

Georgia's Climate

The climate in Georgia is a major reason so many people continue to move to the state. While climate varies among the state's six land regions, all areas of the state are colored by four well-defined seasons:

- A warm summer brings an average temperature of 80 degrees and the added benefit of "Indian summer" stretching into October.
- Autumn is brisk, with brilliant fall foliage throughout the state, particularly in the mountains.
- Winters are brief, with average temperatures in the upper 40s and light snowfall several times a year in the north.
- Springtime is glorious, as Georgia is famous for its dogwoods, azaleas and other flora.



What makes the Georgia climate so variable is the changing nature of the landscape. *Topography* begins at sea level and climbs to nearly 5,000 feet above sea level; in between the beaches and mountains are coastal plains, lush forests and rolling foothills.

For as long as records have been kept, Georgia has benefitted from ample rainfall and ranks high among contiguous states in annual precipitation, typically between 50 and 60 inches, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

The blend of sunshine and rainfall has helped Georgia become a national leader in agriculture, energy and other businesses that rely on clean, safe water.



Average Monthly Temperatures in Georgia (°F)

Month	Temperature
January	46°F
February	49°F
March	56°F
April	63°F
May	70°F
June	77°F
July	80°F
August	79°F
September	74°F
October	64°F
November	56°F
December	48°F

Source: NOAA National Climatic Data Center

Directions: using the article on the back of this paper, answer the following questions.

1. According to this article, why do people continue to move to Georgia?

2. Using your own words, describe Georgia's four seasons:

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3. Define the word topography. How does Georgia's topography affect climate?

4. How has Georgia's climate benefited the state economically?

5. According to the "Average Monthly Temperatures" chart, which month is hottest? Which month is coolest?