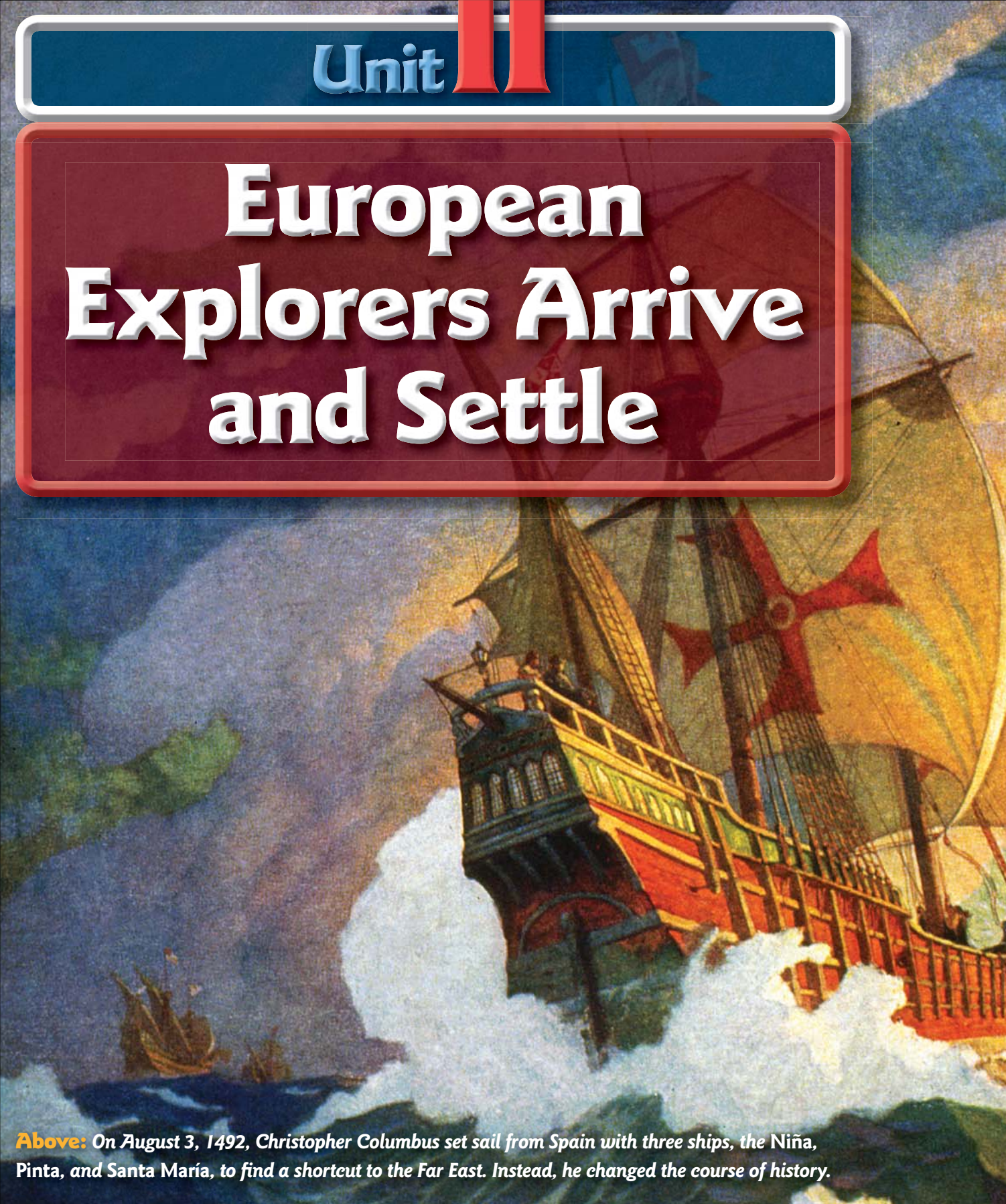
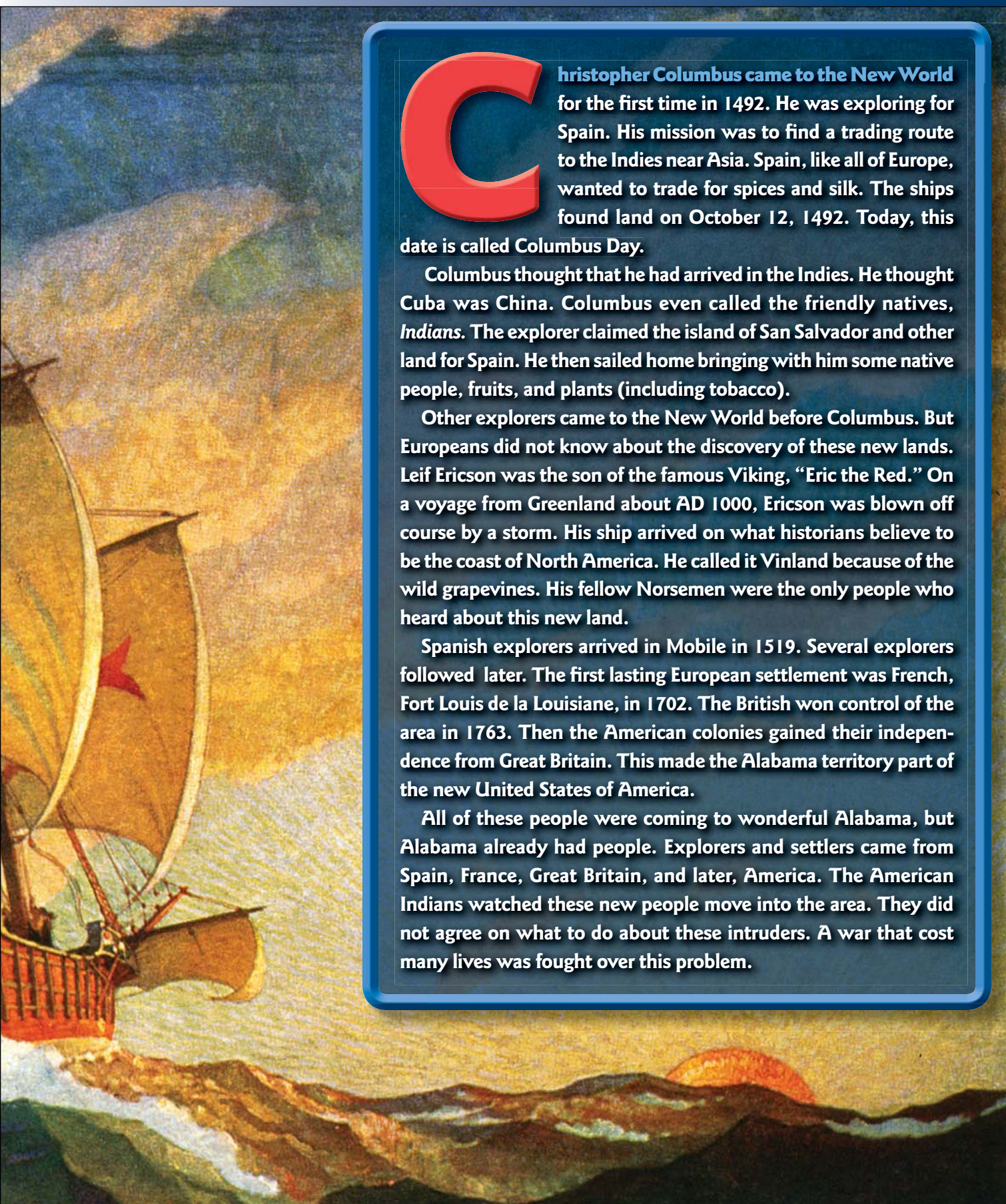


Unit II

European Explorers Arrive and Settle



Above: On August 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain with three ships, the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María, to find a shortcut to the Far East. Instead, he changed the course of history.



Christopher Columbus came to the New World for the first time in 1492. He was exploring for Spain. His mission was to find a trading route to the Indies near Asia. Spain, like all of Europe, wanted to trade for spices and silk. The ships found land on October 12, 1492. Today, this date is called Columbus Day.

Columbus thought that he had arrived in the Indies. He thought Cuba was China. Columbus even called the friendly natives, *Indians*. The explorer claimed the island of San Salvador and other land for Spain. He then sailed home bringing with him some native people, fruits, and plants (including tobacco).

Other explorers came to the New World before Columbus. But Europeans did not know about the discovery of these new lands. Leif Ericson was the son of the famous Viking, “Eric the Red.” On a voyage from Greenland about AD 1000, Ericson was blown off course by a storm. His ship arrived on what historians believe to be the coast of North America. He called it Vinland because of the wild grapevines. His fellow Norsemen were the only people who heard about this new land.

