Georgia's Government

Appellate Courts

1. Supreme Court: Highest court in the state and is made up of 7 justices elected to six-year terms.

- Georgia's Supreme Court may hear cases involving the constitutionality of a law, disputes over elections, death penalty convictions (all), titles to land, etc.

2. Court of Appeals: Second highest court in the state and handles appeals from the trial courts.

(JUDICIAL BRANCH CASE Notes 3)

Jurisdiction:
- Supreme Court: Appeals and certifies cases from the Court of Appeals.
- Court of Appeals handles appeals from the state trial courts.

Limitations:
- Supreme Court can only hear cases that are timely appealed and within the allowed jurisdiction.

Muddiest Point:
- What is the most confusing part of the topic that you need help with?
STANDARDS:

SS8CG5 The student will analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia.

a. Explain the origins, functions, purposes, and differences of county and city governments in Georgia.

b. Compare and contrast the weak mayor-council, the strong mayor-council, and the council-manager forms of city government.

c. Describe the functions of special-purpose governments.

d. Evaluate the role of local government working with state agencies to administer state programs.
TEACHER INFO: CLOZE Notes

• The next pages are handouts for the students to use for note-taking during the presentation. (Print front to back to save paper and ink.)

• Check the answers as a class after the presentation.
County: Origins
A county is an ____________ of a state or territory.

Counties serve as ways for people to be ____________________________.

In 1777, ____________________ established 8 counties.

Today, there are ____________________ counties in Georgia, as determined by the Constitution.

County: Purpose

The purpose of city governments is to ________________________________.

Early Georgia cities originated in areas that were _______________________.

City: Origins

Georgia has ___________________ cities and towns (or municipalities).

City: Purpose

The purpose of city governments is to ________________________________.

City’s boundaries.

City: Leaders

Conducting local courts, and providing welfare and public assistance programs.

County: Functions

The original purpose of Georgia counties was to determine jurisdiction for

Also, each county has a magistrate court and a juvenile court.

City: Constitution

Today, there are established 8 counties.

In 1777, counties serve as ways for people to be of a state or territory.

A county is an ____________

© Brain Wrinkles

LOCAL GOV CLOZE NOTES I
City: Functions

• As county services have grown in Georgia, cities and counties have had to agree on who is providing which service to ____________________.

• Some city government functions include: public transportation, garbage collection, water services, public health services, libraries, etc.

City: Leaders

• Most city governments are led by a strong mayor, while some have city managers.

• As county services have grown in Georgia, cities and counties have had to agree on who is providing which service to ____________________.

City: Government

• The forms of government of Georgia’s counties are ____________________.

• However, in cities, there are three forms of government: weak mayor-council, strong mayor-council, and council-manager.

City: Strong Mayor

• In the strong mayor-council form of city government, the elected mayor acts as the legislative branch and elected mayor who serves as the city’s chief executive. The council is responsible for passing city ordinances and the mayor is responsible for ____________________.

• The mayor has a ____________________ and influence over the council’s actions. The mayor can appoint heads of city departments.

City: Weak Mayor

• In the weak mayor-council form of city government, both the mayor and council lie with the city council. The mayor’s powers are very limited and he/she often has veto power over the council’s actions and influence over the council. The mayor has a weak role.

• Often, the mayor engages in ceremonial duties.

City: Council Manager

• In the council-manager system, the citizens elect a city council that acts as the legislative branch and elects an elected mayor who serves as the chief executive of government.

• The council often has veto power over the council’s actions and influence over the council.

• The council is responsible for passing city ordinances and the mayor is responsible for city’s chief executive.

City: Other

• In all three forms, some have city managers. Most city governments are led by a mayor, while city leaders include: public transportation, garbage collection, water services, public health services, libraries, etc.
Special-Purpose Governments

The Georgia Constitution also allows ___________________________ to be created.

These are set up by a city or county in order to provide additional services desired by Georgians.

As Georgia's Constitution of 1983 demanded more and more services from county governments, citizens have ___________________________.

All of these things help support Georgia's local government level with state agencies to local Support.

For example, Georgia generally divides its public schools into districts, each of which runs Atlanta's bus system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of taxes. Another government, which is governed by a special-purpose (special-purpose) government, which geographically divides its public schools into districts, each of which runs Atlanta's bus system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of taxes.

They are a specific task. Special-purpose governments are ___________________________. These are set up by a city or county in order to accomplish a specific task. Special-purpose governments are ___________________________.

Local Support.

Local Support.

Local Support.

Local Support.

