

Chapter 6

Alabama, Finally a State

Chapter Preview

TERMS

deed, census, oath,
capitol, dome, artesian
well, rotunda, flatboat,
keelboat, blast furnace,
foundry, synagogue

Above: Very little is left of the town of Cahaba, Alabama's first state capital. These columns are all that remain of the Crocheron Mansion. It was once one of the grandest homes in Cahaba.



In the early 1800s, large numbers of people moved into Alabama. The future state of Alabama was then part of the Mississippi Territory. That territory was created in 1798. The capital of the Mississippi Territory was faraway Natchez on the Mississippi River.

The settlers needed a government that was closer to them. They needed a place to make their land deeds legal. (A **deed** is a legal document that proves who owns the land.) They had disagreements to be settled. It was difficult to travel so far to do business.

Settlers in the Alabama (eastern) part of the Mississippi Territory wanted their own capital. They asked the U.S. Congress to separate the eastern and western parts of the territory.

On March 3, 1817, Congress passed an act to make Alabama a separate territory. St. Stephens was to be its capital. Over the years, five different cities have served as Alabama's capital.

On December 10, 1817, the Alabama Territory came into being. President James Monroe chose William Wyatt Bibb of Georgia as governor of the new territory. Bibb was a 36-year-old medical doctor. He had served in both the Georgia legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Focus on Reading Skills

Venn Diagram Compare and Contrast

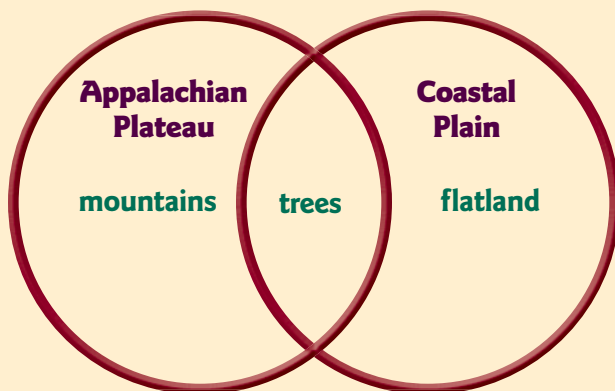
Learning

As you study Alabama history and geography, you will have many chances to make comparisons. A Venn diagram is a useful tool to show how things are *alike* and how they are *different*.

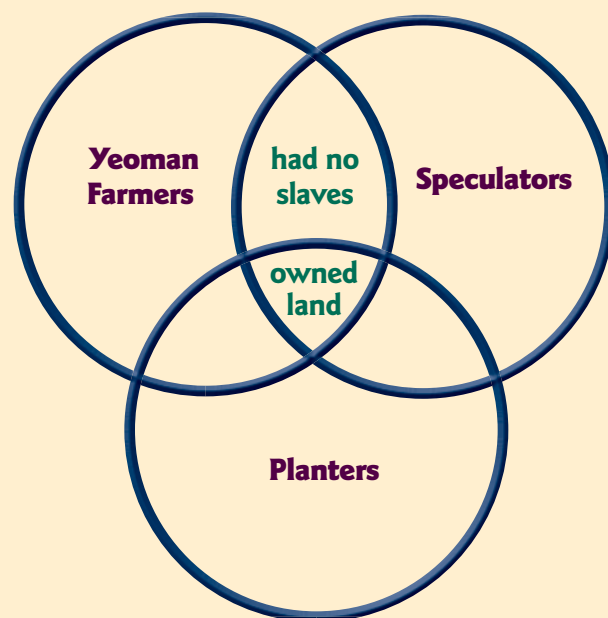
For example, look at the Venn diagram comparing the Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Plateau regions. Words that describe both regions are in the part of the circles that overlap. Only the Coastal Plain has flatland. Only the Appalachian Plateau has mountains. But both regions have trees.

Practicing

1. Draw this diagram on a separate sheet of paper. Refer to Chapter 2 and look for other items to add to the diagram.



2. You could also compare and contrast two or more *people*. The next Venn diagram compares yeoman farmers, planters, and speculators. Only the very center shows how all three are alike—they were all landowners. The connecting space between two of the people shows only what they have in common (alike). Words that describe their differences appear in the outside circles alone. Draw this diagram and complete it. Look at Chapter 5 and include any other items that you can add to the diagram.



