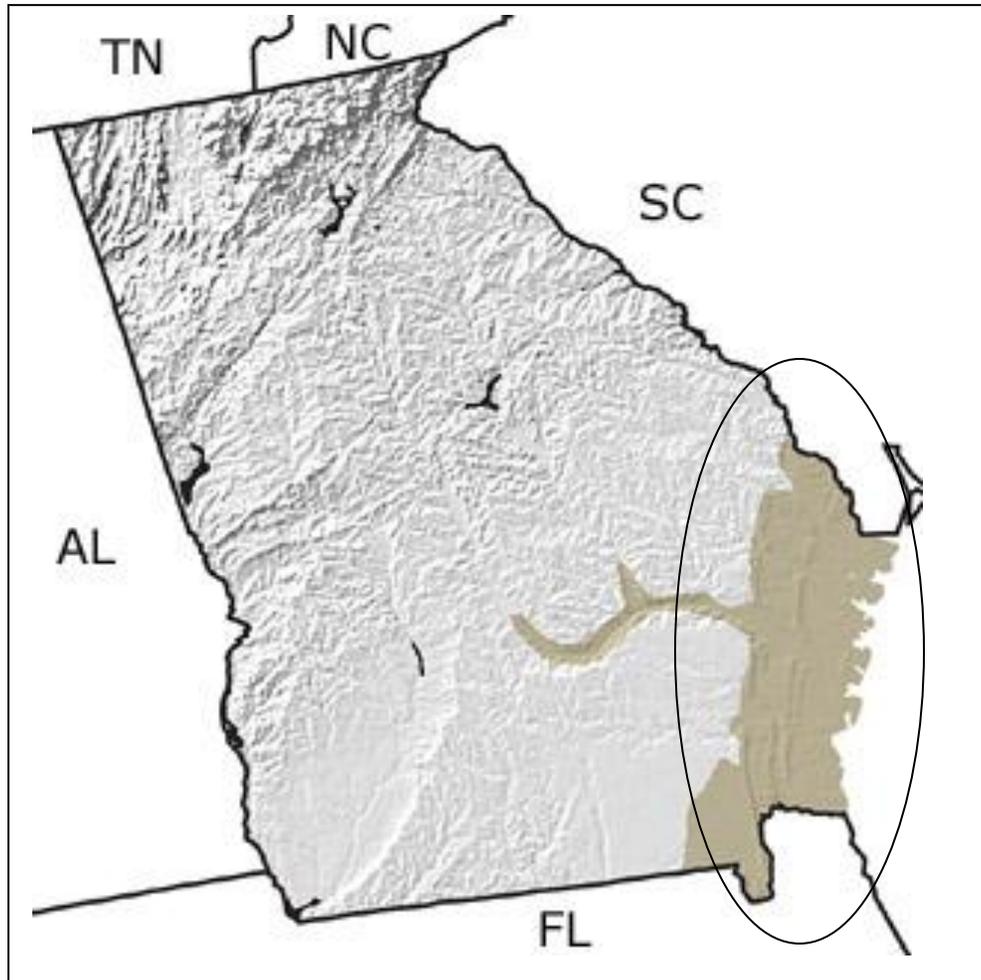
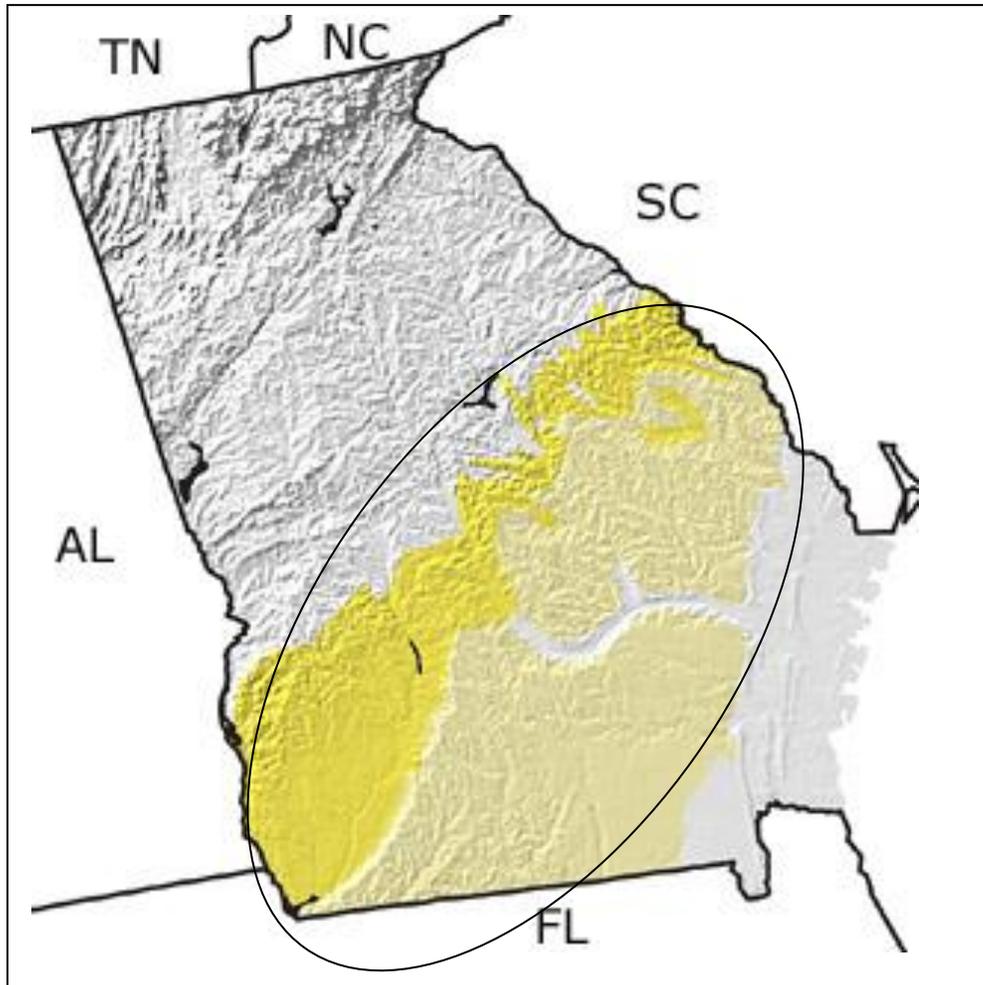


