Lesson One Georgia after World War II

Civil Rights Movement
War Again in Korea?
Baby Boomers

GEORGIA governors
Cold War
SUBURBS

“One Person, One vote”
SS8H10 The student will evaluate key post-World War II developments of Georgia from 1945 to 1970.

a. Analyze the impact of the transformation of agriculture on Georgia’s growth.

b. Explain how the development of Atlanta, including the roles of mayors William B. Hartsfield and Ivan Allen, Jr., and major league sports, contributed to the growth of Georgia.

c. Discuss the impact of Ellis Arnall.
Essential Questions

1. How was life in the U.S. different after WWII?
2. Describe the advances that were made during the postwar period?
3. To what extent did these advancements affect life Georgians after World War II?
As men and women returned from World War II, America again returned to a time of prosperity.

The 1950’s brought a final end of the Great Depression and Americans once again began buying goods.

Factories that had been built for war making capabilities were now turned into factories making American goods that were in high demand.
The 1950s were a good time for most people. Returning veterans were able to attend college on the G.I. Bill and to buy homes.

Enrollment in colleges and universities soared, and suburbs (residential areas around cities) sprang up. So many children were born that this period was known for its baby boom.

The economy was strong, with an average family income of $4,421.
There were two “baby booms” in both Georgia and the United States:

--The first occurred in the late 1940’s as WW II began and as it ended

--The second occurred in the early 1970’s
When the approximately 313,000 Georgia soldiers and sailors returned home after the war, they found their state in the midst of rapid change. Agriculture was no longer as dominant an industry as it had been.

- There was a *reduced need for farm laborers as modern equipment* became available for most farmers.
  
  1945----226,000 farms  
  1974----55,000 farms

- *Tenant farmers and sharecroppers were the quickest to leave farming* since the farmers who owned land could now work that land with the aid of modern equipment.

- By 1970, 60% of Georgia’s population lived in the cities, and 40% of Georgia’s population was rural.
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Television Changes America

- Television use expanded in the 1950s
- Frozen dinners were invented to heat quickly and eat in front of the TV
- More televisions were in homes and people spent more time watching
- ABC, CBS, NBC were major networks Entertainment was important
- People could now watch news events almost as they happened
Many men returning from WW II chose not to return to farming

- Many could now use the GI Bill to pay for college
- By 1946, 60% of the student body at UGA were veterans

(The GI Bill also provided low interest loans for housing and unemployment benefits)

Cotton production, which had decreased following WW I due to drought, boll weevil, and the depression, continued to decline as synthetic fibers replaced cotton in clothing manufacture.

Farmers began planting more peanuts, soybeans, tobacco and pine trees
After WW I, rural counties of Georgia lost population.

This trend continued following WW II.
--Many rural Georgians moved to the cities
--Many not only left rural Georgia, they also left the state
--Black Georgians continued to move north, making a decline in the black population, that started in the 1880’s and continued until the 1970’s.
Cities grew in number of people and in number of businesses and industries.

---companies wanted to move to Georgia due to
  --mild climate
  --good transportation systems
  --cheap labor
  --low taxes
  --Georgia workers were not unionized

Suburbs also grew during this time

The automobile became in high demand. The use of the automobile led to movement to the suburbs, paved roads, and drive-in banking.
By 1970, 60% of Georgia’s population lived in the cities, and 40% of Georgia’s population was rural.
Cold War

- 1946-1989
- US and USSR were world’s most powerful countries
- United Nations had been formed following WWII to prevent aggression and resolve disputes among nations
- Many nations aligned with one or the other of these 2 nations: those aligned with the US were called the “West” and those aligned with the USSR were called the “East”
- Following WW II, the Soviet Union took control of several countries in east Europe spreading communism (political system in which goods, property, and capital are controlled by the central government rather than by individuals or businesses.)
Cold War

- Relations between the US and USSR became tense
- Cold War: a war of words and diplomacy
- US and USSR were world’s most powerful countries
- USSR kept eastern Europe in communism behind the “iron curtain”
- Containment of communism led to war in Korea and Vietnam
Many Americans feared that Communist supporters were working in the US.

In 1948, the US and USSR almost went to war over the USSR blockade of western Berlin.

The US provided air lifted goods into west Berlin to help the people there.

In 1961, the Berlin Wall was built to separate West and East Berlin.
In 1950, North Korea soldiers, supplied by the USSR, attacked South Korea.

Truman eventually sent in American troops to aid South Korea.

War lasted 3 years with neither side declaring victory.

Marietta’s Bell Aircraft plant, closed in 1946, reopened by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, building the B-29 bomber.