Local Support.
County: Origins

• A county is an administrative subdivision of a state or territory.
• Counties serve as ways for people to be represented in state government.

• In 1777, Georgia’s Constitution established 8 counties.
• Today, there are 159 counties in Georgia, as determined by the Constitution.

County: Purpose

• Early Georgia citizens originated in areas that were significant trading hubs.
• Counties serve as ways for people to be represented in state government.

City: Origins

• Georgia has over 500 cities and towns (or municipalities).
• These city governments have been granted charters by the General Assembly.

City: Purpose

• The original purpose of Georgia cities was to determine jurisdiction for state representatives.
• Today, city governments are responsible for providing services that are not given by the county government. Included in these services are running elections, maintaining roads, controlling licenses for cars and trucks, conducting local courts, and providing welfare and public assistance programs.

City: Functions

• Today, county governments have increased responsibilities. Since the Constitution of 1983, the functions of county governments have increased.
• Also, each county has a probate court, a magistrate court, and a juvenile court.

City: Leaders

• The charter outlines the city’s form of government and defines the city’s boundaries.
• These city governments have been granted charters by the General Assembly.
• There are four other elected county officials: sheriff, clerk of superior court, and tax commissioner.

• At the county level of government, Georgians vote for the county commissioner and/or board of commissioners.

© Brain Wrinkles
City: Functions

- Some city government functions include: public transportation, police and fire protection, garbage collection, water services, public health services, libraries, etc.

City: Leaders

- Most city governments are led by a mayor and a city council, while some have city managers.

City: Government

- The forms of government of Georgia’s counties are standard across the state.
- However, in cities, there are three main forms of government: weak mayor–council, strong mayor–council, and council-manager.
- The forms of government of Georgia’s counties are standard across the state.
- The council-manager system is the simplest, as it combines the duties of both the legislative and executive branches.
- The mayor has a great deal of power and influence over the council, and often has veto power over the council's actions.
- The council is responsible for passing city ordinances and the mayor is responsible for enforcing them.
- The council hires a city manager to oversee the day-to-day operations, determine the budget, and appoint heads of city departments.

City: Manager

- The council-manager system is the simplest, as it combines the duties of both the legislative and executive branches.
- The mayor has a great deal of power and influence over the council, and often has veto power over the council's actions.
- The council is responsible for passing city ordinances and the mayor is responsible for enforcing them.
- The council hires a city manager to oversee the day-to-day operations, determine the budget, and appoint heads of city departments.
Special-Purpose

The Georgia Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created. These are set up by a city or county in order to meet specific needs of the people. For example, Georgia’s Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created, which aim to accomplish a specific task.

Special-Purpose governments are administrative units which are funded by loans or user-fees instead of taxes. They are managed by a school board (special-purpose government), recreation, manage housing options, etc.

For example, Georgia’s Constitution generally divides its public schools into districts, each of which is governed by a school board (special-purpose government). Another example is MARTA, which runs Atlanta’s bus and train system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of fares.

 county in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections. Every county in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

Local Support

Local governments work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs. Counties work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs.

Local Support

The Georgia Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created. These are set up by a city or county in order to meet specific needs of the people. For example, Georgia’s Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created, which aim to accomplish a specific task.

Special-Purpose governments are administrative units which are funded by loans or user-fees instead of taxes. They are managed by a school board (special-purpose government), recreation, manage housing options, etc.

For example, Georgia’s Constitution generally divides its public schools into districts, each of which is governed by a school board (special-purpose government). Another example is MARTA, which runs Atlanta’s bus and train system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of fares.

Local Support

Local governments work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs. Counties work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs.

As Georgia’s population has grown, citizens have demanded more and more services from county governments. All of these things help support Georgia’s state-run programs. They sell motor vehicle tags, validate wills, file property ownership records, run elections, and supervise local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

County in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections. Every county in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

Local Support

The Georgia Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created. These are set up by a city or county in order to meet specific needs of the people. For example, Georgia’s Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created, which aim to accomplish a specific task.

Special-Purpose governments are administrative units which are funded by loans or user-fees instead of taxes. They are managed by a school board (special-purpose government), recreation, manage housing options, etc.

For example, Georgia’s Constitution generally divides its public schools into districts, each of which is governed by a school board (special-purpose government). Another example is MARTA, which runs Atlanta’s bus and train system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of fares.

Local Support

Local governments work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs. Counties work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs.

As Georgia’s population has grown, citizens have demanded more and more services from county governments. All of these things help support Georgia’s state-run programs. They sell motor vehicle tags, validate wills, file property ownership records, run elections, and supervise local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

County in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections. Every county in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

Local Support

The Georgia Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created. These are set up by a city or county in order to meet specific needs of the people. For example, Georgia’s Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created, which aim to accomplish a specific task.