Spanish explorers arrived in Mobile in 1519. Several explorers followed later. The first lasting European settlement was French, Fort Louis de la Louisiane, in 1702. The British won control of the area in 1763. Then the American colonies gained their independence from Great Britain. This made the Alabama territory part of the new United States of America.

All of these people were coming to wonderful Alabama, but Alabama already had people. Explorers and settlers came from Spain, France, Great Britain, and later, America. The American Indians watched these new people move into the area. They did not agree on what to do about these intruders. A war that cost many lives was fought over this problem.

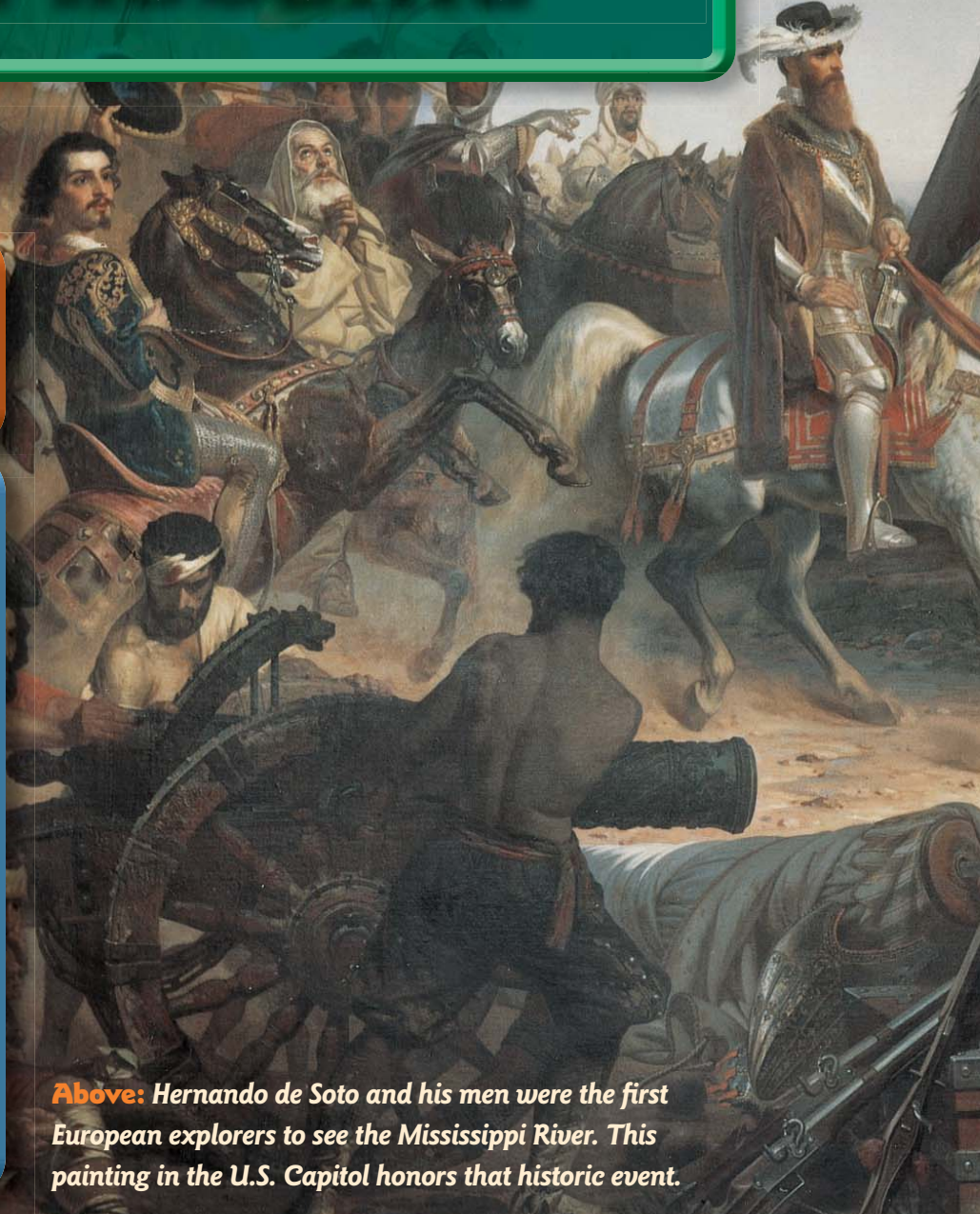
Chapter 3

Europeans Come to Alabama

Chapter Preview

TERMS

colony, immunity, ancestor, journal, conquistador, governor, interpreter, *entrada*, slave, permanent, expedition, tax, Declaration of Independence, American Revolution, command, boundary, survey, Articles of Confederation, delegate, constitution, legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch, United States Constitution, ratify, amendment



Above: *Hernando de Soto and his men were the first European explorers to see the Mississippi River. This painting in the U.S. Capitol honors that historic event.*



In the late 1400s, Europeans began arriving in the New World. Some European explorers came looking for gold. Some wanted to be famous like earlier successful explorers. Several European nations wanted to set up colonies. (A **colony** is a settlement of people in a new land who are ruled by their homeland.) King Philip II of Spain wanted colonies to help spread the Roman Catholic faith. He also wanted to stop England, a Protestant nation, from placing colonies in the New World.

American Indians, explorers, and settlers did not agree on how to share the land. Each group had different ideas about caring for the land and the animals. This conflict between European settlers and the Indians led to war.

Focus on Reading Skills

Reading a Circle Graph

Learning

Circle graphs, or *pie graphs*, are a helpful way to read numbers in a picture. When you read the circle graph, you can compare the parts like pieces of a pie.

Circle graphs have a title and a source of information. Sometimes the parts have different colors. The legend tells what each color means.

Practicing

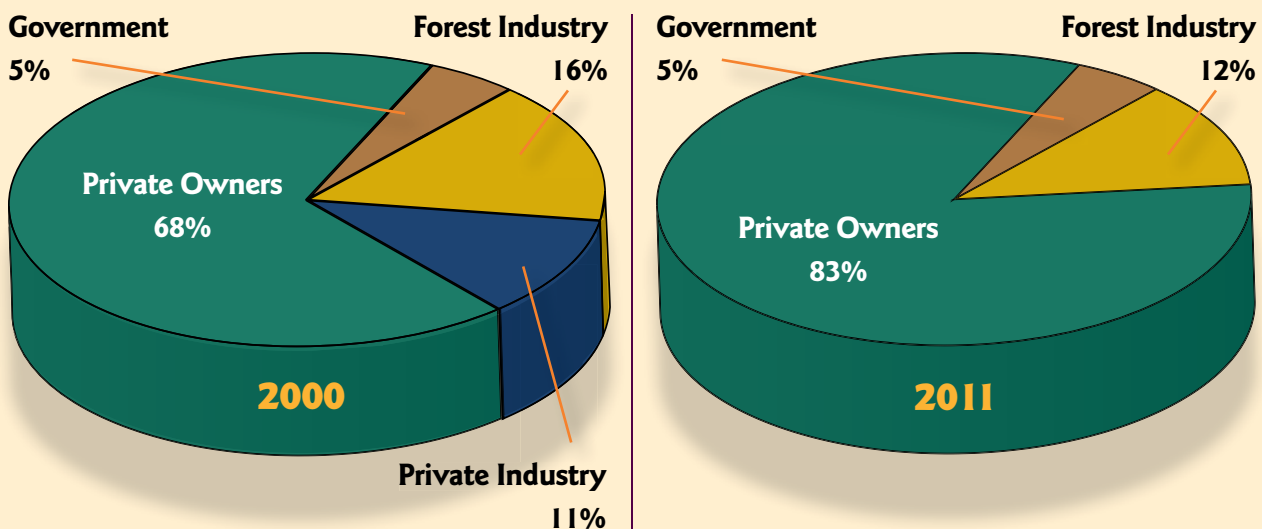
Read the graphs below. Which part is largest in each graph? Which is smallest?

You can tell changes over time with two graphs. What caused the changes? Every five years, Alabama does a new count or survey of the state's forests. This gives us information on how the forests change. With each change we must ask, "Why did this number go up or down?" Hurricanes, tornadoes, and insects are three causes of forest loss.

Which group of owners grew larger between 2000 and 2011? Which two groups of owners were combined in the 2011 circle?

Alabama Forest Ownership

Total acreage: almost 23 million



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Section I

The Spanish Explore Alabama

As you read, look for

- why the Spanish explored;
- the explorers who visited Alabama;
- the reasons for conflict between the Indians and the Spanish;
- terms: *immunity*, *ancestor*, *journal*, *conquistador*, *governor*, *interpreter*, *entrada*, *slave*, *permanent*.