Section I

Formation of Alabama's Government

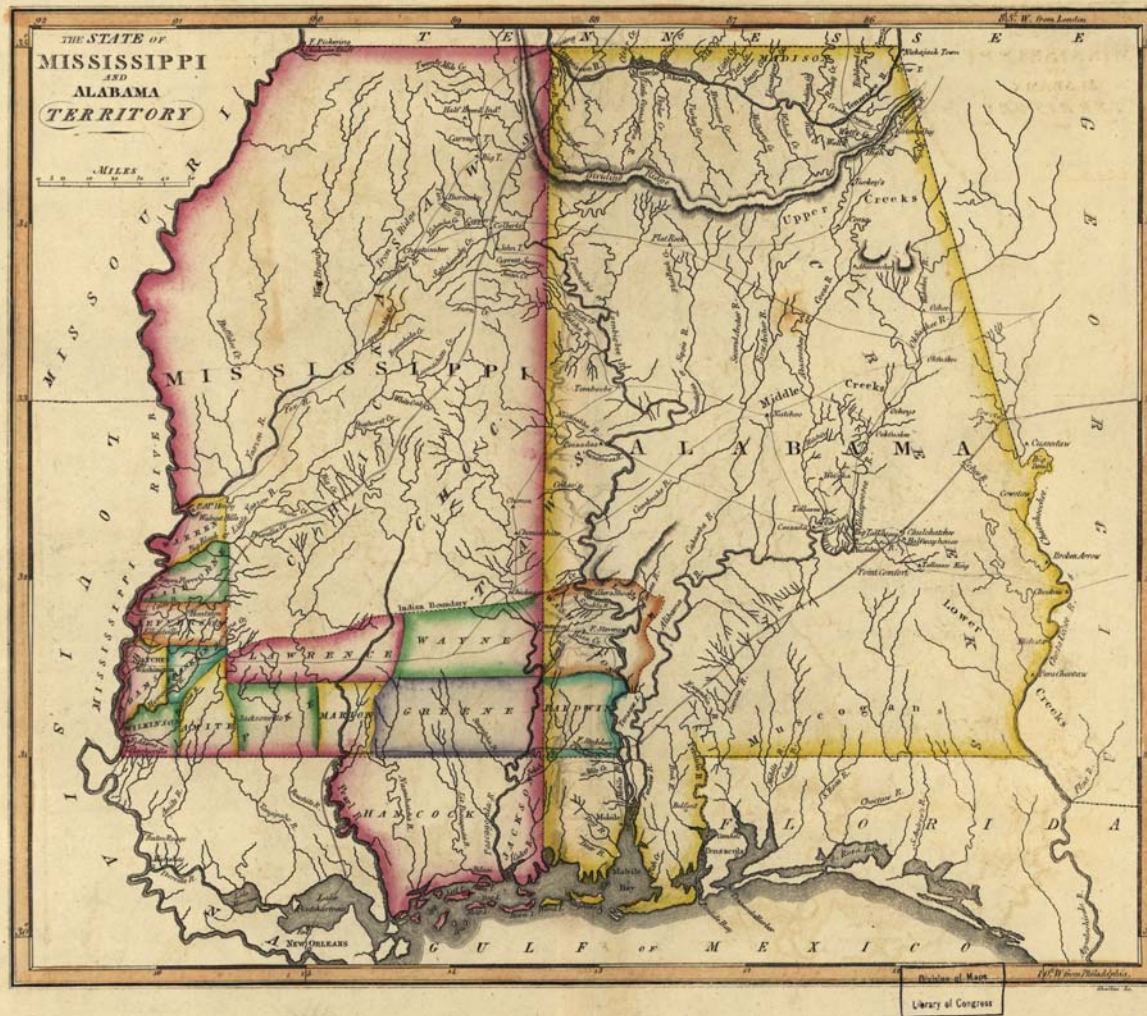
As you read, look for

- why and how Alabama became a state;
- important people in early Alabama statehood;
- the three branches of government in the first constitution;
- the reasons for the changes in Alabama's capitals;
- terms: census, oath, capitol, dome, artesian well, rotunda.

St. Stephens was the capital of the Alabama Territory for only one year, 1818. The town is located high on a bluff on the Tombigbee River in Washington County. The settlers probably chose

Figure 14
Timeline:
1810 to 1850





Above: This map was made during 1818, the single year that Alabama was a territory. Compare this map to a modern map of Mississippi and Alabama. Which border was different than it is today?

the high site to avoid floods. The town was once a Spanish fort called San Esteban. Later, it was a place for shipping cotton to market.

The Alabama Territory's first chartered school was in St. Stephens. Built in 1811, it was called Washington Academy. The town had a bank, a newspaper, a school for girls, two hotels, and a theater. The streets were lined with trees. Traders, visitors, or settlers could travel to St. Stephens by the Huntsville Road or by boat on the river.

