

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Spread of Baptist and Methodist Churches

After the Revolutionary War, many ministers left America for Great Britain. Still, churches in Georgia grew, both in size and in importance to their communities. In addition to Anglicans, Quakers, and Baptists, Methodists circuit riders (ministers who went from district to district) founded churches in the frontier region. Sometimes these ministers could have only one service a month for each church. However, they stayed in touch with their members and visited them as often as possible.

Like many others in the South, Georgians were caught up in the Great Revival movement of the early 1800s. Religious revivals, often in the form of camp meetings, were popular, especially among Methodists. Sometimes people came from miles away and camped while attending a two or three day meeting. Often, the camp meetings lasted for a week or longer.

During the 1850's church membership grew in Georgia; by 1860, there were 2,393 churches in the state. Methodist and Baptist were the two largest denominations, but the Episcopalian, Catholic, and Presbyterian churches also grew during this period. Jews, one of colonial Georgia's earliest religious groups, were few in number, but they added to the states' religious diversity. There were a few segregated churches, but slaves usually attended the same churches as their masters.

Slavery caused great divisiveness among some denominations. Methodists in the South pulled out of their national organization and formed the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1845, southern Baptists met in Augusta to form the Southern Baptist Convention. Baptists in the South left the American Baptist Union when its foreign mission board would not accept slave owners as missionaries.

1. By 1860, the two largest church denominations in Georgia were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Which church sent circuit riders to frontier settlements to provide monthly service?
3. The Methodist and Baptist churches split over permitting \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Who was John Wesley?