Figure 9
Timeline:
1450 to 1850



1540
De Soto explored Alabama

1519
De Pineda mapped
Mobile Bay area



1559
De Luna tried to set up
colony in Mobile area

1700
French explorers arrived in
Alabama



1711
Le Moyne brothers moved
colony to Mobile area



1815
All of Alabama
became a part
of the United
States





Above: *Imagine looking out of your window and seeing strange-looking aliens climbing out of a spaceship in your backyard. That must have been just how the American Indians felt when they saw Christopher Columbus and his men land on October 12, 1492.*

The first explorers in the land that is now Alabama were from Spain. They were looking for wealth (riches). They also wanted to claim the land for Spain. Gold and silver had already been found in Mexico and Peru. The Spanish explorers hoped to find gold along the Gulf Coast. They came to Mobile Bay and the land around the bay.

Unknown to the Europeans, the explorers also brought diseases with them. The Europeans had a natural **immunity** (resistance) to most of the diseases. But the Indians did not have immunity, and the diseases were deadly to them. Thousands of Indians died from smallpox, measles, chicken pox, influenza, and diphtheria. Some historians believe the entire Mississippian Indian culture died from these diseases.

Cultures Clash

When the American Indians met the Europeans, their two cultures clashed. The Indians' beliefs were very different from the beliefs of the white men. American Indians believed they were a part of nature. In their culture, the land belonged to everyone, not to any one person. They did not desire to own the land or become wealthy.

In war, the American Indians did not have armor or weapons like the white men. Horses were also unknown to them. The Indians had no written language at that time. They could not send detailed battle plans to one another.

The Indians believed in a supreme being. Different tribes used different names for this being. They believed that he lived in the sky and the sun was his sign.

The Indians of Alabama lived in large extended families called clans. Some believed that animals were their ancestors. (An **ancestor** is a person from long ago who is a direct relative.) They called themselves names like the Wolf Clan or the Deer Clan. Animal spirits were very important to their culture.

Europeans wanted to own land and all that was on it. They desired to become wealthy. The Europeans came from strong nations such as Spain, France, and Great Britain. These countries were often at war with each other in Europe. Wars are costly, so these countries always needed money.

These European explorers wanted to colonize land for their king. They each wanted riches such as gold to send home. They were willing to fight to get what they wanted.

All of the Europeans had muskets, pistols, and cannons. These weapons were better than the bows, arrows, clubs, and tomahawks of the American Indians. Imagine fighting on foot against an armor-wearing enemy on horseback. The Indians could not see the bullets fly through the air. This was frightening for them.

Alonso Álvarez de Pineda, Spanish Explorer

Alonso Álvarez de Pineda and his men sailed into the “Bay of the Holy Spirit” in 1519. This area is today’s Mobile Bay. For more than a month, de Pineda looked around for a good place to start a colony.

He drew maps of the Mobile area to help future explorers. De Pineda also kept a **journal** (daily writings like a diary). In the journal, he wrote about a large and friendly Indian village near the bay. He noted that there were more than 40 other villages along the Mobile River. His maps and journal established de Pineda as the first known explorer of the land we call Alabama.



Above: *The Indians greatly outnumbered the explorers. But the Spanish carried modern weapons. This gave them a huge advantage.*

Below: Spanish explorer *Hernando de Soto's* group landed at Tampa Bay on May 25, 1539. In the years that followed, the explorers traveled all through the Southeast, including today's Alabama. They became the first Europeans to cross the Mississippi River. De Soto died during the journey. The survivors made their way to Mexico.

Conquistador Hernando de Soto

Hernando de Soto was an experienced **conquistador** (Spanish conqueror) before he came to Alabama. The Spanish king made Hernando de Soto governor of Cuba and Florida. (A **governor** is the head of the executive level of a state or territorial government.) Then Spain sent him to look for gold in the southeastern part of North America. Another part of his mission was to claim land for Spain. The Spanish believed they had a God-given right to claim land.

De Soto left Cuba in 1539 with about 600 people, mostly men. There were soldiers, carpenters, farmers, and friars (religious men who help others). They brought with them horses, hogs, and some Irish hounds. Some of the men could read and write. Most of what we know about de Soto comes from their diaries.

Before entering Alabama, de Soto and his soldiers sailed to Florida. For about a year, they traveled through present-day



Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Some people rode horses while others walked. They captured Indians during their journey. One of these captives was really a Spaniard named Juan Ortiz. He had been living with the Indians. Ortiz became the interpreter for de Soto. (An **interpreter** is a person who translates from one language to another.)

Then de Soto crossed the Tennessee River into the northeastern corner of Alabama. The explorers were cruel to the American Indians they met along the way. They took food and treasures from the Indians and forced them to carry their supplies. Sometimes they chained the Indians together. If any escaped, de Soto sent the hounds to find them. There is an account of de Soto taking an Indian chief prisoner. He told the villagers he would kill their chief if they did not obey his orders.

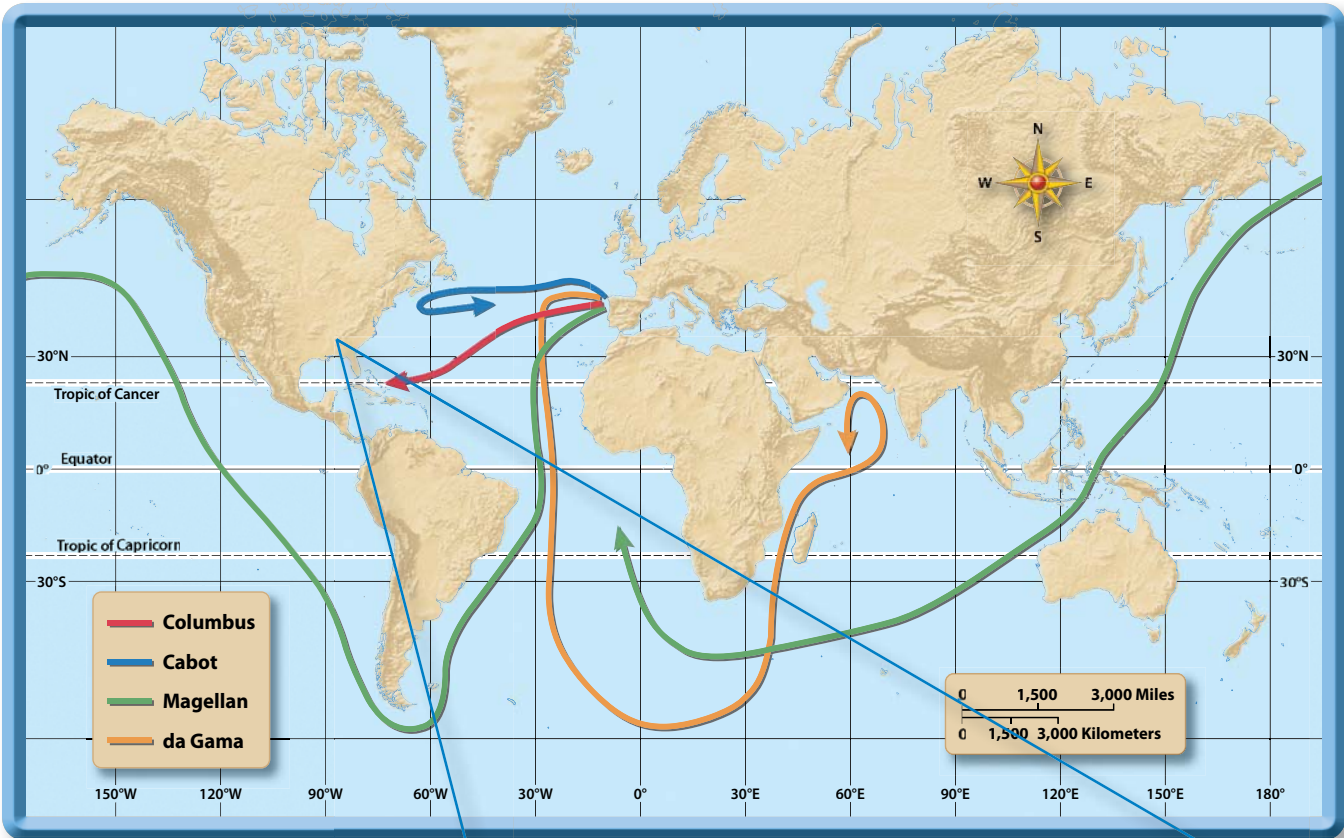
When de Soto's army got to the Indian village of Coosa, near present-day Childersburg, two of his men asked to stay there. They were a black man named Robles and a white man named Feryada. These men became the first known non-Indian settlers in what is now Alabama.



About Alabama

Desoto, DeSoto, or de Soto are common spellings found when reading about Hernando de Soto. It is also correct to write "Soto." Other words have different spellings too, such as Tuscaloosa, Tuscalusa, and Tuskaloosa.