Territorial Government

The Alabama Territory's legislature was made up of 13 men. They had all served in the legislature of the Mississippi Territory. Governor Bibb called them to meet on January 19, 1818. They held the first meeting of the legislature in the Douglass Hotel in St. Stephens.

Governor Bibb asked the legislators (people serving in the legislature) to help set up good schools and improve transportation. The legislature worked on these requests and others. The lawmakers allowed a black man to free a black woman who was his slave. They also agreed to grant the first divorce in the Alabama Territory.

The legislature passed a law to conduct a **census** (an official count of people) of the Alabama Territory. A territory had to have 60,000 people before it could ask to become a state. In 1818, the population of the Alabama Territory was 67,594. This number



About Alabama

You can follow the Archaeological Trail through Old St. Stephens Historical Park. The buildings were torn down during the Civil War and the bricks used for other needs.

Left: Fans of history are playing the part of U.S. troops. They are shown raising the flag at the Festival of Old St. Stephens, which is held in the fall.



included over 21,000 slaves. By 1819, the population had grown to 127,901. The legislature then asked the U.S. Congress to make the Alabama Territory a state.

Governor Bibb and the legislators began to get ready for statehood. They decided the state capital should be in Dallas County. It would be at a place the Indians called Cahawba. Cahawba, or Cahaba, was located where the Cahaba River runs into the Alabama River. Cahaba was more in the center of the state than St. Stephens. Until a town could be built at Cahaba, the legislature agreed to meet in Huntsville. It was the largest town in the Alabama Territory.

Founding of Huntsville

John Hunt, a Virginia man, came to Alabama on a hunting trip. Hunt found a spring and built a cabin near it in 1805. Then he moved his family there. Soon other settlers moved nearby.

At first, the settlement was called Hunt's Spring. It was named Twickenham for a while before becoming Huntsville. The spring is still there today at Big Spring Park.

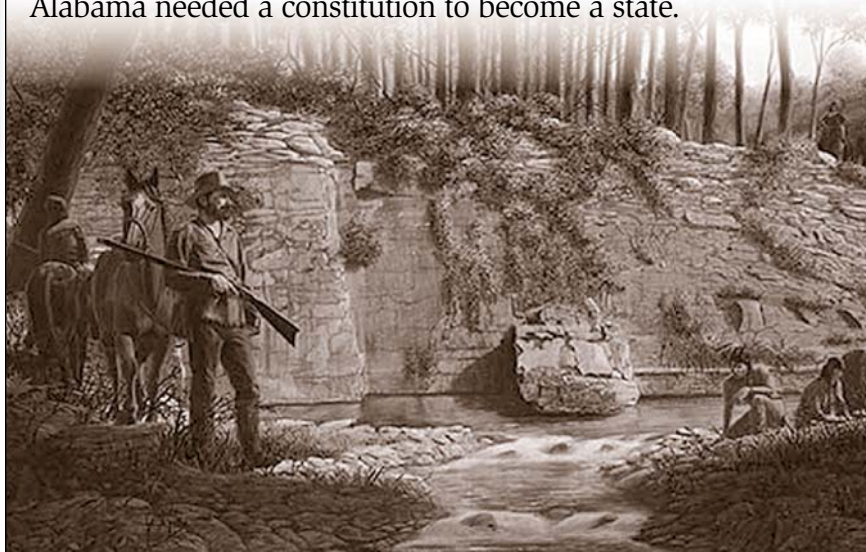
President James Monroe visited Huntsville when Alabama was still a territory. This was the first visit to Alabama by a president of the United States.

John William Walker practiced law in Huntsville. He was also elected to the territorial legislature. Walker worked hard to have Huntsville named as temporary capital. He had a large role in writing the state constitution. This was very important because Alabama needed a constitution to become a state.



Top: William Wyatt Bibb died after serving only one year as Alabama's first state governor. His term was completed by his brother Thomas (above).

Right: In 1805, John Hunt moved to the spring that is now in the center of Huntsville.





First Constitution

On March 2, 1819, Congress said Alabama could write a constitution. A constitutional convention met in Huntsville on July 5. There were 44 delegates from 22 counties at the meeting. John William Walker of Madison was elected president of the convention. The delegates chose 15 men to begin work on the constitution for the new state.

