



The History in our Backyard: The Names and Places of Georgia Podcast is an inquiry project where 39 high school students from 4 high schools in Student Leadership NORTH conducted local history research about names of places in Georgia. Students analyzed primary sources using the Library of Congress' archives and Teaching with Primary Sources strategies to write and record show notes with conversations about why local histories are important to understanding the meaning of place and civic identity. This grant funded the inaugural season of this podcast with five episodes about William Hartsfield and Maynard Jackson (Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport), Lake Lanier, Chickamauga, and Tallulah Falls.

## A black and white line drawing of a treehouse built into a large tree. The treehouse has a gabled roof, a chimney, and several windows. A ladder leads up to the treehouse. In the foreground, two children are playing on a swing set. The background shows other trees and a simple horizon line.



**The Names and Places of Georgia**

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
**TEACHING** WITH **PRIMARY SOURCES**  
Consortium Member

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Thirty-nine students in the Student Leadership NORTH program worked collaboratively to examine the places in communities throughout the state of Georgia.
  - Students defined what place means to them and how place impacts their civic identities within their communities
  - Students researched sites in Georgia and compiled notes to create a podcast
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## BRAINSTORMING & RESEARCHING

- Students worked in groups to brainstorm and reflect on places in Georgia and documented their reflections. Each group then selected a place that would be their podcast topic
- Students used the following Library of Congress database collections to find primary sources:
  - Chronicling America
  - Assorted Primary Source Sets
  - LOC Georgia Primary Sources
  - Colonial Georgia
- Students used these collections to document findings relevant to their podcast episode topic and recorded the data in a virtual notebook
- Students used TPS strategies to analyze the documents found and to cite evidence to be used to create show notes for the podcasts
  - #1 Connecting with Primary Sources
  - #2 Leaving Evidence in our Lives
  - #3 Primary Source Sort
  - #4 Analyzing Photographs
  - #5 Analyzing Maps

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS DISCOVERED

- Students discovered that the Library of Congress database collections are things they can use in high school and take into college. Many had never been exposed to these resources in their classrooms
- One student said that when traveling in the car she no longer just stares at her phone, but instead looks at street signs, etc. and wonders about their origins
- About one-third of the students in this project have expressed an interest in mentoring the next group who are chosen to complete Season Two
- Although these students are exposed to Georgia history in school, they were able to delve more deeply into topics and learn more about where they live through this project
- Students mastered the recording process of podcasts using headphones, microphones, and mixers to create the podcasts