

# Georgia

**KEY QUESTION** Why was Georgia founded?

In 1732, **James Oglethorpe** received a charter for Georgia, named after King George II. A year later Oglethorpe built the first settlement at Savannah.

**Ethnic and Religious Diversity** The colony was meant as a place where debtors and the poor could make a fresh start. It was hoped that such settlers would protect the English colonies against Spanish Florida to the south and French Louisiana to the west.

A population of great **diversity**, or variety, settled in Georgia. English, German, Swiss, and Scottish colonists arrived. All Protestant groups, as well as Jews, were welcome. However, Catholics were banned in case they might sympathize with Spanish Catholics in Florida.

**Oglethorpe's Policies** Oglethorpe set strict rules. He opposed large plantations and slavery because he wanted to help poor settlers establish small farms. He believed that a free population could better defend the colony against attack. He also feared that slave revolts might weaken the colony.

The colonists were unhappy with Oglethorpe's policies. They were envious of South Carolina's prosperity, which came from slave labor. In response, the trustees legalized slavery, and Georgia became a royal colony. Georgia turned into a plantation society like that of South Carolina.

**SUMMARIZE** Explain why Georgia was founded.