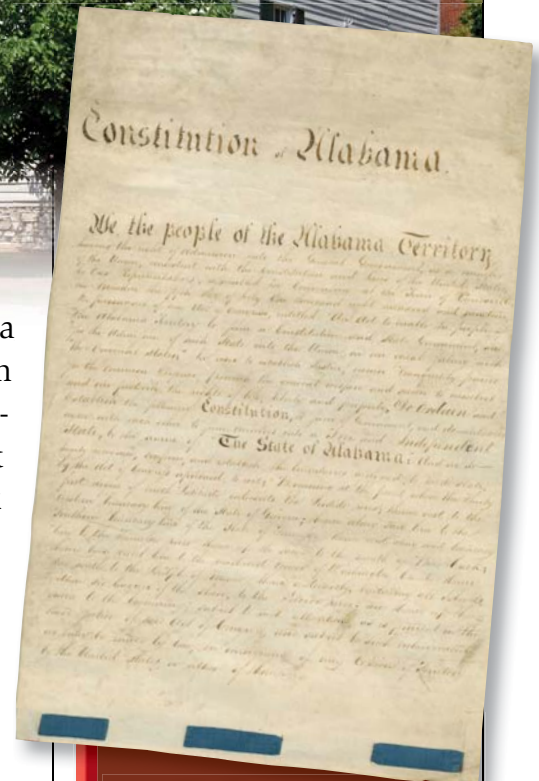
The new constitution divided the government into three branches. These three parts are the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches. The legislative branch makes the laws. Alabama's legislature is made up of the house of representatives and the senate. The executive branch sees that the laws are carried out. The governor is the head of the executive branch. The courts of the judicial branch rule on the meaning of the laws.

The delegates voted to accept the constitution. They chose not to have the people of the Alabama Territory vote on the constitution.

Alabamians Vote

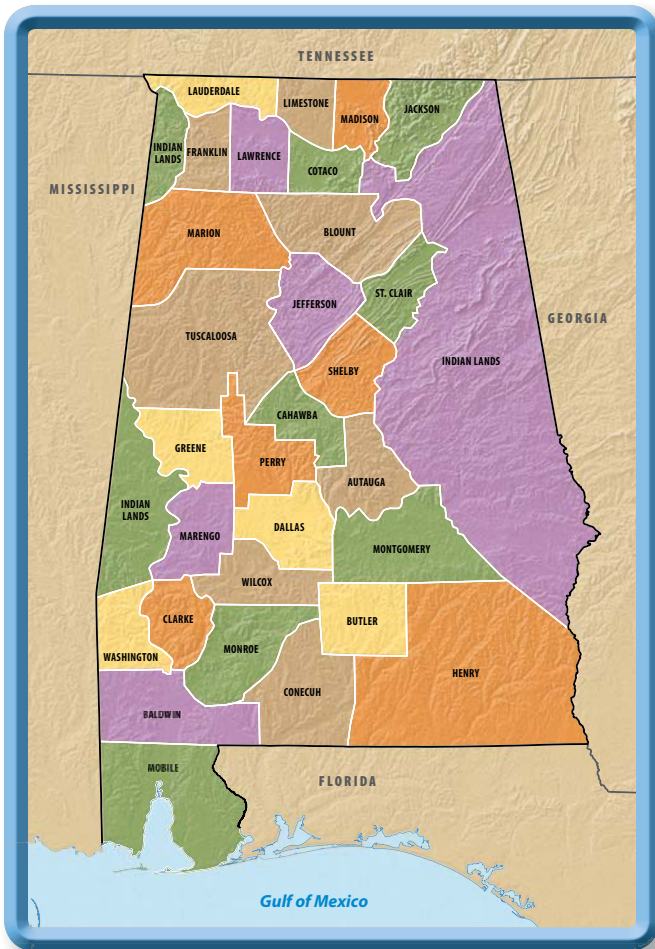
In September 1819, the people of Alabama voted. They elected members of the first state legislature and a governor. The territorial governor, William Wyatt Bibb, ran for the state governor's office and won. He ran against Marmaduke Williams of Tuscaloosa.

Bibb took the **oath** (pledge) of office as governor in Huntsville on November 9, 1819. On December 14, 1819, the president of



About Alabama

Of the 44 delegates to the state's constitutional convention, there were at least 18 lawyers, 4 doctors, 2 ministers, 1 surveyor, 1 merchant, and 4 planters or farmers.



the United States declared Alabama a state. It was the 22nd state to join the Union.

Statehood meant that Alabama could send delegates to Congress. Alabama elected two U.S. senators. They were William Rufus King of Dallas County and John William Walker of Madison County. John Crowell of Washington County was the state's first representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Cahaba, the “Chosen” Site

Since Cahaba was centrally located, it seemed a good choice for the capital. It was also in the Black Belt where many large plantations were located.

Governor Bibb was asked to lay out the new town. He based his plan on Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which had wide, tree-lined streets. Money from the sale of lots in the town was used to pay for a new capitol. (A **capitol** is the building in which the legislature meets.)