Special-Purpose governments are administrative units which are funded by loans or user-fees instead of taxes. They are managed by a school board (special-purpose government), recreation, manage housing options, etc.

For example, Georgia’s Constitution generally divides its public schools into districts, each of which is governed by a school board (special-purpose government). Another example is MARTA, which runs Atlanta’s bus and train system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of fares.

Local Support

Local governments work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs. Counties work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs.

As Georgia’s population has grown, citizens have demanded more and more services from county governments. All of these things help support Georgia’s state-run programs. They sell motor vehicle tags, validate wills, file property ownership records, run elections, and supervise local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

County in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections. Every county in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

Local Support

The Georgia Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created. These are set up by a city or county in order to meet specific needs of the people. For example, Georgia’s Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created, which aim to accomplish a specific task.

Special-Purpose governments are administrative units which are funded by loans or user-fees instead of taxes. They are managed by a school board (special-purpose government), recreation, manage housing options, etc.

For example, Georgia’s Constitution generally divides its public schools into districts, each of which is governed by a school board (special-purpose government). Another example is MARTA, which runs Atlanta’s bus and train system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of fares.

Local Support

Local governments work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs. Counties work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state-run programs.
Georgia's Government:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Local Governments:

COUNTY & CITY
A county is an administrative subdivision of a state or territory.

Counties serve as ways for people to be represented in state government.

In 1777, Georgia’s Constitution established 8 counties.

Today, there are 159 counties in Georgia, as determined by the Constitution.
The original purpose of Georgia counties was to determine jurisdiction for state representatives.

Senate and House districts overlap county boundaries so that all counties are represented in the General Assembly.

Also, each county has a probate court, a magistrate court, and a juvenile court.
Since the Constitution of 1983, the functions of county governments have increased.

Today, county government services include: running elections, building and maintaining roads, controlling licenses for cars and trucks, conducting local courts, and providing welfare and public assistance programs.
At the county level of government, Georgians vote for the county commissioner and/or board of commissioners.

There are four other elected county officials: sheriff, clerk of superior court, judge of probate court, and tax commissioner.
Georgia has over 500 cities and towns (or municipalities).

These city governments have been granted charters by the General Assembly.

The charters outline the city’s form of government and define the city’s boundaries.
• Early Georgia cities originated in areas that were significant trading hubs.

• The purpose of city governments is to provide services that are not given by the county government.
City: Functions

• As county services have grown in Georgia, cities and counties have had to agree on who is providing which service to avoid duplication.

• Some city government functions include: public transportation, police and fire protection, garbage collection, water services, public health services, libraries, etc.
Most city governments are led by a mayor and a city council, while some have city managers.
Forms of:

CITY GOVERNMENT
The forms of government of Georgia’s counties are standard across the state.

However, in cities, there are three main forms of government: weak mayor–council, strong mayor–council, and council–manager.

In all three forms, citizens elect members to the city council.
The strong major-council form of city government divides power between an elected city council that acts as the legislative branch and elected mayor who serves as the city’s chief executive.

- The council is responsible for passing city ordinances and the mayor is responsible for enforcing them.
- The mayor has a great deal of power and influence over the council, and often has veto power over the council’s actions.
Atlanta has a strong mayor-council form of government.
Some cities prefer not to allow their mayor to have so much power.

In the weak major–council form of city government, both the legislative and executive powers lie with the city council.

The mayor’s powers are very limited and he/she rarely has veto power.

Often, the mayor serves as figurehead who presides over meetings and engages in ceremonial duties.
In the council-manager system, the citizens elect a city council that makes the laws and policies.

The council hires a city manager to oversee the day-to-day operations, determine the budget, and appoint heads of city departments.

Sometimes, such governments have a mayor, but he/she generally does little more than preside over council meetings and represent the city at events.
Buford, GA has a council-manager form of government.
Functions of:

SPECIAL-PURPOSE GOVERNMENT
Special-Purpose

- The Georgia Constitution also allows special-purpose districts to be created.

- These are set up by a city or county in order to meet specific needs of the people.

- Special-purpose governments are administrative units which aim to accomplish a specific task.

- They are funded by loans or user-fees instead of taxes.
Community fire departments are special-purpose governments.
Special-Purpose

• Special-purpose governments can create jobs and increase business, maintain and rebuild the downtowns of cities, maintain and develop land for parks and recreation, manage housing options, etc.

