Westward Expansion & Indian Removal

What were the significant factors that affected westward expansion in Georgia between 1789 and 1840?
After the American Revolution, Georgia began to turn its attention to growth and development, and expansion into its vast western frontier.
Establishment of the University of Georgia

Explain the reasons for the establishment of the University of Georgia.
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

1. Education – Georgia was a pioneer in public education

- In 1784, Georgia’s legislature, the General Assembly, set aside 40,000 acres of land for the University of Georgia.

- The man selected to write the charter for the University was Abraham Baldwin, one of GA’s two signers of the Constitution!
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

1. Education – Georgia was a pioneer in public education
   - The University’s charter was approved in 1785, and Abraham Baldwin was named the school’s first President.
   - The original 40,000 acre land grant was sold, and the school was built in 1801, in Athens, on land donated by then Gov. John Milledge.
   - The first college in UGA was Franklin College
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

1. Education – Georgia was a pioneer in public education

The University of Georgia was the first public, land-grant university in American history!!!
Westward Movement of Georgia’s Capitals

Explain the reasons for the westward movement of Georgia’s capitals.
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

2. Georgia’s Five Capital Cities

- As Georgia’s population began to shift more and more to the west, Georgia’s capital cities moved westward as well.
- Throughout its history, Georgia has had five capital cities (remember the acronym S.A.L.M.A.)
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

2. Georgia’s Five Capital Cities

- Savannah  
  (1732-1784)
- Augusta  
  (1785-1795)
- Louisville  
  (1796-1806)
- Milledgeville  
  (1806-1867)
- Atlanta  
  (1868-Present)
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

2. Georgia’s Five Capital Cities

- By 1785, the population center of GA had moved to the backcountry and the capital was moved to Augusta.

Old Academy of Richmond County, which hosted President Washington on his tour of the south in 1791.

No sooner had the capital been moved to Augusta than the population center moved further west, causing the General Assembly to select a site for a new capital.
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

2. Georgia’s Five Capital Cities

- In 1796, the state government moved, once again, to a site near an Indian trading post along the Ogeechee River.
- The new capital city was named Louisville, in honor of King Louis XVI of France, an American ally during the Revolution.

The historic Market House, Louisville’s oldest building, built during the 1790s shortly after the founding of the city.
Georgia grew rapidly in several ways:

2. Georgia’s Five Capital Cities

- In 1806, the capital was, once again, moved west to keep up with the population migration, to a new site along the Oconee River.

- The new capital city of Georgia was named Milledgeville in honor of Gov. John Milledge who had donated the land to build UGA.
Comprehension Check

1. The first public, land-grant institution of higher learning in U.S. history was _________________.

2. Georgia’s second capital city was ______.

3. Georgia’s third capital city, named after the King of France, was _________.

4. The author of the charter for the University of Georgia was _________________.

As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

GEORGIA HAD ONE RESOURCE TO ATTRACT POPULATION....

...LAND!!!
Headright System

Evaluate the impact of the headright system.
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

1. The Headright System

• Until 1803, Georgia distributed land according to the headright system

• All heads of household were entitled to 200 acres, plus 50 acres per family member (including slaves), up to a limit of 1000 acres!!!

• The headright system resulted in massive immigration to Georgia!!!
Yazoo Land Fraud

Explain the impact of the Yazoo Land Fraud.
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

2. The Yazoo Land Fraud of 1795

• The thought of gaining free land resulted in a large amount of corruption

• Dishonest officials accepted bribes in exchange for land grants larger than the 1000 acre limit (sometimes they granted more land than actually existed)

• The most famous example of corruption, known as the Yazoo Land Fraud, became the first major scandal in American history
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

2. The Yazoo Land Fraud of 1795

- Certain **land speculators** badly wanted to buy Georgia’s vast western territory along the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers (called the Yazoo Territory)
- Four speculation companies bribed the General Assembly to sell them huge tracts of land for extremely low prices, so that they could sell it to others for profit
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

2. The Yazoo Land Fraud of 1795
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

2. The Yazoo Land Fraud of 1795

- When citizens found out, they were furious. Copies of the Yazoo Act were burned on the steps of the capital in Louisville.
- One of Georgia’s U.S. Senators, James Jackson, resigned from the Senate and vowed to personally shoot all involved in the fraud
- The Yazoo Act was **repealed** in 1796
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!

2. The Yazoo Land Fraud of 1795

• Many of those involved in the fraud, including Gov. George Matthews, fled the state.

• Because of countless lawsuits from buyers who had been cheated, Georgia agreed to give the Yazoo Territory to the U.S. government in 1802 if the U.S. paid for the damages.

• The Yazoo Territory became the states of Alabama and Mississippi.

