

FROM GEORGIA TO VIRGINIA



1. Use the information and help in the boxes on this page to work out your group posters for the exhibition. Keep in mind that, in some cases, there are only tasks, in others there is some useful information. Start to look for more background information, pictures, diagrams, sources, figures, etc. Form seven groups, one for each topic, write short texts, print out pictures, put together all your information and design a poster. Don't forget to make your posters – or even an electronic presentation – interesting, informative and nice to look at.
2. Once you have finished, hang your posters on the classroom walls. Each group presents their work. Afterwards the other groups look at the posters, discuss their ideas and give their feedback. Then move on to the next poster.

You may comment on the posters like this:

The place or person we'd like to visit in ... is because ...

The person we'd like to meet from the film is ...

The place or person we wouldn't like to meet is ... because ...

The things we like best about the poster is ...

A. State portraits of Georgia and Virginia

From the internet, collect information about Georgia and Virginia and write a portrait about each of these two U.S. states.

You should include:

- the size of the state and the number of inhabitants
- the state capital and its population
- the state bird, flower and nickname
- things to see and places to visit
- short portraits about famous people

Here are some ideas:

Georgia: Margaret Mitchell, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jimmy Carter, Ray Charles, etc. Virginia: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Sandra Bullock, Chris Brown, etc.

B. Agriculture in Georgia

Georgia ...

- leads the United States in the production of peanuts, pecans and especially peaches,
- is one of the leading egg and broiler producing states,
- was the first colony that started to produce cotton commercially in 1734 and today ranks third nationally in cotton production,
- produces onions, watermelons, tomatoes, sweet corn and bell pepper and most important sweet potatoes.

D. Timeline of the American Civil War

The American Civil War was fought between the southern and the northern states. The southern states didn't want the North telling them what to do or passing laws they didn't want. As a result, many southern states broke away and formed their own country that they called the Confederacy. The North, however, wanted to stay as one united country; and so a war began. The Civil War, and the major events leading up to the war, lasted from 1860 to 1865.

C. Slavery

After the Civil War the textile industry started to grow rapidly so that more and more cotton was needed everywhere and the production of cotton began to rise fast. Cotton planters were looking for cheap labour so they bought more and more slaves. In 1790 there were just 29,264 slaves in Georgia, by 1800 the slave population had more than doubled. And by 1860, there were nearly half a million slaves living in Georgia.

Collect more information about slave plantations and slave auctions. Who were the slave owners? How did they live? What was the slaves' way of life like? What was the role of the overseers like?

F. People from the film

Choose two people from the film and design short personal portraits. Point out where they live, what their jobs are, what is interesting about their jobs. What do you like about these people? Perhaps you can simulate an interview with your favourite person.

- Hosley Hall, the farmer
- Lara Neece and her friend Brian at the Hilton Head yacht club
- Erin Levesque, the shark expert
- Chris Wilson, the painter
- Nema Triplett, the wreck diver
- Jesse McNinch, the scientist
- Johnny Mo, the cook

E. Hurricanes

Hurricanes are dangerous tropical storms that form over the Atlantic Ocean. The hurricane season is from mid-August until late October. There are about five to six hurricanes every year.

Find out more about hurricanes:

- What exactly is a hurricane?
- How, where and when do hurricanes form?
- Why do hurricanes move?
- How do you monitor hurricanes?
- How dangerous are hurricanes?
- Find and describe in short at least one example of a deadly hurricane during the last twenty years.

G. Blues music

African slaves brought their traditional music with them when they started to work in the North American colonies.

Find out about the blues:

- What is typical of this musical style?
- What are the main instruments?
- Explain: beat, blue notes, call and response, 12-bar blues, tonic, subdominant and dominant
- Who were Robert Johnson, Leadbelly or Bessie Smith?
- What musical styles have developed from the blues?