• For example, Georgia generally divides its public schools into districts, each of which is governed by a school board (special-purpose government).

• Another example is MARTA, which runs Atlanta’s bus and train system, sets its transportation schedule, and determines the cost of fares.
Role of LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Local Support

• Counties work at the local government level with state agencies to administer state programs.

• Every county in Georgia conducts local courts of law, voter registration, and elections.

• They sell motor vehicle tags, validate wills, file property ownership records, run public assistance programs, and repair county roads.

• All of these things help support Georgia’s state-run programs.
Local Support

- As Georgia’s population has grown, citizens have demanded more and more services from county governments.

- Georgia’s Constitution of 1983 added extra powers for county governments in order to provide additional services desired by Georgians.

- These local-level services strengthen the state’s programs as a whole and improve the quality of life for Georgia residents.
TEACHER INFO:

• Print off the Local Government chart for each student.

• They should complete the charts after discussing the presentation.

• Check answers as a class when finished.
# Georgia’s Local Governments

**Directions**: Complete the chart below with information that you learned during the presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origins</th>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>Purposes</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Georgia’s Local Governments

**KEY**

**Directions:** Complete the chart below with information that you learned during the presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Origins</th>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>Purposes</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>County Government</strong></td>
<td>GA Constitution established 8 counties; today there are 159</td>
<td>Elections, road building, local courts, automobile licensing, welfare and public assistance programs</td>
<td>Determine jurisdiction for state representatives; Make sure people who live outside of cities are represented</td>
<td>Elected: commissioner (or board), sheriff, tax commissioner, clerk of the superior court, and judge of the probate court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City Government</strong></td>
<td>Granted charters by the General Assembly; over 500 in GA today</td>
<td>Police and fire protection, garbage collection, water services, public transportation, public health services, libraries, etc.</td>
<td>Provide services above what is offered by the county government</td>
<td>Mayor or city manager, and city council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Print off the City Governments foldable for each student. The students will cut the template out along the thick, outside lines. Next, they will cut along the thin lines that divide each word, stopping at the gray rectangle. They should attach the side of the template (gray rectangle) to their notebooks. They will now be able to open up each flap and write information about each type underneath.
CITY GOVERNMENTS

Manager Council

Council

Weak Mayor Council

Strong Mayor
TEACHER INFO: Government Mascots

- Print off the Government Mascots handout for each student. Put the students in small groups.

- The students will create mascots to represent the two types of local governments: county and city. They will draw the mascots & write a summary about why each mascot was chosen. (The summary should include info. about the government’s origin, purpose, functions, and leaders.)

- If time allows, have each group choose their favorite one & draw it on butcher paper (life-size). These make a great hallway display.
Directions: Create mascots to represent the two types of local government that we have been studying: county and city. Think about all of the information that you have learned about each type. You will create an illustration of each mascot. You will also write an explanation as to why the mascots were chosen to represent each government. Include information about the origin, purpose, functions, and leaders of each.

County

Mascot Name:  

Mascot Description:  

City

Mascot Name:  

Mascot Description:  

© Brain Wrinkles
TEACHER INFO: In My Opinion

• Print off the In My Opinion handout for each student.

• The students will write a diary entry about the form of city government that they think is the most effective and why.
Directions: Write a diary entry about the form of city government that you think is the most effective. Be sure to include information to support your opinion!

Dear Journal,
TEACHER INFO: Comprehension Check

• Print off the Comprehension Check for each student.

• After the lesson, have the students answer the questions. *This could also be used as a quiz.
1. How many counties does Georgia have?

2. What types of services do county governments provide?

3. Who are the leaders at the county level of government?

4. How are Georgia's cities created?

5. What types of services do city governments provide?

6. Most cities are led by:

7. What are the three types of city governments?

8. What is true of a strong mayor–council form of government?

9. Give an example of a strong mayor–council government in Georgia:

10. What is true of a weak mayor–council form of government?

11. In a ____________ mayor–council, there is a definite separation of powers and the mayor has responsibility.

12. How does the council–manager system work?

13. What do special-purpose governments provide?

14. Are special-purpose governments funded by taxes?

15. What is an example of a special-purpose government?

16. Counties work at the ____________ level with state agencies to administer state programs.
1. How many counties does Georgia have?
159

2. What types of services do county governments provide?
running elections, building and maintaining roads, controlling licenses for cars and trucks, conducting local courts, and providing welfare and public assistance programs.

3. Who are the leaders at the county level of government?
Commissioner and/or board of commissioners, sheriff, clerk of superior court, judge of superior court, district attorney, and tax commissioner.

