

# Unit I

# The Alabama Story



**Above:** Is there any better way to see Alabama than from a hot air balloon? The Alabama Jubilee Hot Air Balloon Classic is an annual event in Decatur.



**T**his book tells about a place called Alabama, your home. Today, you can see events around the world as they happen. You can view them on your television, computer, or smartphone. So why study about Alabama? Why learn about its land features, its past, and its present?

The events that you see on TV are just part of the long story of the world around us. The story of Alabama began long ago in a wonderful place with beaches, forests, mountains, and rivers. Amazing people came to the land and exciting events took place. The story continues today with you, your friends, and family—living and working here.

Scientists and experts of many kinds have studied Alabama. They have explored its land and the beliefs and customs of its people. This book tells you how the land shaped the history. The history tells us how the past shapes our lives today.

You will understand how people in the past were like you and how they were different. You can compare your life in Alabama today to other people over the world. You will see how our story is very much like their story.

As you read about our wonderful state, you might discover places you would like to visit. You may study things that you would like to learn more about. This book does not tell everything about the history and geography of the state. But it will open the doors to certain people, places, and events. You will learn their parts in the settlement and growth of Alabama. The people in Alabama's past made it what it is today. Its future is what you will make it.

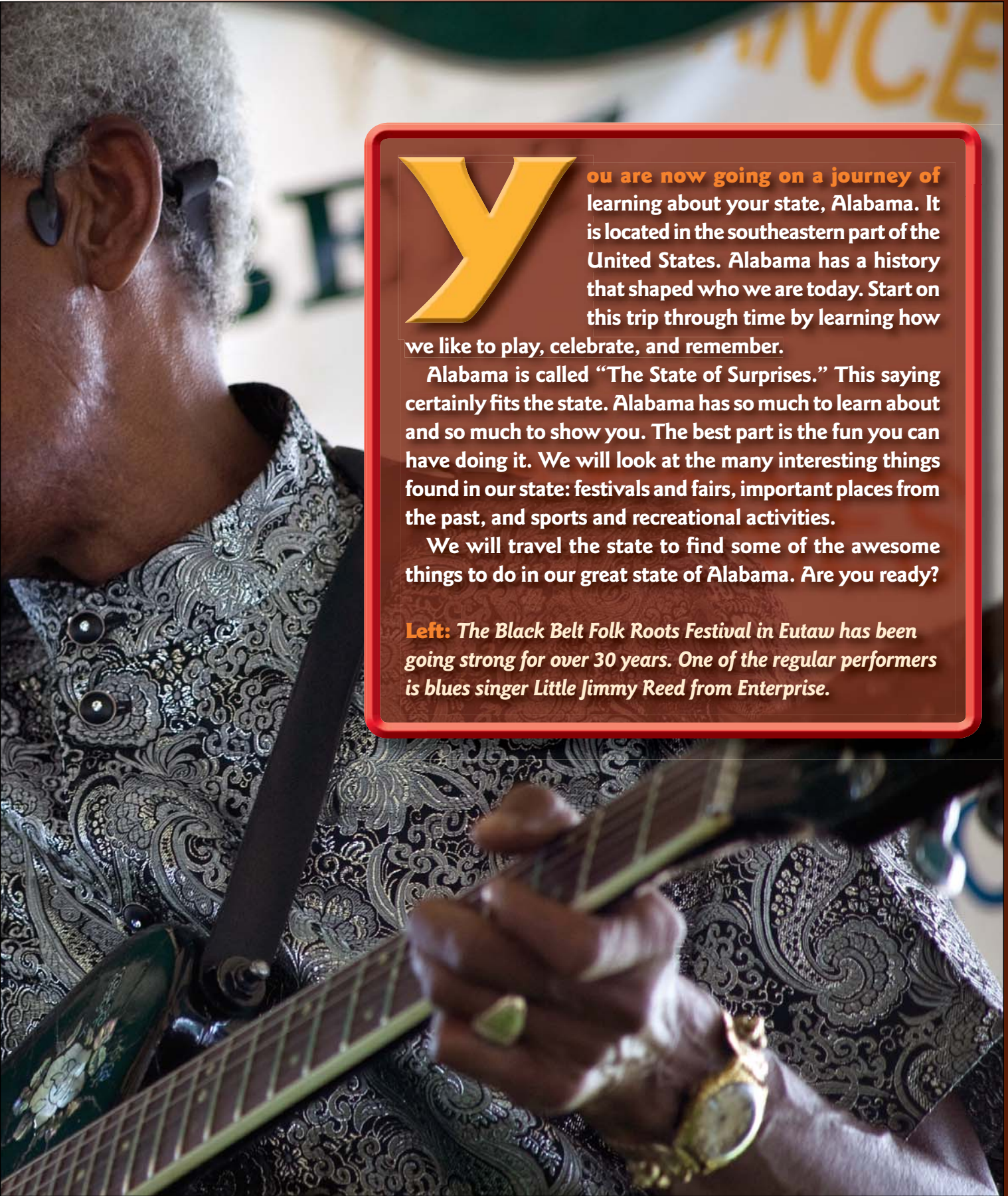
# Chapter 1

## Celebrate Alabama!

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

culture, industry, theme, heritage, antique, Cajun, immigrant, livestock, Future Farmers of America, 4-H, exhibit, historic place, site, capital, settler, architecture, textile, Wiregrass, planetarium, habitat, destination, whitewater



**Y**

**ou are now going on a journey of learning about your state, Alabama. It is located in the southeastern part of the United States. Alabama has a history that shaped who we are today. Start on this trip through time by learning how we like to play, celebrate, and remember.**

**Alabama is called “The State of Surprises.” This saying certainly fits the state. Alabama has so much to learn about and so much to show you. The best part is the fun you can have doing it. We will look at the many interesting things found in our state: festivals and fairs, important places from the past, and sports and recreational activities.**

**We will travel the state to find some of the awesome things to do in our great state of Alabama. Are you ready?**

***Left: The Black Belt Folk Roots Festival in Eutaw has been going strong for over 30 years. One of the regular performers is blues singer Little Jimmy Reed from Enterprise.***



# Focus on Reading Skills

## Main Idea

### Learning

The *main idea* is the topic of a paragraph or the reason the story was written. We are going to discover the main idea in a paragraph.

### Practicing

1. Read the following passage:

“Alabama the Beautiful” is on the signs welcoming people to our state. It is so true. One of the most outstanding sights is the highest. Mount Cheaha is the tallest mountain in the state at 2,407 feet. No wonder the Creek Indians named this place “Chaha,” which means high place. In Cheaha State Park, you can drive or

hike to the top of the mountain. On the way up, you will see dogwood blooms in the spring or brightly colored leaves in the fall. From the top, you can see miles and miles of the beautiful Talladega National Forest.

2. Answer the following questions. (It is not always possible to answer all questions from the information in a short passage. Answer all that you can.)

A. What or who is the passage about? When? Where? How? Why?

B. Using your answers to the questions, write *one sentence* that tells the main idea of the passage.



## Festivals and Fairs

### As you read, look for

- reasons for festivals;
- purpose of county fairs;
- terms: **culture**, **industry**, **theme**, **heritage**, **antique**, **Cajun**, **immigrant**, **livestock**, **Future Farmers of America**, **4-H**, **exhibit**.