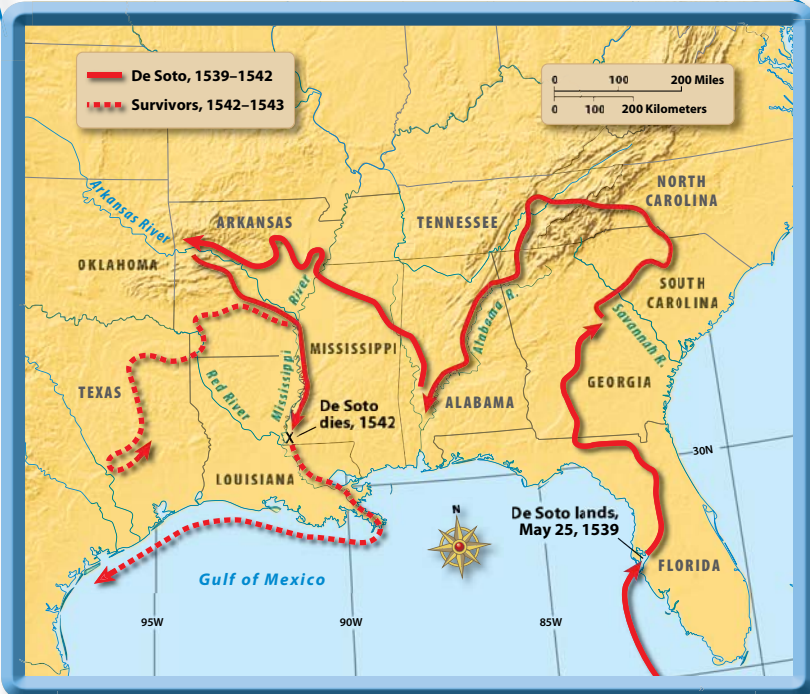


Map 9 Routes of European Explorers

Map Skill: Which two explorers rounded the southern tip of Africa?

Map 10 De Soto's Exploration Route

Map Skill: How many of today's states did de Soto explore on his travels?



De Soto Meets Chief Tuskaloosa

In the fall of 1540, de Soto and his men met Chief Tuskaloosa (“Black Warrior”). At the meeting, Chief Tuskaloosa sat in a chair that looked like a throne. He wore a cape of feathers that

reached the ground. When Tuskaloosa stood, de Soto saw that he was over seven feet tall!

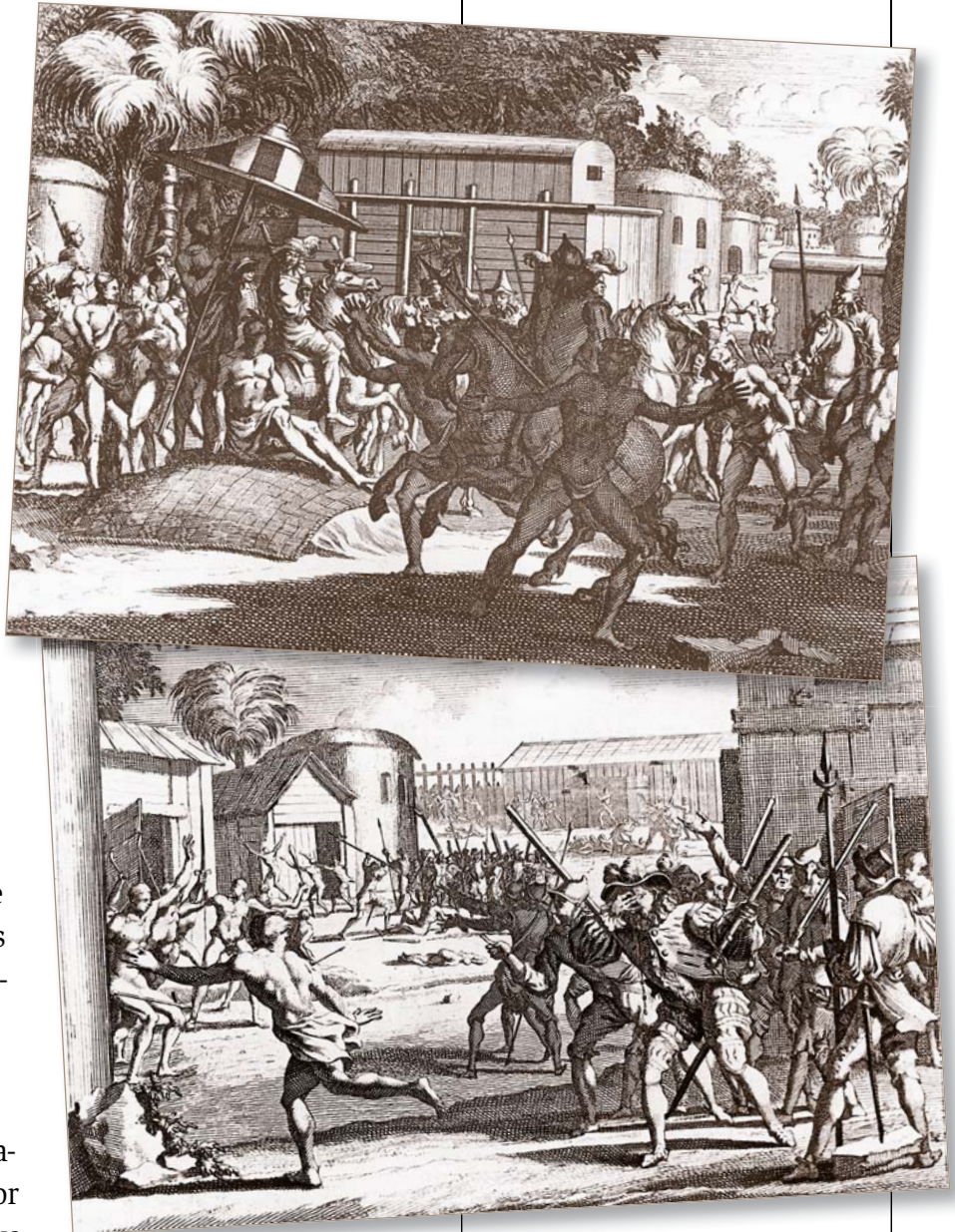
Hernando de Soto knew Tuskaloosa was a powerful chief. He gave Tuskaloosa gifts to try and win his friendship. The best Spanish riders put on a show. The horsemen tried to frighten the chief by riding fast and close to him. The explorer then gave the chief the largest horse he had. When the tall chief got on the horse, his feet almost touched the ground.

De Soto asked Tuskaloosa for 400 Indians to carry the Spaniards' supplies. Tuskaloosa agreed to this plan. But he had heard of de Soto's cruelty to other Indians. The chief decided it was time to stop what the explorers had been doing to the American Indians. Tuskaloosa invited de Soto and his men to the village of Maubila. Tuskaloosa then sent one of his braves on ahead. This messenger told the tribe's warriors to attack the Spaniards.

The Battle at Maubila

No one knows the exact location of Maubila ("Mabila" or "Mauvila"). Historians believe it was somewhere between present-day Selma and Mobile. The village had a clay wall around it with lookout towers. Inside the wall, many large houses faced a public square.

When the group reached Maubila, de Soto took only a few of his men inside the walls. One of the men wrote that they walked around and talked with the Indians. He said the Indians began to sing and dance.



These old European engravings show the meeting of de Soto and Chief Tuskaloosa (top) and the battle at Maubila (above).

Below: In 1558, King Philip II of Spain sent Guido de las Bazaes to survey Mobile Bay. Bazaes reported to the king that it would make an ideal location for a colony.



Then, everything changed. One of de Soto's men wrote, "They all began to shoot arrows at us, some from within the houses ...and some from without." The Spaniards ran for the gate. De Soto then led his whole army into battle. The fighting lasted all day. At the end of the day, Maubila was destroyed. More than 2,500 Indians lay dead. One of de Soto's men wrote, "We killed them all."

More than 20 of de Soto's men were killed and many others were hurt. The Spaniards stayed near Maubila nearly a month to rest. De Soto received a message that supply ships were waiting in Mobile Bay. The explorer did not tell his men because he was afraid they would leave him. De Soto led the group north, away from the ships.

The End of de Soto's Entrada

The explorers continued searching for gold. They crossed the Mississippi River into what is now Arkansas. Then they turned south into present-day Louisiana. In 1542, de Soto returned to the Mississippi River. There he became ill and died. His men buried him in the river so the Indians would not find his body. The survivors of the group built boats and escaped down the Mississippi River.

Hernando de Soto was the first white man to explore the Mississippi River. He did not find gold. But things learned on de Soto's *entrada* (journey, in Spanish) did help other explorers.

The old men of the tribes told stories to the younger Indians about de Soto. They told about white men who wore metal suits and rode "big deer." They told how these white men stole food and made slaves of Indians. (A **slave** is a person forced to work for someone regarded as the slave's owner.) They also destroyed villages and killed women and children. The Spanish gathered what they wanted by trading and stealing. The explorers left behind diseases, horses, pigs, and chickens.