After serving only a year, Governor Bibb died after being hurt in a fall from his horse. He was 39 years old. His brother Thomas, who was president of the Alabama senate, became governor. Thomas Bibb finished his brother's 2-year term but did not run for office again. While the Bibbs were in office, 8 new counties were added to the state.

Thomas Bibb was governor in 1820 when the capital was moved from Huntsville. Some buildings in Cahaba were still not finished. But the two-story, brick Alabama State Capitol was ready for use. It included an onion-shaped dome on top. (A **dome** is a roof that is round, like half of a hollow ball.)

It seemed the new town would become a large city. Cahaba's two rivers made transportation easy. There was rich farmland all around the town. That meant good crops and people with money to spend. And being the state capital meant a lot of business would be handled in Cahaba.

The “Era of Good Feeling”

In 1821, Israel Pickens became governor. He was from a part of Greene County that is now Hale County. Governor Pickens

Map 20 Alabama Counties 1820

Map Skill: Turn to the Atlas of Alabama in your textbook. Compare this 1820 map with the modern map of Alabama's counties. Look for your county. Did it exist in 1820? Does Alabama have fewer or more counties now than in 1820?



finished setting up the state government. Things were going very well for the new state at this stage. This time in Alabama’s history is known as the “era of good feeling.”

Many new people, some of them with wealth and education, moved to Cahaba. Doctors and lawyers opened offices. The town had schools, churches, and two newspapers.

A steamboat landing was built at the new capital. Many people built fine homes in Cahaba. These homes got their water from **artesian** (flowing) **wells**. The Perine house had cold artesian water running through pipes in the walls. This was a kind of “air conditioning” for the hot summer months. In *Memories of Old Cahaba*, Anna Gayle Fry wrote:

In all America, in town and country, no people sat down to more bounteous dinners, served by better servants on richer mahogany, no people wore more fashionable clothes, rode better groomed horses, . . . or spoke with gentler voices than the people of Cahaba.

Lafayette Comes to Alabama

During Governor Pickens’s term, General Marquis de Lafayette came to Alabama. This French army officer was an important visitor. He helped the American colonies fight Great Britain



Above: This is the only surviving part of the Capitol at Cahaba (top). It now stands on Lowndesboro CME Church.



About Alabama

General Lafayette's visit cost the state government \$17,000. That was more money than the state had in its treasury!

during the American Revolution. The general was welcomed to Montgomery by about 3,000 people. Later in the evening, he attended a reception and a ball (dance) in his honor.

General Lafayette and his group took a boat from Montgomery down the Alabama River to Mobile. Along the way, they stopped at Selma, Cahaba, and Claiborne. Crowds of people and a band greeted Lafayette at Cahaba.

Flooding Causes a Move

Cahaba's location near two rivers caused problems. The town was on low ground. In 1825, heavy rains caused the Cahaba and Alabama Rivers to rise and flood the town. The water flooded the first floor of the new Capitol. Many legislators had to use rowboats to get to the Capitol.

The Capitol began to crumble from the damage of the floodwaters. The legislature decided to move the capital again. They talked about several cities. Then they voted to make Tuscaloosa the new capital.

Cahaba kept growing from 1830 to 1860. It was an army post that served as a prison for Northern soldiers during the Civil War. However, after another flood in 1865, many people left Cahaba.

The Indians were right in calling this place Cahawba, which means "water above."



Above: The first campus of the University of Alabama was mostly destroyed during the Civil War. **Opposite page, top:** The ruins of the Capitol at Tuscaloosa can be seen in the city's Capitol Park.

Tuscaloosa

Tuscaloosa was a river town too. It was on the banks of the Black Warrior River. Like St. Stephens, it was on high ground and safe from floods. Founded in 1819, the town was named after the tall Indian chief, Tuskaloosa. It became the state capital in 1826. The city was Alabama's fourth capital. The city of Tuscaloosa is one day older than the state of Alabama.

Because it was the capital, Tuscaloosa grew rapidly. The town had a newspaper and new businesses started. Large plantation homes were built in the nearby countryside. The river was important for transportation. Steamboats made regular trips between



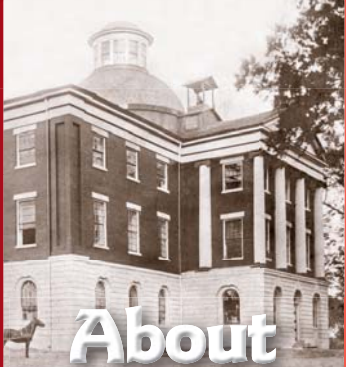
Tuscaloosa and Mobile. In 1829, the brick, three-story Alabama Capitol was finished. A second newspaper was started and two schools opened. Then, in 1831, the University of Alabama began classes. The city became an early center of education in the state.