**One fun way to learn about Alabama is through the many** festivals and fairs that take place all through the year. Festivals celebrate historic events, art, local food, people, and cultures. (**Culture** is the beliefs and customs of a group of people.) Fairs are a way to show off the local farm crops and students' activities. Sometimes fairs highlight nearby industries. (An **industry** is a factory or place to work that makes products or services.) Plus fairs have rides and cotton candy!

Festivals are planned around a **theme** (subject). Themes for festivals are usually one of these ideas: art, cultures, food, people, places, animals, music, events, or holidays. All festivals have food and fun things to do. Some also have rides and live music.

### Art

Festivals with an art theme give artists a chance to show their work. The Kentuck Festival of the Arts in Northport is one of the top ten arts festivals in the country. The Fayette Arts Festival is one of the longest-running arts festivals in the state.

Homestead Hollow in Springville has arts and crafts plus activities such as the making of sorghum syrup. Monroeville was originally called Burnt Corn Springs. The town celebrates its culture with the annual Heritage Arts Festival. (**Heritage** means ways of life passed on from one generation to the next.)



**Above:** A potter demonstrates his craft at the Kentuck Festival of the Arts in Northport, which takes place every October.



Dothan's Mural City Art Fest includes a fun run. Enterprise's Piney Woods Arts Festival has a Civil War Living Display.

On the historic campus of St. Bernard Abbey and Prep School is the Bloomin' Festival in Cullman. This is the only abbey (a place for monks to live and study) in Alabama.

Events throughout the state celebrate all types of art. Arts Alive is an arts and crafts festival in downtown Florence. The Flimp Festival in Montgomery shows visitors a good time with its art activities and music. Beautiful Guntersville Lake has hosted Art on the Lake since 1961. The Jerry Brown Festival in Hamilton has folk art (simple style of art by local people) and pottery. Brown makes the famous pottery jugs that have faces.

**Top:** Visitors are dwarfed by the murals at Dothan's Mural City Art Fest. **Above:** The Jerry Brown Festival celebrates the work of Jerry Brown, who is famous for his face jugs.

## Food

The theme of many festivals is a food or crop. In early Alabama most people farmed, and their food was what they grew or hunted. To honor this heritage, cities often hold festivals.

Pinson's annual Butterbean and Cornbread Festival attracts many people to eat and have fun. The sweet potato has been on Alabama tables for a long time. Crane Hill has the Sweet Tater Festival to celebrate the vegetable. Elberta and Evergreen have festivals that offer farmers' homemade sausages.

Bayou La Batre on the Gulf Coast has the Oyster and Seafood Festival. Seafood lovers come from all over the country to this feast. Faunsdale has a Crawfish Festival. Dothan has a huge Peanut Festival that lasts for ten days. And Brundidge has a Peanut Butter Festival. If you go there, you can find out about the many uses of peanut butter.

Alabama is famous for its barbecue (BBQ). Birmingham has Stokin' the Fire at Sloss Furnace. Decatur has Riverfest, and Mobile offers Hog Wild. These are just a few of the state's great barbecue celebrations. They have cooking contests and tasty food.

The world of festivals did not forget dessert. Castleberry and Scottsboro both have a Strawberry Festival. Brewton has a Blueberry Festival, and Moulton has an Antique and Apple Festival. (**Antique** means something made long ago.) Which kind of pie do you like?

## Music

All festivals have music, but some of them have only a special kind of music. Bluegrass Festivals are held in Belk, Athens, Weogufka, Rogersville, and St. Clair County. There is a special Cajun music called zydeco. (**Cajun** means people with French heritage living in Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama.) You can hear it at the Gulf Coast Zydeco Music and Crawfish Festival in Daphne.



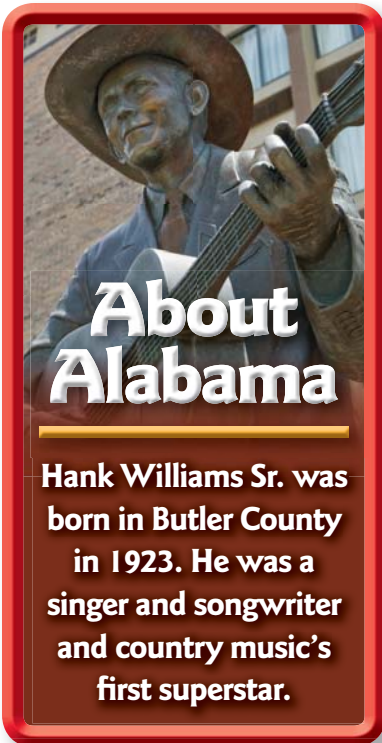
**Above:** Seafood festivals are popular on the Gulf Coast of Alabama. The annual National Shrimp Festival takes place every October in Gulf Shores. One of the events is a sand sculpture competition.







**Above:** *Birmingham blues singer Shar-Baby performs at the Black Belt Folk Roots Festival in Eutaw.*



**Hank Williams Sr. was born in Butler County in 1923. He was a singer and songwriter and country music's first superstar.**

Fort Payne hosts the Pap Baxter Heritage Gospel Singing School. It is part of the town's Boom Days Festival.

Montgomery has held its Jubilee City Fest for over 30 years. You can visit this music and children's festival on Memorial Day weekend. The city also hosts a huge Shakespeare Festival with over 200,000 visitors. More than 36,000 students attend its live theater.

## **Cultural History**

Your cultural history is the way of life for you and earlier generations of your family. Many cities honor their cultures with festivals. For example, the culture could be Irish or Chinese if these immigrants settled the area. (**Immigrants** are people who settle in a new country.) If you are an American Indian (Native American), then your cultural history is that of your tribal nation. Moundville, Scottsboro, and Huntsville all have festivals celebrating American Indian culture. German immigrants are remembered at the Oktoberfests in Gilbertown and Redstone Arsenal near Huntsville.

There are festivals that celebrate African American culture with music, food, and customs. Anniston holds a Black Heritage Festival. Tuscumbia hosts the Shoals African Heritage Festival.

Some festivals honor the area's history and culture. The town founders are remembered at Eva Frontier Days, Williams Station in Atmore, and Red Bay Founders Festival. Oppfest celebrates the fall harvest season with music and food. The Sucarnochee Folklife Festival in Livingston highlights barbecue and the blues (a style of music). They have folksongs, art, crafts, and cooking.



## Fairs

Have you been to a fair? You can feel the excitement while walking down the midway (main walking path through the fair). Barkers work at the fair to get you in the games. They may shout “win a teddy bear” or “try your aim” as you pass by.

Smell the hot dogs and funnel cakes. Taste the cotton candy and candied apples. See the rides like the Ferris wheel and the Tilt-a-Whirl. Fairs can be very exciting, especially at night.

