**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS HANDOUT**

**SS8H3 Analyze the role of Georgia in the American Revolutionary Era.**

1. **Explain the causes of the American Revolution as they impacted Georgia; include the French and Indian War, Proclamation of 1763, and the Stamp Act.**

DIRECTIONS: Read the following passage. In your notebook, respond to the questions after each paragraph. Number each response. You do not have to write the question so long as you include the question as part of your response. **YOU MUST USE COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!**

The traditional immediate and long-term causes of the Revolution did not have the same impact on Georgia as they did on other colonies. For example, the French and Indian War (1754-1763), a conflict between France and England for control of the rich fur region of the Ohio River valley, was fought far from Georgia’s borders and initially had a very small impact on the state. However, after the British won the French and Indian War, which was part of a larger worldwide war called the Seven Years War (it spread to Europe in 1756), the British obtained Canada and all land west to the Mississippi River. Though the colony was not directly involved, Georgia’s borders expanded to the St. Mary’s River to the South, the Mississippi River to the West, and land around Augusta to the North. Due to the economic cost of this war, there were two important events that led to conflict between Britain and its colonies. The first was the Proclamation of 1763, and the second was a series of taxes, including the Stamp Act (1765), that led to colonial discontent.

1. Which two countries were involved in the French and Indian War?
2. Why were these two countries fighting?
3. Although Georgia was not involved directly in this war, how did it affect the colony? Be specific.
4. Colonists became quite unhappy about two things that Britain did to address the huge financial toll of the war. What were these two things?

 . The Proclamation of 1763 was issued by King George III and forbade colonists from settling lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. The Proclamation was issued in order to stabilize relations between Great Britain and the American Indian tribes who lived in the river valley. Because the British were virtually bankrupt from the Seven Years War, they could not afford to fight another costly war with the American Indians over territory. However, the colonists, many of whom participated in the war in hopes of gaining new western lands, were extremely upset by the Proclamation of 1763. In fact, many colonists simply ignored the Proclamation and settled in the river valley anyway. The people of Georgia did not share the same reactions to the Proclamation of 1763 for two reasons. First, the young Georgia colony was small and most colonists were still nestled on the Georgia coastline, with major trade routes and ports. Secondly, Georgia gained land and resources from the Spanish and their American Indian allies after the French and Indian war. This new land was located south of the line drawn by the Proclamation of 1763, opening new coastal lands on which Georgians could settle.

1. Who issued the Proclamation of 1763?
2. What did the Proclamation forbid colonists from doing?
3. Why did they issue this Proclamation?
4. Why were many people from other colonies upset by the Proclamation?
5. Give two reasons why Georgia colonists were not upset by the Proclamation.

Due to the debt that the war caused the British government, members of Parliament believed that the colonists should be responsible for taking on some of the financial burden by paying new taxes. Up to that point, the British government had traditionally left the role of tax collection to the Colonial Assemblies. After the French and Indian War, colonists were being directly taxed for the first time without colonial “representation” in the British Parliament. This led to protests throughout the colonies.

1. Why did Parliament want the colonists to pay new taxes?
2. What group previously handled tax collection?
3. Why were so many colonists protesting these new taxes?

One of the earliest and most controversial taxes was the Stamp Act of 1765. This act put a direct tax on items that were commonly used by almost every colonist, including newspapers, licenses, and legal documents. Reaction to this act in the colonies was swift and often violent. Colonial leaders made formal speeches against the act and joined to form the Stamp Act Congress. Average citizens reacted more violently and protested by hanging effigies of Parliamentary leaders and royal governors, attacking the homes of British officials, and tarring and feathering tax collectors. Some of these citizens, mainly from the middle and upper classes, joined a group called the “Sons of Liberty” in response to these taxes. Eventually, due to colonial pressure, the British Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, but issued other acts to collect taxes. These acts caused even more discontent and set the stage for the Revolutionary War.

1. When was the Stamp Act enacted AND what did it do?
2. How did average citizens react? Be specific.
3. What did the British Parliament ultimately do about the Stamp Act?