Georgia – Cenozoic Eras



Quaternary

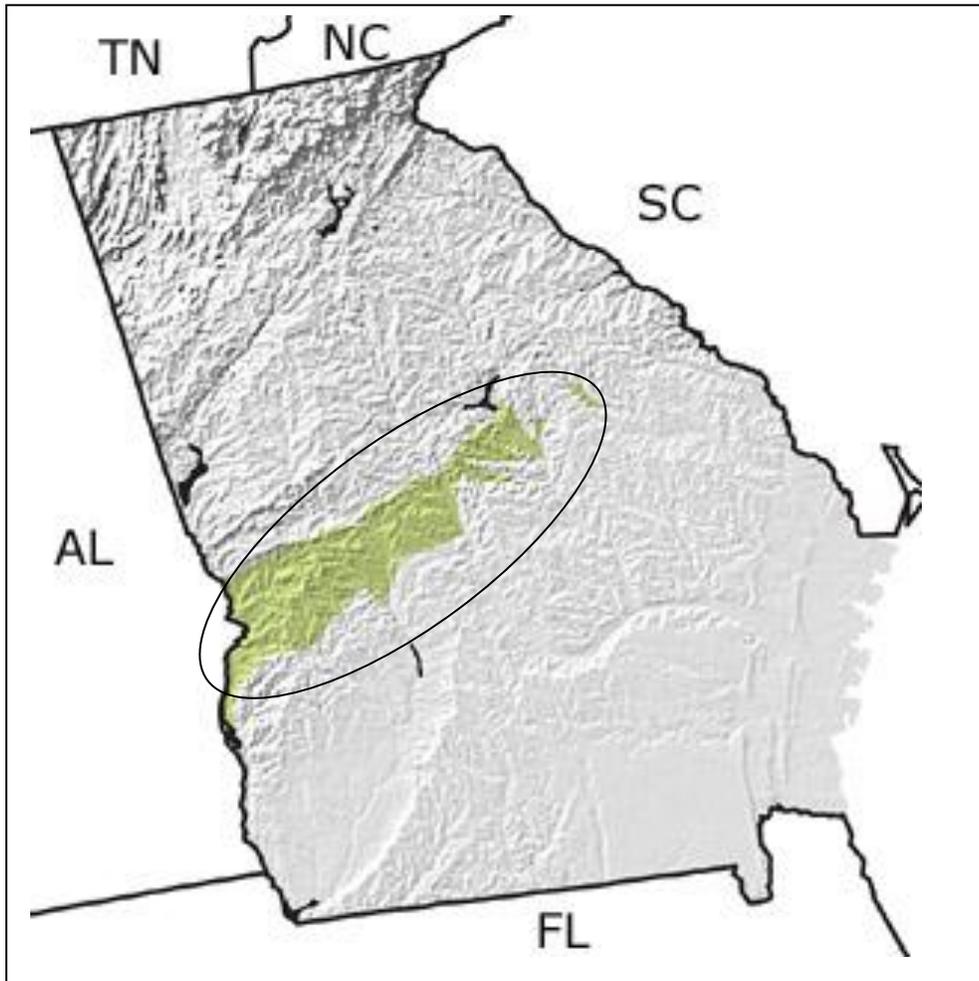
Most of Georgia remained high and dry as Early Quaternary (Pleistocene) ice sheets expanded and contracted causing sea level to fluctuate. Barrier islands formed along the present day coast and shifted position as sea level changed, leaving behind sandy sediments as a record of their migration. Estuaries associated with the barrier islands left deposits as well. Forests and grasslands developed throughout much of Georgia, and many large mammals, such as mammoths and giant ground sloths, lived in these environments.



Tertiary

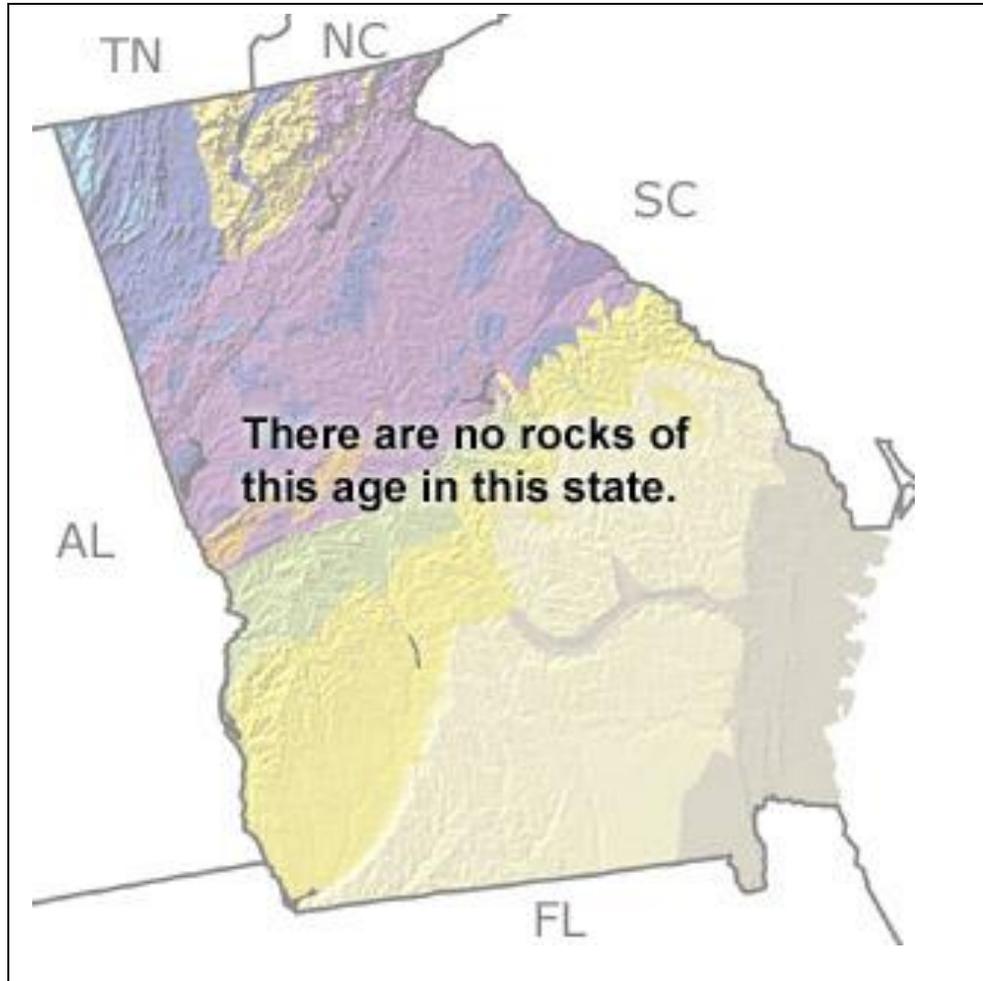
During the Tertiary, sea level decreased from the high mark it reached during the Cretaceous, but much of the southern half of the state still consisted of shifting shallow coastal marine environments. Rivers brought in large amounts of mud and sand from the eroding Appalachian Mountains to the north. The muds were deposited in estuaries and other coastal environments in thick layers that later became economically valuable clay deposits. Small reefs formed in marine environments where there was little mud or sand being deposited. Fossils from the Tertiary include corals, sea urchins, whales, and the giant shark, *Carcharodon megalodon*.

Georgia – Mesozoic Eras



 **Cretaceous**

With sea level high throughout much of the Late Cretaceous, most of Georgia was under water, and shallow marine environments developed over its southern half. Sand from the eroding Appalachian Mountains in the north was carried by rivers southward into these waters, creating sandy and muddy shorelines in places. Large crocodiles and fish lived in the coastal environments, along with shellfish and burrowing shrimp. Dinosaurs roamed the upland environments, and their remains sometimes washed out to sea. This map indicates a band of Cretaceous rocks across the central part of the state.



 **Jurassic**

No Jurassic deposits are known in Georgia.

 **Triassic**

Few Triassic deposits are exposed at the surface in Georgia. Although not shown on this map, some igneous intrusions are seen in the region around Stone Mountain, just east of Atlanta. These intrusions formed when splits in the crust, caused by tectonic activity, filled with molten material. No Triassic fossils are known from Georgia.