**Above:** *The Alabama Shakespeare Festival season lasts from September to July.*

**Below:** *Jimmy Yellowhorse plays traditional Cherokee flute music at the Moundville Native American Festival.*

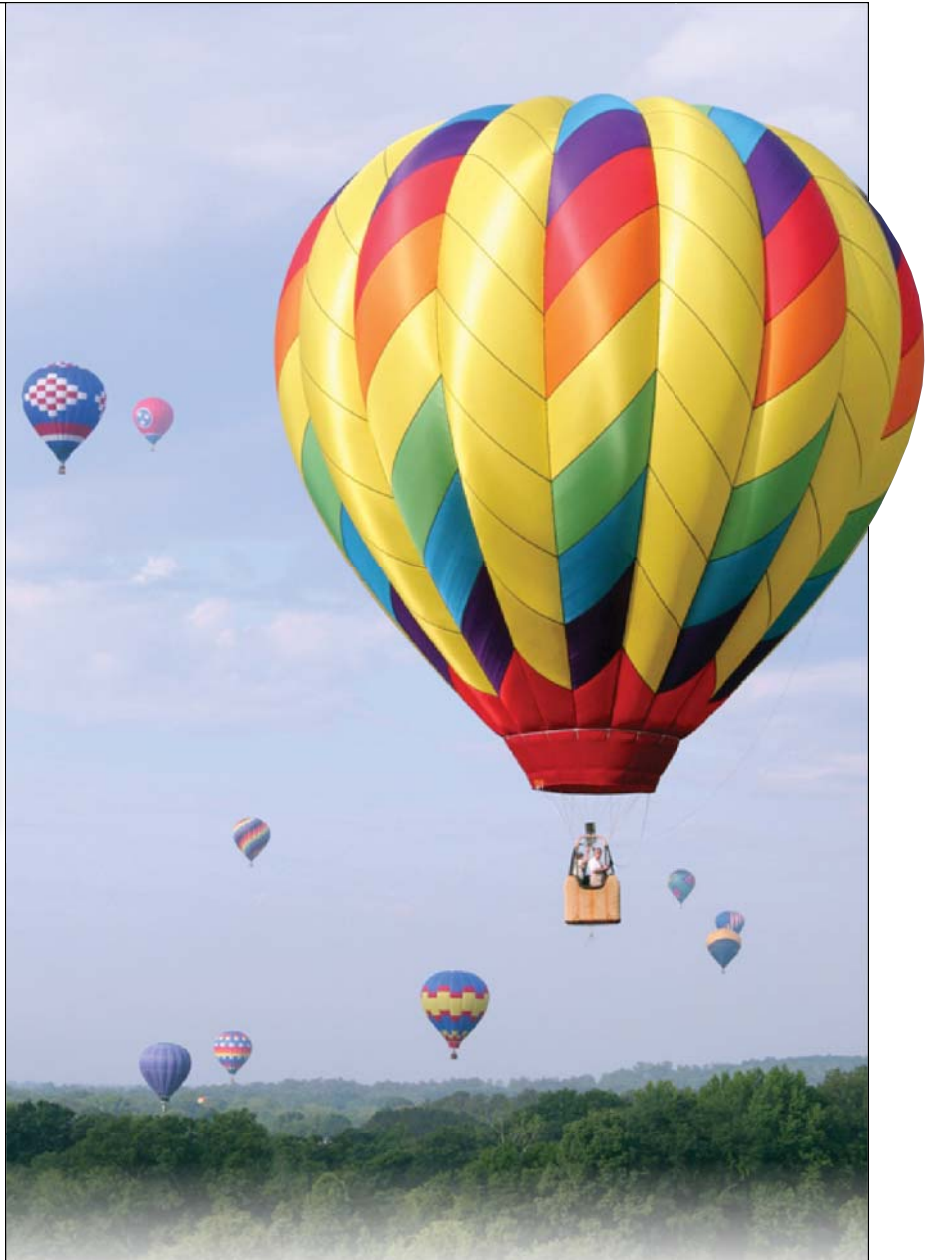




## About Alabama

The Barber Vintage Motorcycle Festival in Leeds has more antique motorcycles than any place in the world.

**Right:** *The Alabama Jubilee Hot Air Balloon Classic in Decatur, which began in 1978, is the longest-running balloon race in the South. It is held on the Memorial Day weekend. The state legislature has named Decatur the “Balloon-ing Capital of Alabama.”*



Most counties have a county fair in late summer or fall. Alabama also has several large regional fairs.

### **Blue Ribbons**

These fairs, both big and small, bring people from all over the state to see the sights. Farmers want to show off their prize crops. Owners of **livestock** (animals such as cattle, pigs, sheep, and horses) bring their best animals. Who grew the biggest pumpkin? Who raised the prize cow? There are barns holding the area’s best animals. You can see cows, horses, pigs, sheep, rabbits, chickens, and goats. Judges give blue ribbons to the proud owners of the winning animals.

# Spotlight on Music



## William Christopher (W. C.) Handy “The Father of the Blues”

**W. C. Handy was born in 1873 in Florence, Alabama.** As a young boy, he heard music in the sounds around him. He worked many hours to earn money to buy a used guitar. But his father would not allow him to keep it. The senior Mr. Handy only approved of church music.

A young W. C. and his friends made instruments to play their own music. When he was old enough to leave home, W. C. worked in the Birmingham coal mines. He hoped to earn enough money to study to be a minister. Business was bad, though, and the owners closed the mines.

Handy went to Chicago and St. Louis working at whatever jobs he could find. He always listened to the beat and the words of the music of his fellow black people. Sometimes the music was spirited and swinging. At other times, it was slow and sad. The sad songs were called “the blues.”

In 1905, Handy moved to Memphis, Tennessee, and formed his own band. As he moved around, he wrote songs for his band to play.

Handy settled in New York City where he started his own music company. He was the first person to publish (print or make public) “the blues.” That is why Handy became known as the “Father of the Blues.” “St. Louis Blues” is one of his best-known songs. Handy was one of the top American songwriters from 1910 to 1925.

The famous musician often returned to Florence for visits. Handy even named one of his daughters for the city. In the 1920s, he lost his sight. He set up the W. C. Handy Foundation for the Blind and gave his time and money to it. When Handy died in 1958, a huge crowd of over 150,000 people attended his funeral. The U.S. Postal Service honored W. C. Handy with a postage stamp in 1969.

## Figure 1 Regional Fairs in Alabama

Jasper	Jaycees Northwest Alabama Fair
Muscle Shoals	North Alabama Fair
Decatur	Tennessee Valley Exposition
Selma	Central County Fair
Tuscaloosa	West Alabama State Fair
Huntsville	Jaycees Northeast Alabama State Fair
Birmingham Metro Area	Alabama State Fair
Montgomery	Alabama National Fair & Agricultural Exposition
Mobile	Greater Gulf State Fair

Source: *al.com* 2009



**Above:** Which is more fun at the fair—the rides, the prizes, or all the delicious food?

Fair buildings are filled with the biggest and best. There are the largest watermelons, longest green beans, and juiciest apples. Halls hold displays of canning, baking, needlework, and art. Judges are busy giving out blue ribbons.

### Students—More Than Visitors

The Alabama National Fair is held in Montgomery each year. Students in the **Future Farmers of America** (FFA) show livestock of all kinds there. The **4-H** has **exhibits** (displays to show something) about a wide range of subjects. The four Hs mean Heart, Hands, Health, and Head.