4. How are Georgia’s local governments funded by taxes?

5. What is an example of a special-purpose government?
MARTA, school board, fire department, etc.

6. Are special-purpose governments funded by taxes?
No

7. What types of services do city governments provide?
Public transportation, police and fire protection, garbage collection, water services, public health services, libraries, etc.

8. What is true of a strong mayor–council form of government?
Mayor has great deal of power over council (some even have veto power).

9. Give an example of a strong mayor–council government in Georgia:
Atlanta

10. What is true of a weak mayor–council form of government?
Both legislative and executive powers lie with the city council.

11. In a strong mayor–council, there is a definite separation of powers and the mayor is the chief executive of the city.

12. How does the council-manager system work?
Council hires a city manager to oversee the day-to-day operations, determine the budget, and appoint heads of city departments.

13. What are the three types of city governments?
Strong mayor, weak mayor, council-manager.

14. What is true of a strong mayor–council form of government?
Mayor has great deal of power over council (some even have veto power).

15. In a weak mayor–council, there is a definite separation of powers and the mayor has responsibility.

16. Counties work at the local level with state agencies to administer state programs.

Comprehension Check

Georgia’s local governments

1. How many counties does Georgia have?
159

2. What types of services do county governments provide?
running elections, building and maintaining roads, controlling licenses for cars and trucks, conducting local courts, and providing welfare and public assistance programs.

3. Who are the leaders at the county level of government?
Commissioner and/or board of commissioners, sheriff, clerk of superior court, judge of superior court, district attorney, and tax commissioner.

4. How are Georgia’s local governments funded by taxes?

5. What is an example of a special-purpose government?
MARTA, school board, fire department, etc.

6. Are special-purpose governments funded by taxes?
No

7. What types of services do city governments provide?
Public transportation, police and fire protection, garbage collection, water services, public health services, libraries, etc.

8. What is true of a strong mayor–council form of government?
Mayor has great deal of power over council (some even have veto power).

9. Give an example of a strong mayor–council government in Georgia:
Atlanta

10. What is true of a weak mayor–council form of government?
Both legislative and executive powers lie with the city council.

11. In a strong mayor–council, there is a definite separation of powers and the mayor is the chief executive of the city.

12. How does the council-manager system work?
Council hires a city manager to oversee the day-to-day operations, determine the budget, and appoint heads of city departments.

13. What are the three types of city governments?
Strong mayor, weak mayor, council-manager.

14. What is true of a strong mayor–council form of government?
Mayor has great deal of power over council (some even have veto power).

15. In a weak mayor–council, there is a definite separation of powers and the mayor has responsibility.

16. Counties work at the local level with state agencies to administer state programs.
TEACHER INFO: TICKET OUT THE DOOR

• Print out the exit slip page for each student.

• Have the students write down a text message summary (short, using abbreviations) of the role of local governments in the state of Georgia. In the thought-bubble, they will write out the non-text message version of the summary.

• After class, read over the slips and address the confusing parts the next day. This is a helpful slip to use to see what needs to be taught again.
Directions: Imagine you’re sending a summary of the role of local governments in the state of Georgia to a friend via text message. Write up the summary in text messaging language, including all appropriate abbreviations and emojis. In the thought-bubble, include the regular, non-text message version of the summary.
Thank you so much for downloading this file. I sincerely hope you find it helpful and that your students learn a lot from it! I look forward to reading your feedback in my store.

If you like this file, you might want to check out some of my other products that teach social studies topics in creative, engaging, and hands-on ways.

Best wishes,

Ansley at Brain Wrinkles
Terms of Use

© 2016 Brain Wrinkles. Your download includes a limited use license from Brain Wrinkles. The purchaser may use the resource for personal classroom use only. The license is not transferable to another person. Other teachers should purchase their own license through my store.

This resource is not to be used:
• By an entire grade level, school, or district without purchasing the proper number of licenses. For school/district licenses at a discount, please contact me.
• As part of a product listed for sale or for free by another individual.
• On shared databases.
• Online in any way other than on password-protected website for student use only.

© Copyright 2016. Brain Wrinkles. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy pages specifically designed for student or teacher use by the original purchaser or licensee. The reproduction of any other part of this product is strictly prohibited. Copying any part of this product and placing it on the Internet in any form (even a personal/classroom website) is strictly forbidden. Doing so makes it possible for an Internet search to make the document available on the Internet, free of charge, and is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

Thank you,

Ansley at Brain Wrinkles

Clipart, fonts, & digital papers for this product were purchased from: