

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
THIRD GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Georgia Regions

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: **Unit Title:** Habitats of Georgia

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S3L1. Students will investigate the habitats of different organisms and the dependence of organisms on their habitat.

a. Differentiate between habitats of Georgia (mountains, marsh/swamp, coast, Piedmont, Atlantic Ocean) and the organisms that live there.

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Region
Mountain
Piedmont
Coastal Plain
Wetland
Atlantic Ocean
Habitat

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will create and label their own relief maps of Georgia regions.

Details:

Before starting the lesson, there needs to be a handout describing the three important land regions in Georgia – coastal plain, piedmont, and mountain regions (Optional: wetland and Atlantic Ocean). There should also be a map with these divisions on the board so that the students can visualize them.

Have the students read the handout about the three separate land regions aloud and ask them questions about each of the regions. After they clearly know the differences with these regions, pass out maps of Georgia for them to cut out. After they finish cutting them out, have them glue it onto a paper plate. Have them write “Georgia Regions” on the outer edge of the plate. Give each student

three different colors of Play-doh or at least let a group share the three different colors. Use a pencil to separate the regions just as they are shown on the board. Explain that the coastal region is flat, so flatten the Play-doh and place it in the coastal region of the map. Explain that the piedmont region is hilly, so use your fingers to create hills in the Play-doh. Explain that the mountain regions are really tall, so make tall mountains in that region. (Optional: use blue Play-Doh and a blue marker to depict the wetlands and Atlantic Ocean). Label the regions. The students can use these as a reference for the duration of the Georgia Regions section.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

- Map outline of Georgia that is about the size of your hand|
- At least 3 different colors of Play-Doh - estimate approximately 1 full container's worth per student
- Sturdy paper plates (or stiff foam core board) - 1 per student
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers
- Optional: pre-printed labels for each region

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

- Optional: To save time and use less Play-Doh, you could have the children color in the Coastal Plain instead of using Play-Doh for this region.
- Optional: I placed a star on the map for Atlanta and a dot for Athens just to reiterate where these cities are located in Georgia.
- Safety: Pay close attention to ensure that no Play-Doh is ingested or smashed into the carpet, and that no children leave the room with any extra.
- Tip: Provide each student with only one color of Play-Doh at a time, and focus on only one region at a time as a class. This will help keep the students on task.

Sources/References:

- 1) Originally submitted by Prathima Kathiresan, edited by Jessica Valle (2010)
- 2)
- 3)