# Spotlight on Culture

## Mardi Gras in Mobile *Let the Good Times Roll!*



**In 1703, there was a group of French immigrants living in a tiny town called Mobile. They decided to honor a holiday that they had in France—*Mardi Gras*. This was the first celebration of *Mardi Gras* (Fat Tuesday) in North America. Over the years, the Mobile celebration grew very large. The people formed secret clubs called mystic societies or *krewe*s. These *krewe*s planned parties and parades for *Mardi Gras*.**

The U.S. Civil War stopped the parades. But in 1866, Joe Cain decided that everyone needed a laugh. He dressed like a Chickasaw and called himself “Chief Siacabormonrinico.” In a deco-

rated coal wagon pulled by a mule, he paraded around Mobile. How funny! *Mardi Gras* was reborn.

He is honored by Joe Cain Day, which is also called The Peoples’ Day. To celebrate this day, people decorate anything they can pull or ride. Then they make their own parade.

Mobile calls its celebration America’s Family *Mardi Gras*. The festivities last over two weeks. There are many parades, bands, floats, and parties. Masked *krewe* members ride the floats. They throw beads, Moon Pies, candy, and doubloons (special coins) to the happy crowd.



*Cane Syrup Makin' Days is held at Rikard's Mill near Beatrice every fall. You can see cane being ground in a mule-driven mill, then boiled to make the syrup (above). There are also demonstrations of frontier crafts like basket weaving, curing animal skins, and blacksmithing (right).*



Members of both FFA and 4-H clubs teach students about farming, good health, citizenship, and cooking. The students bring their work to the fairs to compete for ribbons.

But there is more to do at fairs than just see animals and tractors. You can watch auto races, singers, and dancers. There are Wild West shows, bands, and all types of talent.

### **Think it Through!**

- 1. What are two themes or subjects for festivals?**
- 2. Why do people bring livestock to the fair?**
- 3. What prize shows that a farm animal is the best?**

## Section 2

# Historic Places

### As you read, look for

- places studied by scientists;
- old buildings;
- military historic places;
- industrial places;
- historic natural places;
- terms: **historic place, site, capital, settler, architecture, textile, Wiregrass, planetarium, habitat.**

**Your parents have probably taken you to the towns where** they grew up. You may have seen the houses where they lived when they were your age. In your family's history, these houses are historic places. Alabama has many **historic places**. Those are places where something important in history happened. A historic place can also be a reminder of our state's history.

As you travel around Alabama, you can see many of these places. Some of them are on the U.S. Department of the Interior's list of National Historic Sites. (A **site** is a place where something was located or happened.) Others are marked as State Historic Sites of Alabama. You will also find signs along roadsides or in parks.

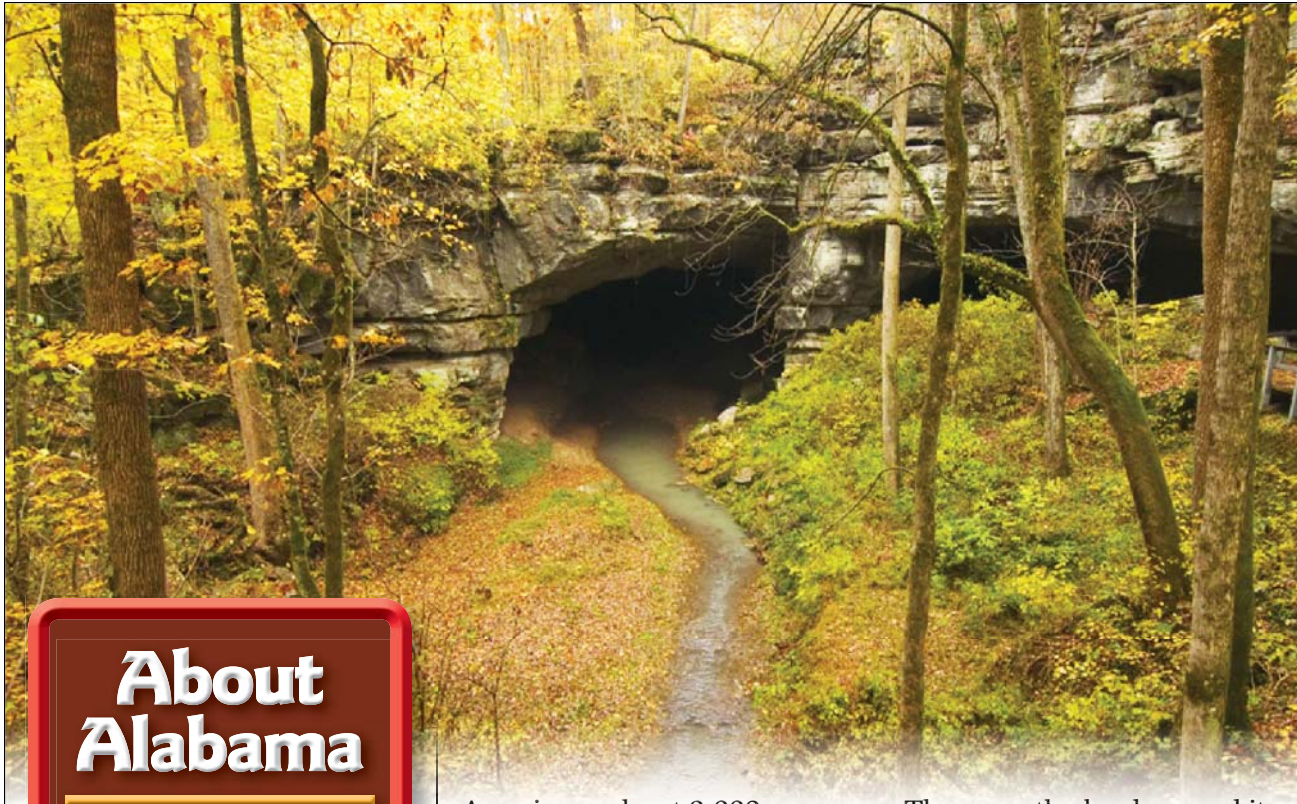
### Sites to Visit

There is a national or state historic site in nearly every county in Alabama. Being on historic lists protects these places. Humans lived at some of these sites thousands of years ago. Many of these sites are just caves or rock overhangs that provided shelter. Russell Cave near Bridgeport was the home of early Native



**Above:** *At Fort Toulouse National Historic Site, you can visit a reconstruction of a Native American dwelling of the period.*





## About Alabama

Russell Cave is the only national monument in Alabama.

Americans about 9,000 years ago. The cave, the land around it, and a museum are all part of the Russell Cave National Monument. The Russell Cave Native American Festival shows the lifeways of the area's first people.

Some sites have no one left to tell the history. These places need scientists to put the pieces together. Old Cahawba near Selma is a site called "Alabama's most famous ghost town." The town was the state's first capital. (A **capital** is a city that is the seat of government.) It was later deserted and vines grew over the site.

The Creek Indians fought several battles in Alabama against white settlers and the U.S. Army. (**Settlers** are people who go to live in a new area.) You can visit some of these sites including Fort Mims near Stockton and Holy Ground Battlefield near Lowndesboro. Another site is near Daviston at the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.

Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson near Wetumpka is also a treasure house of history.

The MOWA Choctaw Cultural Center in Washington County displays items from the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations. The Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Creek were forced to move to Oklahoma in the 1800s. Many American Indians boarded steamboats in Waterloo, Alabama, to continue the trip westward.



**Above:** Fort Mims State Historic Site commemorates one of the worst massacres in American history.

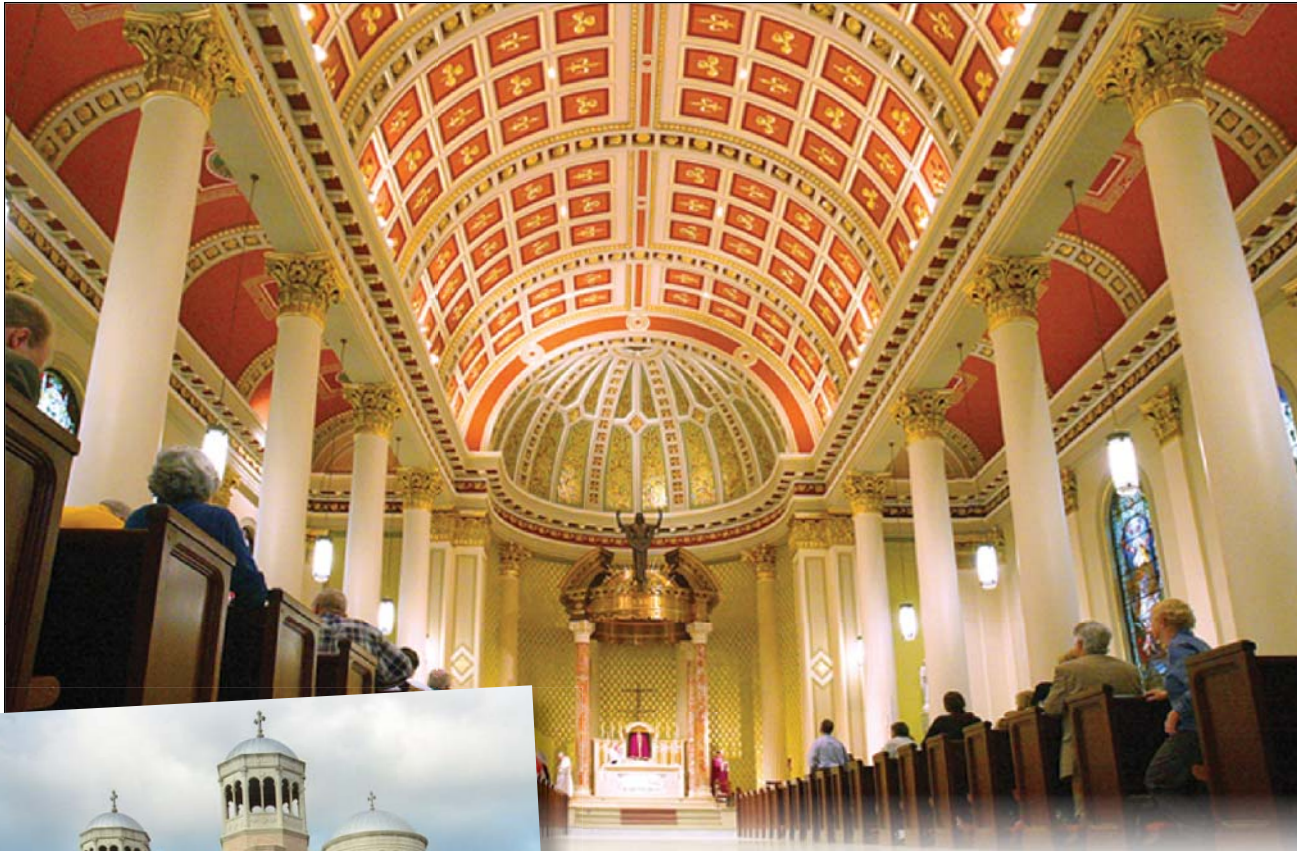
## Architecture

Many county courthouses are historic places. Have you noticed your courthouse? A courthouse is usually called historic because of its architecture. (**Architecture** is the style of a building such as Colonial or Victorian.) It may be historic because a famous person designed it. The building may be a good example of a certain style.

Many historic buildings are still in use today. Rickwood Field in Birmingham was built in 1910. It is the oldest active baseball field in the United States. The Alabama Theatre, also in Birmingham, was built in 1927. Its architecture is a very fancy style called Spanish-Moorish.



**Above:** *The Alabama Theatre in Birmingham is what was once known as a “movie palace,” due to its size and ornate decoration. Today, the theater shows classic movies and hosts concerts and other events. Left:* *The Bibb County Courthouse in Centreville, built in 1902, is a late example of Victorian architecture. The courthouse is part of the Centreville Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*



### **Churches with Special Style**

Many churches are good examples of fine architecture. Anniston has a special church that was built in 1890, The Church of St. Michael and All Angels. The architect brought stonemasons from England. These special workers used local sandstone and wood. The ceiling has hand-carved wooden angels. Some of the marble in the church came from Alabama.

The Malbis Greek Orthodox Church in Daphne has a design to remember. Greek immigrants brought artists and materials (supplies) from Greece to build this beautiful church. While the building appears very old, it was finished in 1965.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is in Mobile. The church was started in 1703, but this building dates from 1835.

Near Heflin in the Talladega National Forest is Shoal Creek Church. It is a one-room building made of hand-cut logs. Built about 1895, it is one of the last log churches in Alabama.

Look around at the houses of worship where you live. What is different about their design? Can you tell if they are old or new?

**Above: Churches are built in many different styles, from the ornate Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (top), to the Malbis Greek Orthodox Church (center), to the simple log building of the Shoal Creek Church (below).**

# Focus on Architecture



## Alabama's Covered Bridges

Covered bridges played an important part in the growth of Alabama. They let people in buggies and wagons cross rivers and creeks. Bridges made settlement on the other side of the water possible. Many years ago, people built hundreds of covered bridges. But most of them were destroyed by fire or time.

Why were the bridges covered with roofs? The roofs helped protect the wood from rot.

**Above:** The Swann Bridge is in Blount County.

They also sheltered travelers during rainstorms.

Each covered bridge has a story. Swann is the longest of the bridges, and Coldwater is the oldest. The Alamuchee Bridge has been moved twice. It is now at the University of West Alabama. This chart shows some of our state's historic covered bridges.