Mapping Mobile Bay

King Philip II of Spain decided to start a Gulf Coast colony. The colony would protect Spanish treasure ships traveling in the Gulf of Mexico. In 1558, the king sent Guido de las Bazaes and three ships to make a map of the coast. Bazaes told the king that Mobile Bay would be a good location for a colony. It had timber for building and repairing ships. It also had plenty

of game and fish. There was land for grazing animals and clay for making bricks.

Don Tristán de Luna

The Spanish king chose Don Tristán de Luna to begin the first **permanent** (lasting) colony in the area of Mobile Bay. De Luna was a Spaniard living in Mexico. Historian Herbert Priestley describes the 1559 *entrada*:

There were five hundred [soldiers], one thousand colonists ...and two hundred and forty horses.... Ample supplies of corn, biscuit, bacon, dried beef, cheese, oil, vinegar, wine, and cattle ...were...on board. There were tools for building and digging... axes and mattocks for the farmers.

While the ships were being unloaded, a hurricane struck. Eight ships sank in the storm. Many of the people drowned and most of the supplies were lost. Tristán de Luna soon moved the colony to Pensacola Bay in Florida.

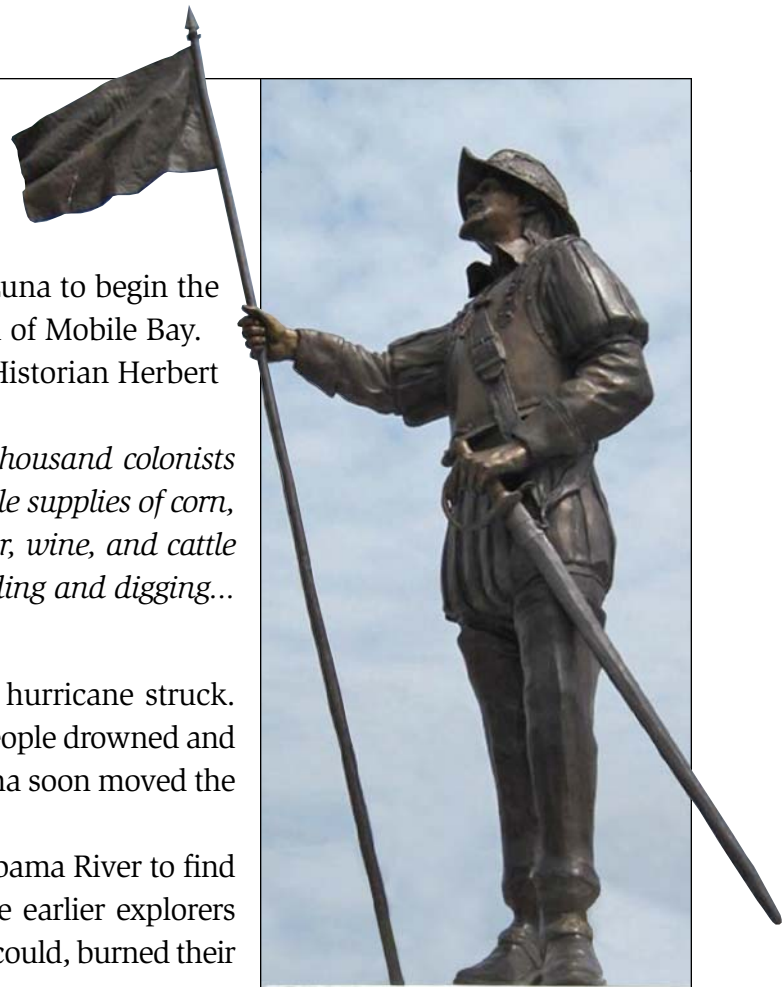
De Luna sent some of his men up the Alabama River to find food. But the Indians remembered what the earlier explorers had done. So the Indians gathered what they could, burned their fields, and fled their villages.

The Spaniard and his followers tried for two years to establish a colony. The people begged to leave because they were starving. Finally, they gave up and went back to Mexico.

Spain, France, and Great Britain were enemies in Europe and in North America. Spain sent Juan Barroti, and later, Marcus Delgado, to destroy any French colonies. The countries tried to keep each other from trading and having colonies.

Think It Through!

1. What country did the first explorers of Alabama come from?
2. Why did the diseases hurt the Indians so much more than the Europeans?
3. How do we know what happened on de Soto's exploration of Alabama?
4. Why did the Indians destroy their crops and flee from de Luna? What would you have done?



Above: The Florida city of Pensacola honored its founder, Tristán de Luna, with a statue. It is in Plaza de Luna Park.

About Alabama

Since 1992, archaeologists have found the wrecks of two of de Luna's ships in the waters of Pensacola Bay.

Spotlight on Archaeology

The Mystery of Moundville

Prehistoric Indians of the Mississippian culture built earthen mounds. These mounds are found in many parts of Alabama including Baldwin, Clarke, Marengo, Mobile, and Washington Counties. One of the largest and best-known Mound Builder villages in the United States is about 15 miles south of Tuscaloosa. The site, Moundville Archaeological Park, covers more than 300 acres.

The village, founded around AD 1120, is on a bluff overlooking the Black Warrior River.

It was once a center for ceremonies and meetings of chiefs. It was a planned city with a huge plaza in the middle. There are 26 mounds around the plaza. The largest mound is about 60 feet high and covers almost 2 acres. The site may also have been a fort.

In 2001, archaeologists discovered an underground council house in Moundville. The council house is 50 feet long on each side and has timber walls. It was a meeting place for Indian chiefs from the





Above: Moundville is the second-largest Mississippian culture site in the country. **Opposite page, inset:** The Willoughby disk is a piece of carved stone used by priests in ceremonies. **Opposite page, below:** At 58 feet, Mound B is the tallest at the site.

southeastern area. Archaeologists have found ceramic smoking pipes, pottery shards (pieces), a stone ax head, spear points, and small pieces of copper. Testing showed that the structure was probably built and used in the 1400s.

The Spanish explorers arrived in Alabama during the 1500s. But by then, the Mound Builder villages were deserted. Most of the Mississippian Indians had disappeared from Alabama. What happened to the Mound Builders? This highly developed culture lasted for a time and then mysteriously declined. Some people believe the Indians died of diseases brought by the explorers. Others say drought or Indian wars caused the decline. No one knows now, but archaeologists are still looking for clues.

Section 2

The French Arrive in Alabama

Below: *Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, was chosen by Louis XIV of France to explore the Gulf Coast. He was looking for a good place to establish a colony.*

As you read, look for

- why the French came to Alabama;
- the location of the French settlements;
- what the Indians traded;
- term: **expedition**.



The Indians were left alone for a long time after de Luna's colony failed. More than 100 years passed before French explorers came to present-day Alabama. King Louis XIV of France wanted a colony on the Gulf Coast. He chose Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, to lead an expedition of 5 ships. (An **expedition** is a trip made by a group for a special purpose such as exploring unknown lands.) His teenaged brother, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, carried out his brother's orders.

When the French first sailed near the coast of Alabama in 1699, they landed on an island. They saw huge piles of bones there. It was a scary sight for the explorers, so they called it Massacre Island.

They continued to sail west to where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Then they turned back east and built a fort near present-day Biloxi, Mississippi. They called it Fort

Maurepas. It became the capital of all land claimed by the French in Alabama and Mississippi. They called the area Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV.



From the beginning, Iberville did not like the location of Fort Maurepas. He sent scouts to explore the Mobile Bay area. The men reported fertile farmland farther up the Mobile River. Iberville went back to France. He asked the king about moving the fort to the Mobile area.

The king agreed to move the colony upriver. Iberville used Massacre Island as a port and renamed it Port Dauphine (today's Dauphin Island). The main colony moved up the Mobile River to Twenty-seven Mile Bluff (near present-day Mt. Vernon). The French built a town without walls to make trading with the Indians easier. This was unusual because most towns in North America at this time had walls.

The French then built a fort nearby to protect themselves from other Europeans. They named the new location Fort Louis de la Louisiane. Behind the fortress was a village called La Mobile.

Establishing a Permanent Colony

The king wanted a permanent colony in this new land. Most of the men wanted to get rich and go back to France. Bienville thought that if the men had French wives, they might forget about returning to France. To help him, the French government

Above: *An artist's idea of what Fort Louis de la Louisiane might have looked like.*

About Alabama

The 1704 records of Fort Louis included a forge, a gunsmith shop, a kiln to make bricks, 80 one-story wooden houses, farm animals, 180 men, 27 families with 10 children, and 11 Indian slave boys and girls.



Above: Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, the younger brother of Iberville, was the first governor of the French colony on Mobile Bay.

About Alabama

Bienville served as governor of the French colony four times.

sent young women to the new settlement at Mobile.