By 1846, many people had settled in the eastern part of Alabama. These new settlers wanted the capital moved closer to them. Several cities asked to be chosen as the capital. The possible cities included Wetumpka, Selma, Statesville, Marion, Mobile, and Montgomery. The people of Tuscaloosa did not want the capital moved at all. When the legislators began voting, Wetumpka, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa got more votes than the other cities. The legislators had to vote 16 times before it was settled! The people who wanted the capital in Wetumpka finally agreed to vote for Montgomery.

Montgomery, the Fifth and Final Capital

Montgomery was to be the new capital. The citizens rejoiced when they heard the news. The city borrowed \$75,000 for construction of a new state Capitol. The next step was to find a site for the building.

Andrew Dexter owned a large piece of land where the city of Montgomery now stands. He did not build anything on the land. He was saving it, including the part called Goat Hill, for the Alabama Capitol.



About Alabama

William Nichols, an architect, designed and completed the State Capitol in Tuscaloosa (above). It is shaped like a Greek cross. He also designed the campus of the University of Alabama (opposite page, below).



Above: *The first Capitol burned in 1849. The current Alabama State Capitol was built on the same site. Horace King, a former slave, was probably the chief carpenter. King was a well-known designer and builder of bridges and buildings.*

The new Capitol was built on the very spot saved by Dexter. Today, it is still called Goat Hill. The wide street leading up to the Capitol is Dexter Avenue.

When the Capitol was finished, a wagon pulled by mules brought the state records from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery. Many of those records were lost in 1849 when the Capitol burned.

After the fire, some members of the legislature wanted to move the capital again. In the end, they voted to stay and to build again on the same site. By 1851, the Capitol had been rebuilt using plans of the original building. It is one of the most beautiful landmarks in the United States. The **rotunda** (round, domed section) of the Capitol rises three stories with two sets of spiral stairs.

Think It Through!

- 1. Name the five Alabama capital locations. Why were the first four changed?**
- 2. How could the problems at Cahaba have been avoided by listening to the Indians?**
- 3. What happened to the first Capitol in Montgomery?**

