begin our study with the land since environment is a key factor in how we live and how we make our living. Next, the chapters on government will help you understand that in the not-too-distant future you will hold a most important political role, one of great responsibility in the state and nation—citizen. Citizens must know how their government works since the informed participation of citizens is crucial to a well-functioning society.

Finally, we go on a journey through Georgia's history. Did you ever wonder what happened in the very place where you now live if you could go backwards in time fifty years, or one hundred, or a thousand? History is that study of place through time. The legacy of past events and people is all around us—in the landscape, the buildings and monuments, the place names, the writings, the laws, the culture and customs. Understanding our past, both the good and the bad, helps us know why things are the way they are today.

Through this study, you are not only learning information, you are learning how to think. You will be able to see how causes lead to effects; you will learn to uncover patterns over time; you will learn that big changes sometimes start small. You will also come to understand that what we do in the present is part of the continuity of the story. As we make history, we should strive to create a heritage that helps Georgia reach its full promise as a wonderful place to live both in the present and in times yet to come. So, welcome to *Georgia: Its Heritage and Its Promise*.



**Above:** A visit to one of Georgia's living history museums is a good way to study our state's past. This merchant's home is part of Westville, a recreation of a Georgia town of the 1850s, in Lumpkin. **Page i:** Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp is the largest in the U.S. **Page ii-iii:** The Taliaferro (pronounced "Tolliver") County Courthouse in Crawfordville was built in 1902. Taliaferro County has the smallest population of any Georgia county.

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Coastal marshes at Wormsloe Historic Site near Savannah



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James H. (Sloppy) Floyd State Park in northwest Georgia



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Vogel State Park, near Blairsville