The young women, under the care of two nuns, arrived in 1704 on the supply ship, *Pélican*. In just a short time, most of the 23 young women were married. They seemed pleased with everything in the New World—except for the food. The new wives were not fond of wild game, cornbread, and grits.

Legend has it that Bienville's housekeeper taught the young wives how to cook the local seafood and game. They also learned tasty ways to prepare the vegetables that the colonists grew.

Yellow Fever Causes a Move

The *Pélican* stopped in Cuba before coming to Port Dauphine. While in Cuba, some people on board the ship caught yellow

fever. They brought the disease to the colony. People did not know that infected mosquitoes carried the yellow fever virus. The disease killed 60 of the *Pélican*'s crew and soldiers. The settlers began to think Fort Louis was not a healthy place to live.

There were also floods at the fort. In 1710, water got into the houses and washed away furniture, clothing, and cooking pots.

The colony moved to present-day Mobile in 1711. They built a cedar log fortress with a guardhouse, a warehouse, and a house for the governor. A few years later, a fort with brick walls replaced the wooden one. It was one of the finest fortresses in North America at that time. The French named it Fort Condé in honor of a French duke.

French Trading in Alabama Territory

The French wanted to trade more with the Indians. They also wanted to keep the British out of their trading area. So the French built Fort Toulouse. It was on a bluff near where the Coosa and



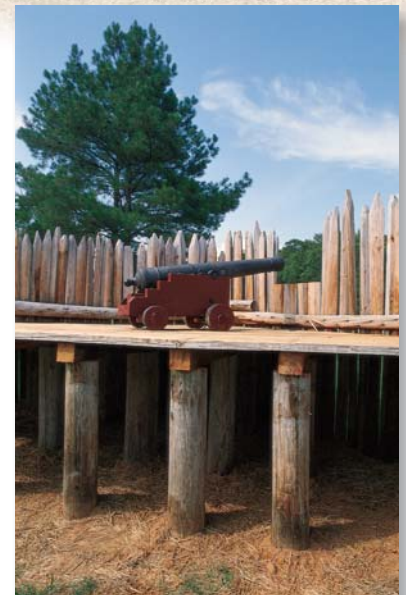
Tallapoosa Rivers join to make the Alabama River. While named Fort Toulouse, it was usually called the “Fort at the Alabamas.” There Frenchmen traded with the Indians. They swapped guns, cloth, bullets, knives, axes, and other goods for furs (pelts, skins).

There were other smaller French trading posts in Alabama. When the English traders came, they wanted to claim the land too. Sometimes it looked as if British and French settlers would fight each other. That is what their home countries were doing in Europe.

A Leased Colony

In Europe, France and Great Britain were at war. Because of the war, France could not afford to send supplies to its colony. So the French government sold the right to govern the colony to Antoine Crozat. He believed the future of the colony was in mining and trading. But Bienville, the governor, believed the colony’s future was in farming. So Crozat made Antoine de La Mothe, Sieur de Cadillac, the new governor.

Bienville did not leave Mobile. He became governor of the colony again three years later when Cadillac was ordered to France. Bienville is known as “The Builder.” He built Forts Louis



Top and above: *A reconstruction of Fort Toulouse has been built on its original site where the Tallapoosa and Coosa Rivers join to form the Alabama.*



de la Louisiane, Toulouse, and Tombeckbe. He founded (began or set up) or helped found Mobile, Port Dauphine, Biloxi, and New Orleans.

What France Left Behind

France lost its war with Great Britain. In 1763, France gave up Canada. It also lost all of its territory east of the Mississippi River. This area was part of the future United States of America. Spain received the city of New Orleans and the French lands west of the Mississippi.

leans and the French lands west of the Mississippi.

France tried for 150 years to establish colonies in North America. In the end, it had nothing but a few islands. The British flag replaced the French flag over all land east of the Mississippi.

There are still many things in Alabama to remind us of its French heritage. Each year, thousands of people gather in Mobile for *Mardi Gras*. Many streets in Mobile have French names. Some of these street names are Beauregard, Conti, Dauphin, Royal, and St. Francis.

Some houses in Mobile have a French look about them. The city is famous for its azaleas. The first azalea plants were brought to Mobile by French settlers. Bienville Square, which is named for the French leader, is in the center of Mobile. Bienville spent most of his life trying to build a colony for France in what later became Alabama.

Map II A Partial Street Map of Mobile

Map Skill: Look at the paragraph about Alabama's French heritage. Can you find some of the streets with French names on this map of Mobile?

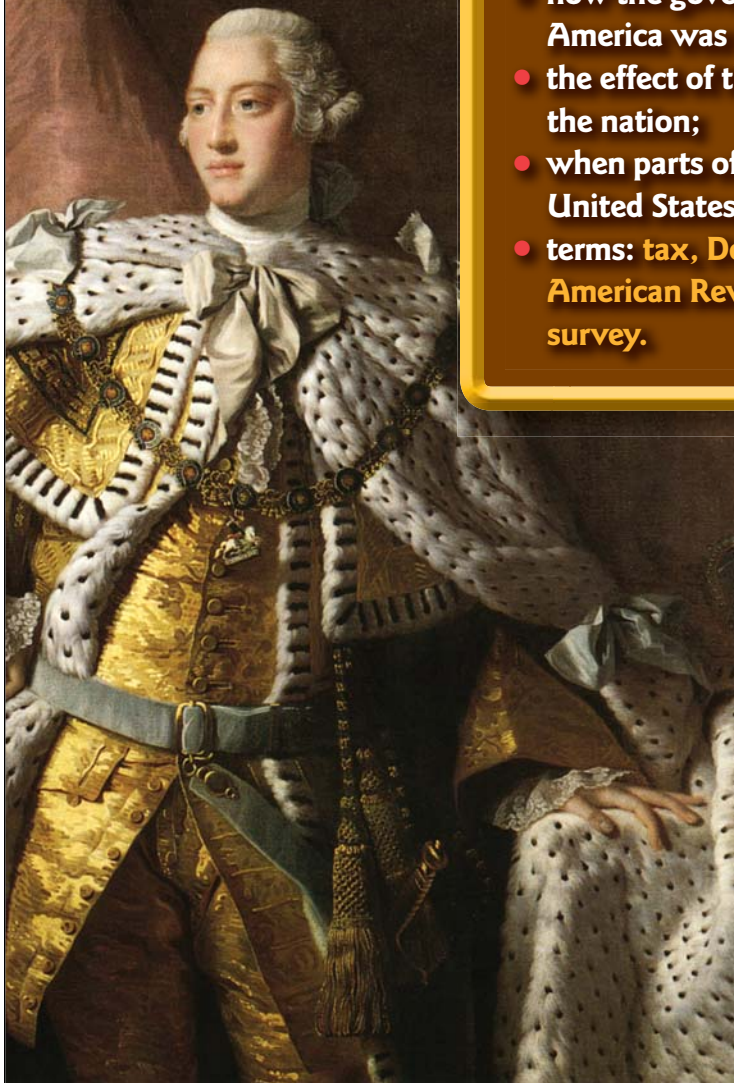
Think It Through!

1. Where was the first French colony in Alabama?
2. Why were young women brought to Mobile on the *Pélican*?
3. The Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers join to form the Alabama River. Why did the French build a fort at that location?

Section 3

From British Rule to Revolution

Below: The orders of British King George III would cause the American colonists to rise up in revolution.



As you read, look for

- why the British settled in Alabama;
- the reasons for the American Revolution;
- how the government of the United States of America was formed;
- the effect of the War of 1812 on Alabama and the nation;
- when parts of Alabama became part of the United States;
- terms: tax, Declaration of Independence, American Revolution, command, boundary, survey.

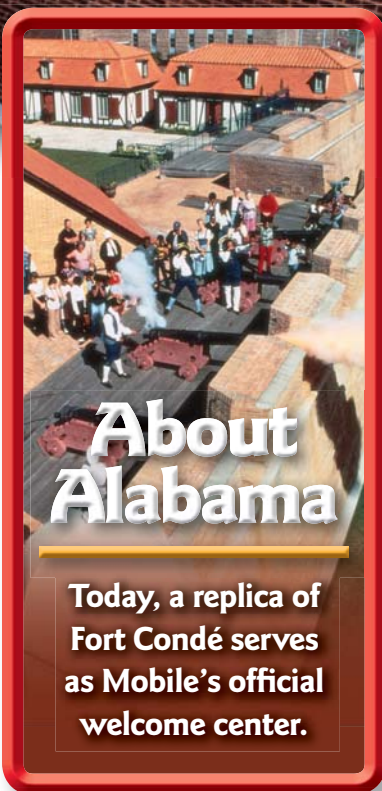
The British took over French land east of the Mississippi on October 20, 1763. This placed the future state of Alabama under the control of the British. In Mobile, the change of government was marked by raising the British flag over Fort Condé. Major Robert Farmar was the new officer in charge.