Georgia and North Carolina actually fought a war with each other, called the Walton War, in 1811 over lands disputed in the Cession Act of 1802 that gave the Yazoo Territory to the U.S. government.
Land Lotteries

Explain the impact of land lotteries.
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, **since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!**

3. Land Lotteries

- Without the Yazoo territory, Georgia could no longer give away as much free land as it had under the Headright System.
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

3. Land Lotteries

• In 1803, Georgia adopted a new system of distributing land by lottery

• Land won in the lottery varied in size from 500 to 50 acres (much smaller than the 1000 acres in the Headright System)

• All free white men living in Georgia for one year were given one chance; widows or veterans were given two chances

• All of those who won land tracts in the land lottery were called “fortunate drawers”
As Georgia grew, the leaders of the state began to look for ways to attract settlers to the state, since the growth of the state depended upon the growth of the population!!!

3. Land Lotteries

- Georgia had seven major lotteries from 1805 to 1832 that attracted settlers but brought the state into conflict with the Creek and Cherokee Indians
Comprehension Check

_____ 1. Headright System  A. a person who won land in a land lottery
_____ 2. land speculator   B. land that became Alabama and Mississippi
_____ 3. Yazoo Land Fraud  C. speculators bribed the General Assembly to get land cheap and sell it for a profit later
_____ 4. fortunate drawer  D. granted up to 1000 acres per family to settle in Georgia
_____ 5. land lottery       E. land awarded by chance
_____ 6. Yazoo Territory   F. one who buys property to sell it for a profit
_____ 7. James Jackson     G. wanted to bring to justice all involved in the fraud
_____ 8. George Matthews  H. corrupt GA governor during the land fraud
Cotton Gin

Explain how the cotton gin had an impact on Georgia’s growth.
By the mid-1800s, Georgia was becoming an economic and political power, for multiple reasons.

1. “King Cotton”

• In colonial Georgia, growing cotton was not very practical or profitable because it was too difficult to separate the seed from the cotton by hand

• In 1793, while visiting a plantation near Savannah, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin to quickly and easily clean cotton of its seeds
By the mid-1800s, Georgia was becoming an economic and political power, for multiple reasons.

1. “King Cotton”

- Almost overnight, cotton became the dominant crop in the south, and Georgia was the nation’s largest producer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bales of Cotton Produced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Unfortunately, more cotton meant more plantations, and more plantations meant a greater dependence on slavery.
Railroads

Explain how railroads had an impact on Georgia’s growth.
By the mid-1800s, Georgia was becoming an economic and political power, for multiple reasons.

2. The Growth of the Railroads

- The growth of cotton meant there was a need for a better means of transporting cotton from Georgia’s interior to the port city of Savannah.

- Transportation by wagon, flatboat, and steamboat was slow and expensive.
By the mid-1800s, Georgia was becoming an economic and political power, for multiple reasons.

2. The Growth of the Railroads

• In 1834, workers began building the Georgia Railroad, which was to extend from Athens to Augusta.

• By 1860, there were over 1200 miles of railroad in Georgia.
Atlanta

Explain the reasons for the westward movement of Georgia’s capitals.
By the mid-1800s, Georgia was becoming an economic and political power, for multiple reasons.

3. Atlanta – The “Gate City”

- In 1838, the General Assembly passed a law creating the Western and Atlantic (W&A) Railroad from the Chattahoochee River to the Tennessee River.
- The purpose of the W&A RR was to connect railroads from Augusta, Macon, Columbus and Milledgeville with Georgia’s interior.
By the mid-1800s, Georgia was becoming an economic and political power, for multiple reasons.

3. Atlanta – The “Gate City”

• The W&A RR began in the north in Ross’s Landing, near Chattanooga, and terminated in the south, at a small railroad depot called Terminus.

• Within five years, two other railroads converged at Terminus, causing the depot to grow rapidly into a town.
By the mid-1800s, Georgia was becoming an economic and political power, for multiple reasons.

3. Atlanta – The “Gate City”

• In 1843, the name of Terminus was changed to Marthasville, after the daughter of Gov. Wilson Lumpkin, a key figure in the creation of the W&A Railroad.

• In 1845, state leaders changed to name once again to a name more fitting for a growing city and the South’s most important rail center - Atlanta.

The name “Atlanta” was taken from the Western & Atlantic Railroad.
Comprehension Check

1. Atlanta  
2. Savannah  
3. Ross’s Landing  
4. Western & Atlantic  
5. Terminus  
6. William Lumpkin  
7. Marthasville

A. GA governor who was a major figure in the creation of the W&A Railroad  
B. The original name for the southern end of the W&A Railroad  
C. Originally Terminus; renamed after Lumpkin’s daughter  
D. The Gate City; named after the W&A Railroad  
E. City from which cotton was imported & exported  
F. The northern end of the W&A Railroad  
G. Railroad from the Chattahoochee River in the south to the Tennessee River in the north