

# TODAY *in* GEORGIA HISTORY

April 11, 1990: Vidalia Onion  
Daily Activity

## Introduction:

The daily activities created for each of the *Today in Georgia History* segments are designed to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Reading Across the Curriculum, and Grade Eight: Georgia Studies. For each date, educators can choose from three optional activities differentiated for various levels of student ability. Each activity focuses on engaging the student in context specific vocabulary and improving the student's ability to communicate about historical topics.

One suggestion is to use the *Today in Georgia History* video segments and daily activities as a "bell ringer" at the beginning of each class period. Using the same activity daily provides consistency and structure for the students and may help teachers utilize the first 15-20 minutes of class more effectively.

## Optional Activities:

**Level 1:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a complete sentence for each of the vocabulary terms. Student created sentences should reflect the meaning of the word based on the context of the video segment. Have students share a sampling of sentences as a way to check for understanding.

**Level 2:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list for that day's segment before watching the video and have them guess the meaning of each word based on their previous knowledge. The teacher may choose to let the students work alone or in groups. After watching the video, have the students revise their definitions to better reflect the meaning of the words based on the context of the video. As a final step, have the students compare and contrast their definitions to their textbook, dictionary or other teacher provided materials definitions.

**Level 3:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a five sentence paragraph based on the provided writing prompts.

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## Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

### Vocabulary Terms

Cash Crop  
Depression  
Industry  
Distribution Center  
Designated  
Commodities

### Writing Prompts

1. In a five-sentence paragraph explain how the Vidalia onion has benefited Georgia's economy.
2. In a five-sentence paragraph explain why anyone would want a law that designates what onions can be called Vidalia onions.
3. Why do you think travelers like Vidalia onions? In a five-sentence paragraph explain at least one reason other than taste that someone might buy a Vidalia onion.

## Related Georgia Performance Standards:

### Reading Across the Curriculum (Grades 6-12)

#### SSRC1 Students will enhance reading in all curriculum areas by:

- c. Building vocabulary knowledge
  - Demonstrate an understanding of contextual vocabulary in various subjects.
  - Use content vocabulary in writing and speaking.
  - Explore understanding of new words found in subject area texts.
- d. Establishing context
  - Explore life experiences related to subject area content.
  - Discuss in both writing and speaking how certain words are subject area related.
  - Determine strategies for finding content and contextual meaning for unknown words.

### Common Core, College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

#### Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.



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2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

**National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies**

**Theme 1:** Culture; **Theme 7:** Production Distribution and Consumption

**Grade 8 Georgia Studies**

**SS8G2 The student will explain how the Interstate Highway System, Hartsfield-Jackson**

**SS8E1 The student will give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced in Georgia in different historical periods. SS8E2 The student will explain the benefits of free trade.**

- a. Describe how Georgians have engaged in trade in different historical time periods.
- b. Explain how the four transportation systems from SS8G2 contribute to Georgia's role in trade.

**SS8H8 The student will analyze the important events that occurred after World War I and their impact on Georgia.**

- a. Describe the impact of the boll weevil and drought on Georgia.
- b. Explain economic factors that resulted in the Great Depression.
- c. Discuss the impact of the political career of Eugene Talmadge.
- d. Discuss the effect of the New Deal in terms of the impact of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Agricultural Adjustment Act, rural electrification, and Social Security.