More Than a New Flag

A change of government was a very upsetting event in the territory. The British allowed the Roman Catholic church to stay, but they added an



Above: *Great Britain took control of the area that included Mobile in 1763. Fort Condé was renamed Fort Charlotte by the British.*



About Alabama

Today, a replica of Fort Condé serves as Mobile's official welcome center.

Anglican church. They let the French keep their property. They demanded that English be spoken and that people obey British common law. The British made some people move because they would not swear loyalty to Great Britain's King George III. More than half of the French settlers left Mobile.

Great Britain ruled Mobile for 17 years. The British repaired Fort Condé and renamed it Fort Charlotte. The British wanted to avoid costly Indian wars and encourage trade. For those reasons, they established the Proclamation Line of 1763. It was supposed to limit new British settlements. Europeans were not allowed on Indian lands that lay to the west of that line. But settlers kept moving into the area and the population grew.

Creek Chief Alexander McGillivray

Trade was as important to the British as it had been to the French. Many men came to the area to trade with the Indians. One of the best-known traders was a man from Scotland named Lachlan McGillivray. He married Sehoy Marchand, a Creek princess of the Wind clan. Sehoy's mother was Creek, and her father was a French army officer at Fort Toulouse.

The couple set up a trading post at Little Tallassee (near present-day Wetumpka). They named their first child Alexander. He spent his childhood with Indian boys learning to hunt, fish, and trap animals.

When Alexander was 15 years old, his father sent him to a school in Charleston, South Carolina. At first, Alexander was unhappy. He was used to Indian customs, clothes, food, and language. In Charleston, the people spoke English and had British customs.

In school, Alexander studied Greek, Latin, history, and literature. He met some British settlers and learned about their ways of life and doing business. Many people in Charleston wanted Alexander to stay there and become a lawyer. But after finishing school, he went back to his Creek people.

The Creek were happy to have Alexander at home. They made him their chief. Alexander spent his life trying to save Creek lands and make the Creek Nation strong.

The Creek were often angry and upset because white settlers were taking over their lands. Alexander seemed to know when to work with each of the different groups in the area. At one time, he sided with the British. He knew when to make peace with the Spanish and when to help the Americans. During his life, he was a colonel in the British army, a colonel in the Span-



Map 12 The Proclamation Line of 1763

Map Skill: Which colonies did not border the Proclamation Line?



Above: *George Washington led the American army during the American Revolution.*

Below: *The war ended when the British surrendered to George Washington (right, on brown horse) at Yorktown, Virginia.*



ish army, and a brigadier general in the American army! For him, though, his most important title was Chief of the Creek Nation.

Eventually, Alexander McGillivray had to choose one side. In 1790, President George Washington asked him to come to New York City. At that meeting, Washington convinced McGillivray to sign a treaty in favor of the United States.

The United States of America

By the 1770s, many colonists were unhappy with Great Britain’s rule. King George III made them pay high taxes, but they had no say about those taxes. (A **tax** is money charged to people and businesses for services provided by the government.) This “taxation without representation” caused big problems. On July 4, 1776, the colonists declared that they were free of Great Britain.

They did this by having representatives sign a document called the **Declaration of Independence**. The colonists then prepared to fight for the freedom to govern themselves.

The war to free colonists from Great Britain’s rule was called the **American Revolution**. Most of the war’s battles were fought in the North and along the East Coast. The only real battle fought in what became Alabama was between the Spanish and the British.

Spain and France were unhappy about having lost land to Great Britain in the past. The two countries decided to join the American colonists' fight against the British. In January 1780, Bernardo de Gálvez, the governor of Spanish Louisiana, set out for Mobile. He led his 11 Spanish ships into Mobile Bay and attacked Fort Charlotte. After 14 days, the British commander of the fort turned it over to the Spaniards on March 14, 1780. (To **command** is to be in charge; commander is a military title.)

The American Revolution finally ended in 1781. The British, weakened from fighting a long-distance war, retreated. In 1783, both countries signed the Treaty of Paris. This treaty recognized the independence of the United States. Not all of present-day Alabama was included in the United States at that time.

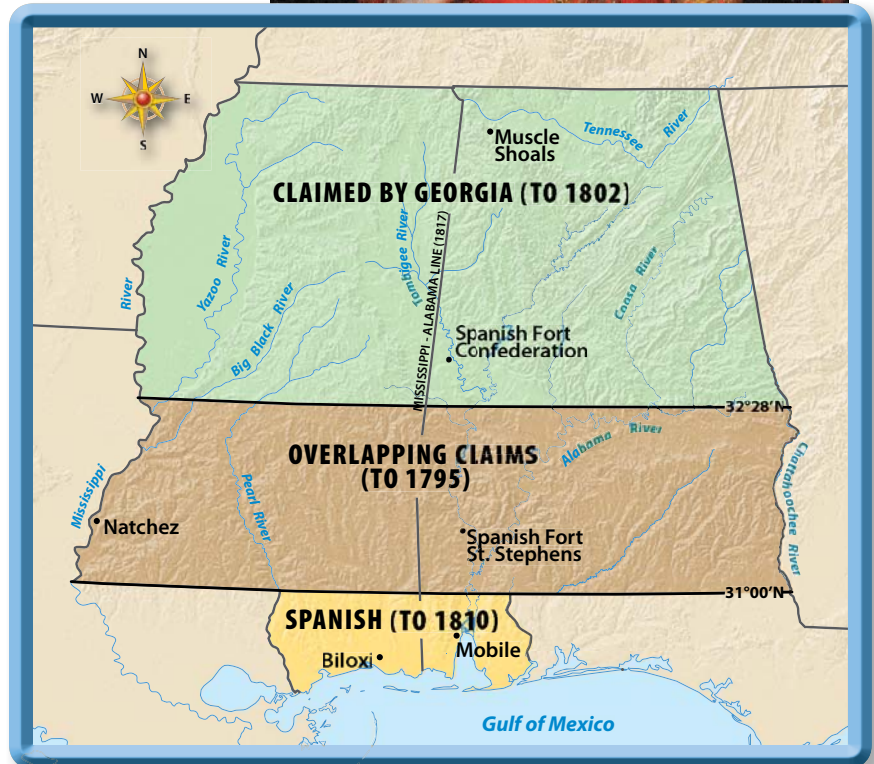
Andrew Ellicott's Stone

After the American Revolution, Spain controlled Florida and the land west of the Mississippi River. Most people did not know where Spanish Florida ended and the United States began. The two countries agreed on how to settle the **boundary** (border or line) problem. They decided that 31 degrees north (31° N) latitude would be the boundary between the United States and Spanish West Florida.

The United States hired Andrew Ellicott to **survey** (measure and map an area) and mark the boundary line. Sir William Dunbar did the same for Spain. The survey was finished in 1799 and the line was called Ellicott's Line. A stone marker was placed on the boundary line. This marker still stands today near the community of Bucks in Mobile County, Alabama. The line it marks is part of the boundary between Alabama and Florida.



Bernardo de Gálvez



Map 13 Spanish Alabama

Map Skill: After the American Revolution, what country claimed North Alabama?



Above: *President James Madison decided to declare war against Great Britain in 1812.*

Below: *Andrew Jackson is shown here (on the white horse) at the Battle of New Orleans. He led a ragtag army to victory over a larger force of trained British soldiers.*

The War of 1812

The War of 1812 was between Great Britain and the United States (1812–1815). There were several problems between the two countries that led to the war. Even after the American Revolution, the British still had troops in the Great Lakes area. The British also helped the Indians fight the Americans. The British would not trade goods if the Americans made the profit. The British often took sailors from American ships and made them work on British ships. This practice is called impressment. President James Madison signed Congress's declaration of war on June 18, 1812.

Great Britain planned to attack the United States in three places: New York, Chesapeake Bay, and New Orleans. America was a young country and was having great problems. The British were advancing. But America won the naval battle of Lake Champlain. The British then retreated to Canada.

There were very few American troops in the Chesapeake Bay area. So the British marched into Washington, D.C., and burned most of the public buildings there.



The British sent 50 ships and 10,000 troops from Jamaica to take control of New Orleans. The citizens of Louisiana looked to Andrew Jackson, who was called “Old Hickory,” to defend them. When told that the British were near, Jackson said, “Gentlemen, the British are below, we must fight them tonight.” His night attack surprised the British and they pulled back.

Jackson moved to a better location on the banks of a canal. The Mississippi River was on one side and a swamp was on the other side. Jackson’s army was an odd mix of men. He had more troops than just the regular U.S. Army units and citizen-soldiers from New Orleans. Also fighting with him were former Haitian slaves and sharpshooters from Kentucky and Tennessee. He even had a band of Jean Lafitte’s outlaws. In all, Jackson commanded about 4,000 men against about 10,000 British troops.