**Figure 2** Alabama's Covered Bridges

Name	County	Location	Built	Length	Spans
Alamuchee	Sumter	Livingston	1861	88'	Duck Pond
Clarkson-Legg	Cullman	Bethel	1904	270'	Crooked Creek
Coldwater	Calhoun	Oxford	1850	60'	Oxford Lake
Old Easley Road	Blount	Rosa	1927	95'	Dub Branch
Gilliland	Etowah	Gadsden	1899	85'	Noccalula Falls
Horton Mill	Blount	Oneonta	1934	220'	Calvert Prong
Kymulga	Talladega	Childersburg	1861	105'	Talladega Creek
Salem-Shotwell	Lee	Opelika	1900	43'	Rocky Brook
Swann	Blount	Cleveland	1933	324'	Locust Fork/Black Warrior
Waldo	Talladega	Waldo	1858	115'	Talladega Creek



### **Older Than the State**

Step back in time to see Moorsville, “a town older than the state.” It is filled with homes, churches, and trees dating back to the 1800s. The Chickasaw were living there when settlers came in 1803. It became a town in 1818 before Alabama became a state.

Among the town’s many beautiful homes, the Zeidler-Hill-McLain House is special. One of Alabama’s first woman architects, Carolyn C. Smith, designed it. The Old Brick Church, built in 1839, is also special. It is known for its steeple that has a large carved hand pointing to heaven.

### **Old Homes and Neighborhoods**

Before the Civil War, many rich people built beautiful homes. We can visit some of these homes today. Auburn, Demopolis, Eufaula, and Tuscaloosa are just a few of the towns with historic houses. Many were built in the architectural styles of the “Old South.”

Some cities have preserved entire neighborhoods that have a special style. Twickenham Historic District in Huntsville, Old Decatur Victorian Homes, and Talladega’s Silk Stocking District are great for walking tours. (District means a special area.)

**Top:** *The Moorsville Post Office was built in 1840. It is the oldest post office in continuous use in Alabama. Above:* *The Zeidler-Hill-McLain House was designed by Carolyn C. Smith. Begun in 1927, it was built on the site of the old town square.*



**Left:** Fendall Hall in Eufaula was built in 1860. The style of architecture is “Italianate.” It is called that because it looks like an Italian villa. **Below, left:** Twickenham is the oldest neighborhood in Huntsville. It dates to the early 1800s when Huntsville was settled. The whole neighborhood is on the National Register of Historic Places. **Bottom:** The Rosenbaum House in Florence was restored by the city. It opened to the public in 2002.



Old Prattville in Prattville has many buildings from a mill town in the 1800s. Eufaula’s Seth Lore and Irwinton District has over 700 historic buildings. Old Alabama Town in Montgomery was created to teach us about our history. Selma’s Old Town Historic District guides visitors through many events of the past.




## About Alabama

The Rosenbaum House in Florence is the only building in Alabama designed by the famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Built in 1939, the house is now a museum.



**Top:** Kelly Ingram Park (in the foreground) and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church are part of Birmingham's Civil Rights District. **Above:** Informative signs mark the Birmingham Civil Rights Heritage Trail.

## Civil Rights Movement

Alabama was the center of much of the struggle for equal rights. You can visit many of the sites that were important to that time. We will cover the civil rights movement in more detail in Chapter 12.

Birmingham has a Civil Rights District. Sites there include the Civil Rights Institute, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, and Kelly Ingram Park. In Selma, you can see over 1,250 buildings on the Martin Luther King Jr. Walking Tour.

Montgomery, the state capital, had the nation's attention during the civil rights struggle. There you can visit the Rosa Parks Museum and the Civil Rights Memorial Center. You can also tour the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the pastor there from 1954 to 1960.

## Military

The military played a huge part in the state's history. A visit to Fort Condé in Mobile is a good starting place for our tour. This fort, later called Fort Charlotte, guarded Mobile for 100 years. Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan across the bay



saw action in the Civil War. Confederate soldiers at the forts fought the Union navy in the Battle of Mobile Bay.

Visit Tuskegee and see the Tuskegee Airmen Museum. It honors the black men who flew and fought so bravely during World War II. While you are in Tuskegee, tour the George Washington Carver Museum.

In Huntsville, visit the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. There you can learn the whole story of the rockets that took America into space.

Mobile hosts the USS *Alabama*, a retired battleship that fought in World War II. The Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham shows many military planes. Berman Museum in Anniston has many weapons on display including unusual ones. The U.S. Army Aviation Museum is at Fort Rucker. The helicopter collection there is one of the largest in the world.

A national military cemetery was dedicated in Montevallo in 2008. Nearby is the American Village. It is built like a small village from long ago. There are actors playing the parts of townspeople. You can see a bridge much like one made famous in 1775 in Concord, Massachusetts. It gives you an exciting peek into history.



**Top:** Tuskegee pilots trained in biplanes like this one, on display at Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. **Center:** You can see a cannon firing demonstration at Fort Morgan. **Bottom:** Learn about space travel at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.





Birmingham's  
Vulcan statue

## Industry

Alabama's wealth grew partly because of its industries. The Aldrich Coal Museum is located in the old company store in Montevallo. It tells the story of the mining industry. Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park in McCalla tells us about making iron and steel.

Sloss Furnace in Birmingham is a museum about the early times of the iron and steel industry. Vulcan, on top of Red Mountain, stands over the city. It is the largest iron statue in the world.

The Tenn-Tom Waterway is a special water system. It carries freight north and south in western Alabama. In Pickensville, you can tour the Tom Bevill Visitor Center. It has exhibits about the building of the Tenn-Tom.

Alabama once had a huge **textile** (cloth or fabric) industry. In the town of Valley, you can see a reminder of that time. The Historic Riverdale Mill there is built over the Chattahoochee River. Built in 1866, the mill is partly in Alabama and partly in Georgia.

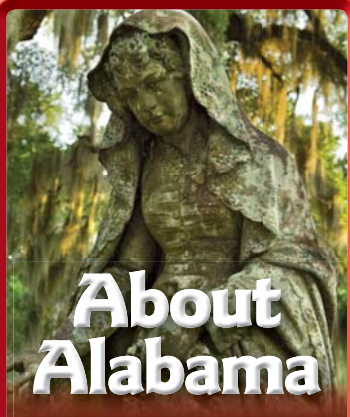
## Beautiful and Interesting

Alabama has many places of historical interest, manmade and natural. Visiting these sites will help you understand our state.

Near Spanish Fort, go to Blakeley State Park to inspect a Civil War battlefield. The park has over five miles of preserved breastworks (earthen walls for defense). Take a boat trip to learn about the plant and animal life of the Mobile Bay area.