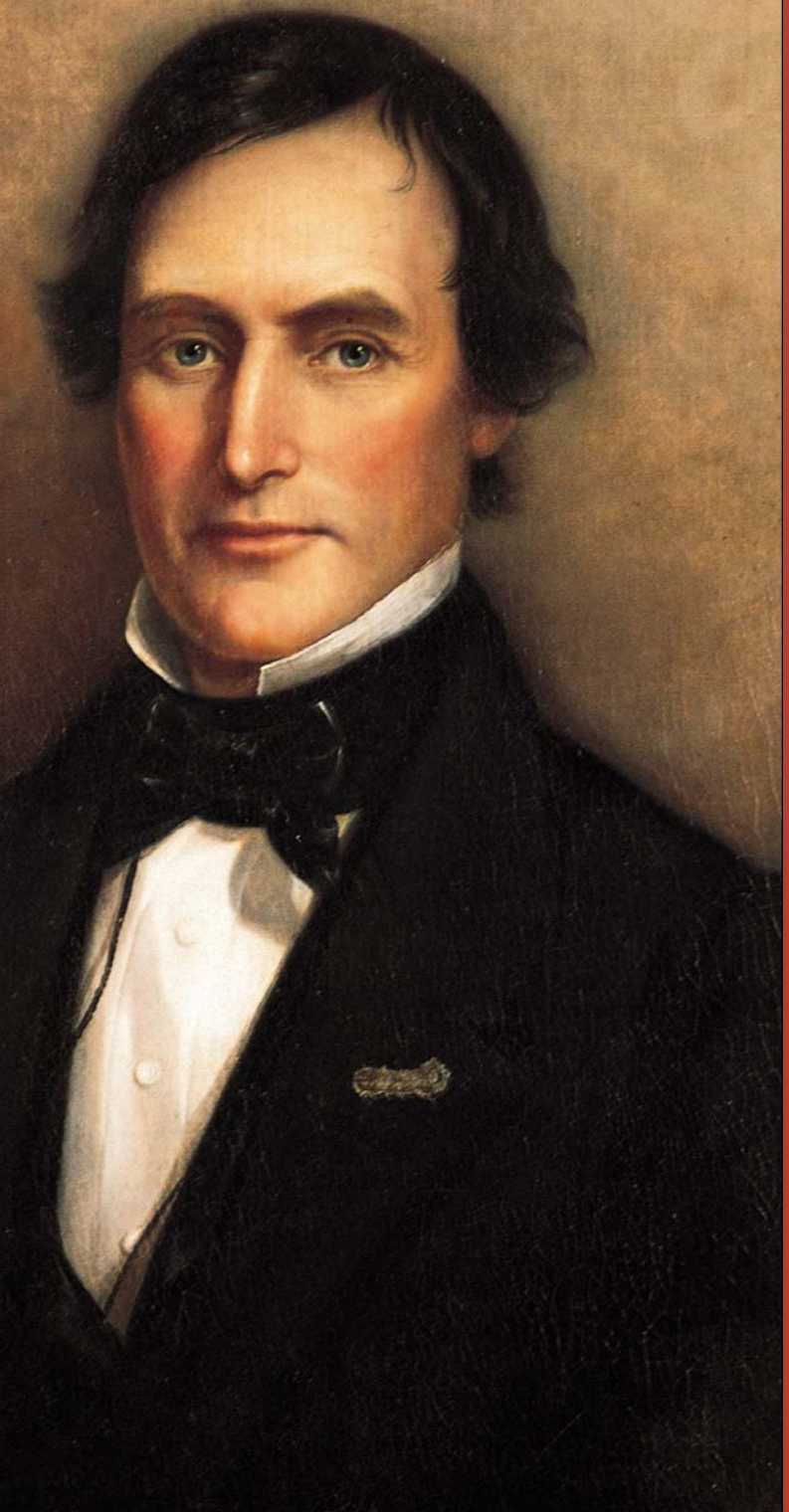
Alabama Portrait

The Only Vice President from Alabama

William Rufus King was born in North Carolina in 1786. He served North Carolina in the U.S. Congress from 1810 to 1816. In 1818, he moved to Alabama. King had a Dallas County plantation across the river from Cahaba. He represented Alabama in the U.S. Senate from 1819 to 1844. In 1844, President John Tyler named him minister to France. In 1848, he returned to the U.S. Senate.

In 1852, King was elected vice president of the United States. At the time of the election, he was ill with tuberculosis. King went to Cuba to try to get well. While in Cuba, he was sworn in as vice president on March 23, 1853.

When he saw he was not getting better, King decided to return to his home in Dallas County. He died there on April 20, 1853. King is buried in Live Oak Cemetery in Selma.

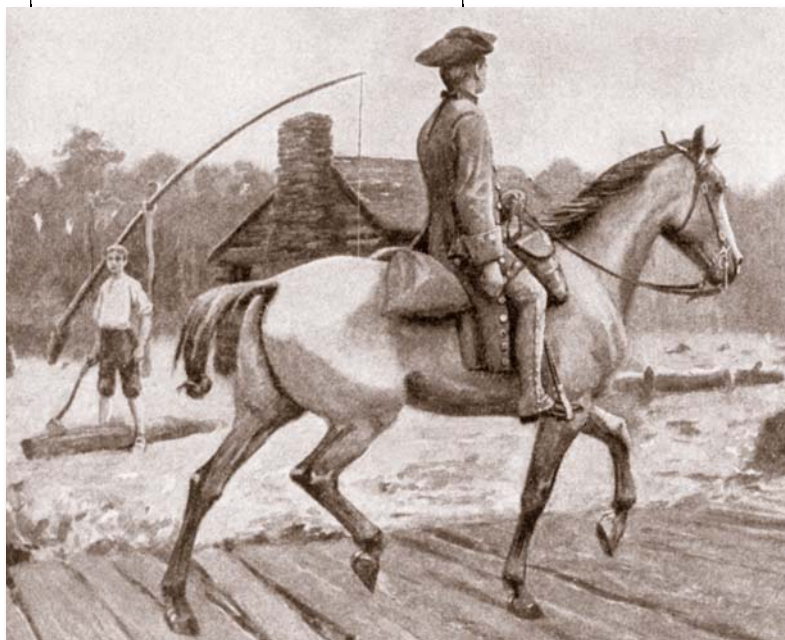


Section 2

Transportation

As you read, look for

- the difficulty of travel in early Alabama;
- the different types of transportation;
- terms: **flatboat**, **keelboat**.



Above: Early mail carriers rode on horseback. This rider is traveling on a plank road, made of pieces of wood laid side by side. **Opposite page, top:** Stagecoaches soon took over delivery of the mail. They also carried passengers.

When Alabama was a young state, people traveled by both land and water. Roads were narrow, rough, and often full of holes. But by 1845, travelers could get from one major settlement to another by road.

The legislature passed a law about paying for the roads. It said that all men between the ages of 18 and 45 had to work on the roads 10 days each year. Some men did not want to work on the roads. In place of working, these men could loan their mules to the workers. Others could pay \$10 a year instead of working.