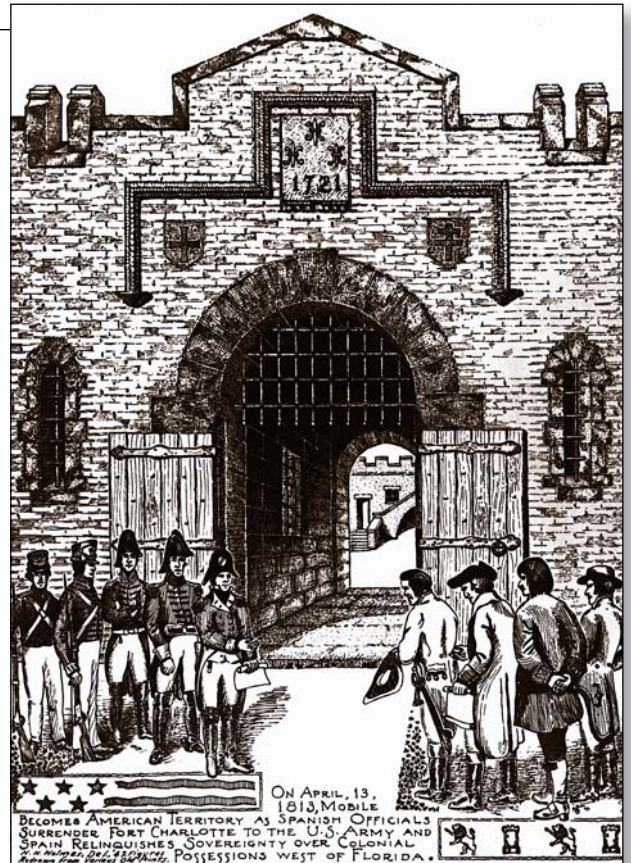
The Battle of New Orleans was hard fought with the British losing more than 2,000 men. The American losses were 8 killed and 13 wounded. The victory in January 1815 made Jackson an American hero.

The End of Spanish Rule

The part of Alabama below the 31st parallel belonged to Spain until the War of 1812. That is when American soldiers took the area. Then, for the first time, all of what is now Alabama became part of the United States.

Think It Through!

1. Who was an officer in three armies during his life?
2. Why did the Spanish return to Alabama?
3. Why did the colonies declare independence from Great Britain?
4. What is Ellicott’s Stone?
5. How did the War of 1812 change Alabama?



Above: When American troops accepted the surrender of the Spanish at Fort Charlotte on April 13, 1813, the Alabama of today took its final form.

Spotlight on Government

The Documents of a New Nation

The Declaration of Independence gave birth to a new nation. This document made the break with Great Britain complete. The committee named to write the Declaration of Independence included Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most respected men in the colonies. Thomas Jefferson, at the age of 33, was the youngest person on the committee. He was also the best writer of the group. The men agreed on what the Declaration of Independence would contain. Then Jefferson had the task of writing this important document.

The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. We now celebrate Independence Day on the fourth of July.

The main idea of the Declaration of Independence was that people have certain rights. It states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A Plan for a National Government

Between 1776 and 1784, the Continental Congress of the 13 states wrote rules for a new government. This was something new in the

world. Never before had people had the chance to write the laws that they would live under.

This agreement was for the good of everyone, not just a few. This new government was to get its authority (power) from the voters. The leaders also wanted certain rights to be greater than ordinary laws. These rights were life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

In 1781, the Continental Congress had a plan for the national government. It was to be the government of all the states together. This agreement was called the **Articles of Confederation**. All 13 states, the original colonies, accepted this new plan. The Articles gave the states most of the power. The federal government was very weak. The state governments began arguing. Something else had to be done.

“...To Form a More Perfect Union...”

A few years of independence from the British passed. Problems with the weak national government became worse. Leaders of the new nation saw a need for a stronger government. They called for the 13 states to send **delegates** (representatives) to a meeting. The 55 delegates met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. All of the states except Rhode Island sent representatives. The convention held its first meeting in May 1787.



Above: This famous painting by John Trumbull, *The Declaration of Independence*, hangs in the U.S. Capitol.

Right: *The United States Constitution* was signed on September 17, 1787.

Among the delegates were Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and James Madison. The document agreed upon by the delegates was a **constitution** (a written statement of basic laws). This constitution provided for three branches of government. The **legislative branch**, which is called Congress (the legislature), makes the laws. The **executive branch**, which is headed by the president, carries out the laws. The **judicial branch** is the court system. It rules



on the meaning of the laws. This separation of powers is called a “checks-and-balances” system. It prevents any one branch of government from becoming too powerful. Americans remembered the harsh rule by Great Britain. They did not want one part of their new government to have too much power.

The document, now called the **United States Constitution**, was signed on September 17, 1787. However, at least 9 of the 13 states still had to **ratify** (formally approve) it. The first 10 **amendments** (additions or changes) to the U.S. Constitution were called the Bill of Rights. Many people wanted these rights spelled out in the document. With these amendments added, all 13 states ratified the document.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Exploration of Alabama took place over many years. Spanish explorers in search of land and riches came first. In 1519, de Pineda mapped the Mobile Bay area. In 1540, de Soto moved through Alabama. In 1558, King Philip II of Spain sent Bazares to map the Gulf Coast. De Luna came in 1559 to start a colony in the Mobile area. A hurricane killed many of the people. The survivors went back to Mexico.

In 1699, King Louis XIV of France sent Iberville and Bienville to set up a French colony. They first settled near present-day Biloxi, Mississippi. In 1711, they moved the colony near Mobile Bay.

Great Britain defeated France in a war. The British took over French land in North America and changed laws, religion, and place names.

Creek Chief Alexander McGillivray spent a large part of his life trying to save Creek lands. He served in the armies of three nations.

At the end of the American Revolution, Spain still owned part of present-day Alabama. The boundary line is marked with Ellicott's Stone in Mobile County.

The United States of America had a national government with separation of powers. It had a strong base for all of its laws in the United States Constitution. Alabama was not one of the states yet, but soon would be.

General Andrew Jackson won the Battle of New Orleans for the United States. When the War of 1812 ended, all of Alabama became part of the United States.



Remember

On your paper, number from 1 to 8. Select the correct meaning for each word. Put the letter of the meaning by the number of the word.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Boundary | 5. Immunity |
| 2. Colony | 6. Journal |
| 3. Executive | 7. Judicial |
| 4. Constitution | 8. Ratify |

- A. The branch of government that rules on the meaning of the laws
- B. A settlement in a new land that is ruled by the home country
- C. Resistance to disease
- D. The branch of government headed by the president
- E. To approve of something
- F. Written statement of basic laws
- G. Daily records of events and experiences
- H. A line that separates or limits



Reviewing the Facts

1. What three European countries sent settlers into present-day Alabama?
2. Why did these countries want colonies in the New World?
3. Who was the first known European explorer of present-day Alabama?
4. When did the British take over the French lands in present-day Alabama?

5. What are the three historic documents that shaped America's future?
6. What two wars did the Americans fight with Great Britain?
7. What document set up the three branches of government?



Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. Did Bazares make a good choice when he chose the area around Mobile Bay for a colony? Why or why not?
2. Two reasons explorers came to the North American continent were wealth and land. Which explorations in this chapter fit under each of these reasons? Make a chart showing names and dates.
3. Why was Alexander McGillivray important in the early history of Alabama?



Making Decisions

Imagine that you were a French settler when the British took over Fort Condé in 1763. Would you return to France or stay in the New World? Give reasons for your choice.



Projects

1. Find 31 degrees north (31°N) latitude on a United States or world map or globe. Locate Alabama. Does the line of latitude divide Florida and Alabama?
2. Draw the flags of the three countries that settled Alabama before it became a part of the United States.



Writing

Sketch a portrait of a famous person mentioned in the chapter. Then write a few paragraphs describing why you chose that person. What characteristics did

this person have that made him or her important in history?



Preparing for Tests

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

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Look at the circle graphs on page 78 titled "Alabama Forest Ownership." How did the amount of forest owned by the forest industry change between 2000 and 2011?
 - A. It became smaller.
 - B. It grew larger.
 - C. It stayed the same.
 - D. The forest industry does not own any of the forest in Alabama.
2. In the War of 1812, Americans fought the...?
 - A. Portuguese
 - B. French
 - C. Spanish
 - D. British



Using Technology

1. To view pictures and maps and learn more about the explorations of Hernando de Soto, go to floridahistory.com/inset91.html#Alabama. How long did de Soto stay in Itaba (today's Cedar Bluff, Alabama)? Why did de Soto choose to cross the Coosa River on his way to see Chief Tuskalooosa?
2. To view the Articles of Confederation, go to usconstitution.net/articles.html. Find the article that allows one country to join the United States of America. What is that country?
3. Read the article at Congressforkids.net/Independence_articles.htm and complete the section called Show What You Know.