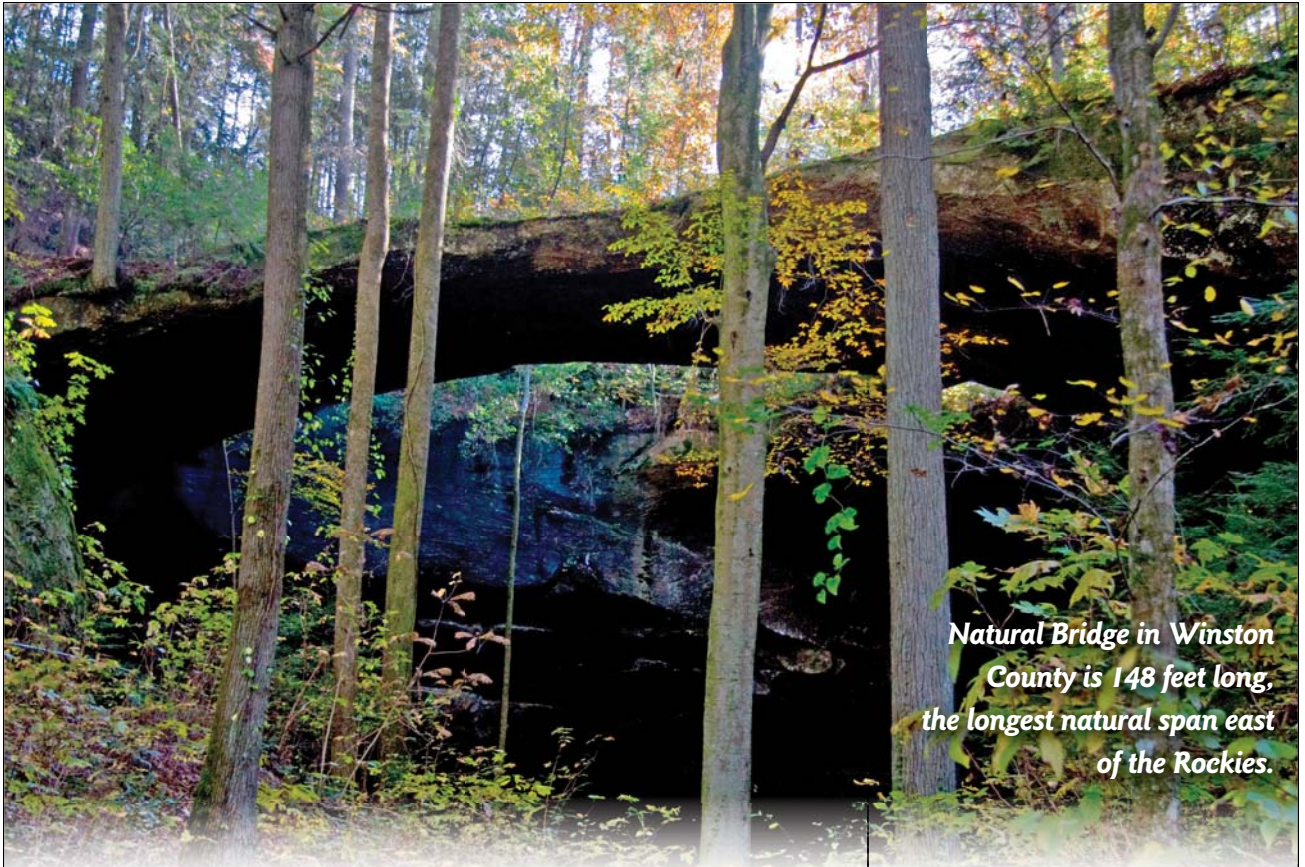
As you travel in the southern part of Alabama, visit Dothan's Landmark Park. In this 100-acre park, you can learn about the history of the Wiregrass region. (**Wiregrass** is an area that includes southeast Alabama and parts of Florida and Georgia.) There is a farm from the 1890s, a general store, and a planetarium. (A **planetarium** is a building with a special ceiling that shows the night sky and stars.) Head west to Monroeville and visit the Old Courthouse Museum. If you come in May, you can see the famous play *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

On Dauphin Island, you can take a boat ride. You will tour the habitats of the barrier islands and the Gulf of Mexico. (**Habitat** is the place where animals or plants live.) The Audubon Bird Sanctuary there is a great place for bird watching.



## About Alabama

Mobile has some very old cemeteries. Magnolia Cemetery includes Confederate Rest, National, and Jewish cemeteries. In Selma, walk quietly through the Live Oak Cemetery. Read the headstones in these cemeteries to find stories from the past.



*Natural Bridge in Winston County is 148 feet long, the longest natural span east of the Rockies.*

Near Fort Payne are DeSoto State Park and the beautiful Little River Canyon. The canyon was made a national preserve in 1992. You can learn about this interesting canyon at an education center.

Two wonders of nature are in the northwestern part of the state. In Winston County, you can visit Natural Bridge. This natural rock arch is 148 feet long. It is the longest one east of the Rocky Mountains. Dismals Canyon in Franklin County is a strange place. It has little lights that glow at night. The lights are actually tiny, glowing insects. The forest has many plants and animals found nowhere else.

This trip through the state just makes us want to learn more.

### **Think It Through!**

- 1. What is Alabama's most famous ghost town?**
- 2. What baseball field is over 100 years old?**
- 3. What church was built with materials from Greece?**
- 4. What town is older than the state?**

## **About Alabama**

**The Wiregrass Museum of Art in Dothan has “recycled” a building from 1913. The museum and a conference center are in the old Dothan Municipal Light and Water Plant.**

# Section 3

## Sports and Recreation



### As you read, look for

- the types of outdoor recreation found in Alabama;
- the different levels of team sports;
- the different types of sports to watch;
- terms: **destination**, **whitewater**.

**What do you daydream about? Are you thinking about being** on the soccer field? Or is your mind on the parallel bars in gymnastics? Maybe you are thinking about the boating fun that your family had last summer. Or you could be looking ahead to the football games you will go to this fall. Alabama offers plenty of sports and recreation choices. You can be part of the action or just watch.

*Alabama's water resources offer a variety of recreational activities, from fishing for bluegill (above), to enjoying America's first wave pool at Point Mallard Park in Decatur (right), to kayaking the Alabama Scenic River Trail (opposite page, below).*



## Recreation

Alabama has many outdoor places for you and tourists to enjoy. There are lakes, rivers and streams, and the Gulf Coast. There are also forests and wide-open spaces—perfect places for all types of outdoor recreation. These places make our state a popular **destination** (the end of a trip) for tourists. These visitors like to go camping, fishing, hunting, and boating. These activities are popular with Alabamians too!

## On the Water

Some of the most popular outdoor activities in Alabama are canoeing and kayaking. The state has many streams and rivers ideal for these uses. Alabama offers everything from flat floating to exciting **whitewater** (fast-moving water; rapids) river trips.

The Alabama Scenic River Trail is 631 miles long. That makes it the longest canoe river trail in any single state. The trail begins at the Georgia-



## Map I Alabama Scenic River Trail

**Map Skill:** Since water flows downhill, which would be easier to paddle and take less time: (A) from Fort Morgan to Centre? or (B) from Centre to Fort Morgan?



**Top:** A hiker pauses to admire the beauty of a north Alabama mountain stream. **Above:** Every year, Orange Beach hosts the Red Snapper World Championship fishing tournament.

Alabama state line on the Coosa River and ends at Fort Morgan. It takes at least 30 days to canoe the entire trail.

Alabama's lakes, rivers, and seashore attract anglers (people who like to fish). Many kinds of anglers find good fishing in Alabama. Catfish, bass, trout, and deep-sea fishing are all popular in the state.

### **Hiking and Camping**

Hiking is very popular in Alabama. Two favorite trails are the Chief Ladiga Trail and the Natchez Trace Parkway. The Chief

Ladiga Trail is a 33-mile-long rails-to-trails path. This former railroad track is paved for use by hikers and cyclists. The smooth surface travels through Cleburne and Calhoun counties in the Talladega National Forest.

