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.
Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

Vocabulary Terms
- Snappy
- Industrial Revolution
- Mechanical Engineering
- Philanthropist
- Makeshift
- Contraptions
- Emphasis

Writing Prompts
1. In a five sentence paragraph, write about how the founding of the Georgia School of Technology fits with the ideals of the “New South.”
2. Why do you think philanthropist Andrew Carnegie thought it was important to invest in the Georgia School of Technology. In a five sentence paragraph write about the positive impacts a research university can have on the state it is in.
3. Using your knowledge of Civil Rights history, write a five-sentence paragraph explaining why it is significant that the Georgia Institute of Technology was the first major state university to admit African-American Students without a court order.

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.

Grade 8 Georgia Studies

SS8H7 The student will evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia between 1877 and 1918.
  a. Evaluate the impact the Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, International Cotton Exposition, Tom Watson and the Populists, Rebecca Latimer Felton, the 1906 Atlanta Riot, the Leo Frank Case, and the county unit system had on Georgia during this period.
  b. Analyze how rights were denied to African-Americans through Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence.
d. Explain reasons for World War I and describe Georgia’s contributions.

SS8H11 The student will evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement.
a. Describe major developments in civil rights and Georgia’s role during the 1940s and 1950s; include the roles of Herman Talmadge, Benjamin Mays, the 1946 governor’s race and the end of the white primary, Brown v. Board of Education, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 1956 state flag.
b. Analyze the role Georgia and prominent Georgians played in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s; include such events as the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Sibley Commission, admission of Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter to the University of Georgia, Albany Movement, March on Washington, Civil Rights Act, the election of Maynard Jackson as mayor of Atlanta, and the role of Lester Maddox.
c. Discuss the impact of Andrew Young on Georgia.