The Chief Ladiga Trail connects with the Silver Comet Trail in Cedartown, Georgia. Together the trails are over 100 miles long. They are perfect for hiking, walking, bicycling, rollerblading, and dog walking.

The scenic Flint Creek Trail in the Bankhead Forest is an easy hike. Its trails are part of the Natchez Trace system. Bird watchers and nature lovers will enjoy visiting this spot.

Many of the people canoeing, fishing, or hiking in Alabama are also camping. They can choose from state parks and historic sites. There are also many private campgrounds. There is a state program called Forever Wild that buys land for public recreational use. It has preserved 209,874 acres of wild and natural areas in the last 20 years. But there is more to do at state parks than camping, fishing, and hiking. They are also good places to explore caves and study nature. You could also have a picnic or just relax. You can do many of these things in city and county parks too.

## **Golf**

Because of our state's good climate, golfers can play year-round. The state has many fine golf courses. Whether you are male or female, young or old, Alabama has a golf course for



**Above:** Huntsville's Monte Sano State Park offers beautiful views of the mountains. **Below:** The Cypress Bend Golf Course near Gulf Shores was designed by the famous golfer Arnold Palmer.





**Above: The Ross Bridge Golf Course near Birmingham is one of 11 sites that make up the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Below: Bryant-Denny Stadium at the University of Alabama was recently expanded to hold over 100,000 people. That is far more than the population of most Alabama towns.**

you. The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is huge. It was the largest golf course building project ever built. With 468 holes at 11 sites, the courses cover Alabama from north to south.

## Sports

People in Alabama are wild about sports and sports teams. On almost any day of the year, Alabamians are playing some kind of organized sport. Choose your favorites: golf, soccer, baseball, football, softball, gymnastics, basketball, swimming, volleyball, horseback riding, or track and field.

There are teams at all levels. Schools have teams and cities have sports programs. There are also private leagues. Then there are just teams made up of the kids in the neighborhood.

Team sports are often connected with schools. Does your school or the local high school have a team? You can also find team sports at colleges and universities. Many of Alabama's college-level teams play before huge crowds. Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa holds over 100,000 people. And at every Auburn home game, Jordan-Hare Stadium fills with more than 85,000 fans.

Alabama also has professional baseball teams such as the Huntsville Stars, the Birmingham Barons, the Montgomery



## Figure 3 Racetracks in Alabama

Atmore*	Huntsville*	Montgomery*	Pritchard
Butler County	Irvington	Moulton*	Shelby County
Clanton	Lafayette	Munford	Talladega
Flomaton	Lanett	Opp	Tuscumbia
Glencoe	Leeds	Phenix City	Woodstock*

\*Drag racing



Biscuits, and the Mobile Bay Bears. Fans enjoy watching these teams and cheering for them.

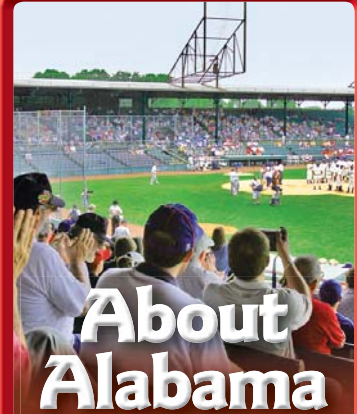
### Auto Racing

Automobile racing is also very popular in Alabama. Stock car, truck, go-kart racing, pony stock, and drag racing tracks are all over the state.

The Talladega Superspeedway is the biggest, fastest, and most competitive superspeedway in the world. It is a NASCAR track. (NASCAR is the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc.) The track is 2.66 miles long and 4 lanes wide. Stock cars have reached speeds of 220 miles per hour at Talladega.

### Think About It!

1. Name some sports that Alabamians like to take part in.
2. Name some sports that Alabamians like to watch.
3. What is the fastest superspeedway in the world?



The Negro Baseball Leagues had a very successful team called the Black Barons. The white team was called the Birmingham Barons. Both teams played at Rickwood Field (above).



# Chapter Review

## Summary

Alabamians love their state and love to have fun. They hold festivals and fairs to celebrate the wonderful places, people, food, art, and music of their lives. The fairs have rides, food, and games. People bring their farm animals, crafts, and cooking to be judged.

Parts of Alabama's history can be found all over the state. Many buildings, forts, battlefields, and cemeteries have stories to tell. We need to visit these historic places to learn about our state's past.

Sports and recreation are important for everyone, young and old. Our rivers, lakes, and seashores give us many chances to boat, swim, and fish. We love our sports teams—from neighborhood to professional. Young people have many chances to play on organized teams. Golf is important all over the state for recreation and tourism.



## Remember

On a separate piece of paper, number from 1 to 10. Choose the correct word from the list to match its meaning in the next column. Write the word next to the number. Be careful. You will not use all of the words.

Architecture

Cajuns

Destination

Exhibit

Future Farmers of America

Heritage

Industry

Settlers

Site

Theme

Whitewater

Wiregrass

1. Area of southeastern Alabama
2. End of a trip or journey
3. People who go to live in a new area
4. Style of a building
5. Fast moving water, rapids causing waves
6. Student club with a livestock focus
7. People of French heritage living in Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama
8. Factory or other place to work and make products or services
9. A display to show something
10. Subject



## Reviewing the Facts

1. Name three foods that have their own festivals.
2. What do farmers bring to the fair?
3. Who is honored in Mobile for restarting Mardi Gras after the Civil War?
4. Mooresville has an unusual thing at the top of a church steeple. What is it?
5. Where is the Civil Rights Institute located?

6. Where would you go to see a re-creation of an old village with actors playing the parts of the villagers?
7. In your canoe or kayak, what trail can you paddle on for over 600 miles?



### Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. What good things can a fun or historic site do for your town or city?
2. If you are a sports fan, why do you cheer for your team?



### Making Decisions

1. You only have time to visit one festival or fair, one historic site, or one sports outing. Which would you choose? Why?
2. If it were raining, what kind of event would you go to?



### Project

On an outline map of Alabama, locate 10 of the festivals named in the chapter. Number from 1 to 10 on a piece of paper and write the festival names. Beside each name, write a word or two that describes what *kind* of festival it is (art, food).



### Writing

Pretend you have visited one of the places named in the chapter. Write a letter to a friend telling all about your trip. (What did you see, hear, taste, feel?)



### Preparing for Tests

**Multiple Choice**—These questions are like those you may see on tests.

Write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

1. A wonderful place to learn about history where the people do not speak is a...
  - A. Festival
  - B. Sport
  - C. Cemetery
  - D. Museum
2. If you go to Dauphin Island to tour the habitats of the barrier islands, which vehicle would you ride?
  - A. Train
  - B. Boat
  - C. Car
  - D. Golf cart



### Using Technology

You are going to explore places in Alabama that are on the National Register of Historic Places. Using the Internet, go to [preserveala.org](http://preserveala.org) and look under Preservation Programs. There you can find a list of historic places in the state that are on the national register.

Select a county from the list (maybe the county where you or a relative lives). Scroll through the list and write the names of these places. Then put a check by them if you have seen the site. List all of them or just ten if there are more than ten.