Stagecoaches and the Mail

Delivering the mail was the job of the federal government. So Congress and the postal service decided which roads would be post roads. Post roads were roads over which the mail (post) was carried. At first, men on horseback carried the mail. But it was not long before stagecoaches were used as mail carriers.

Stagecoaches changed horses at each stage, or resting place, on a trip. Mary Gordon Duffee described these coaches.




The heavy coach, usually painted black and gold or deep red and gold was mounted on bright red wheels. The driver. . . sat on a high box under which valuable parcels were stored. . . In the rear a covered platform, called the “boot,” held the passengers’ baggage and the mail. . . .

In the coach, seats . . . [held] nine passengers. . . . Four strong horses. . . were needed to pull the load.

Traveling by stagecoach might look like fun, but it was actually quite dusty and rough. It was usually too hot or too cold inside the coach.

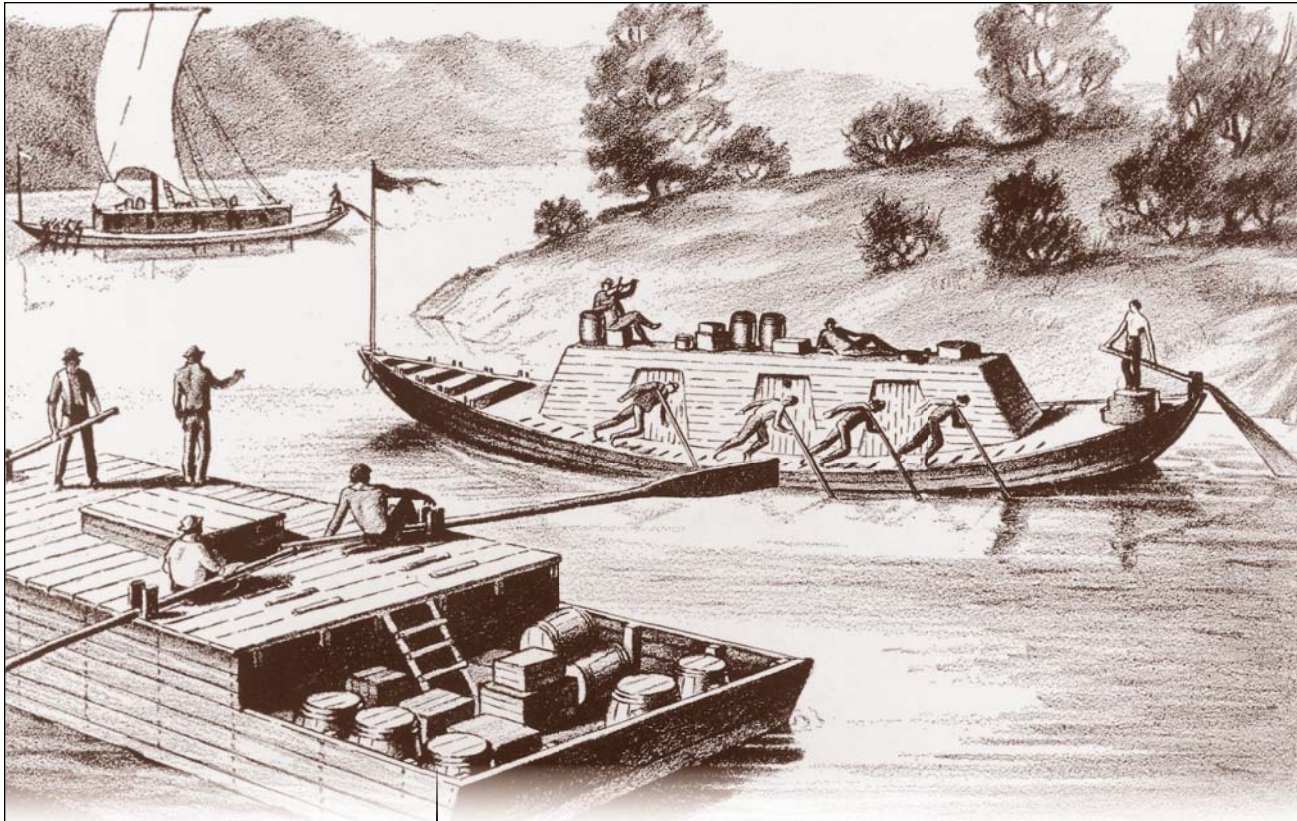
Travel on the Rivers

Before white men arrived, American Indians used Alabama’s rivers and creeks to travel by canoe. Later, pioneers traveled the waterways in flatboats and keelboats. **Flatboats** were about 40 feet long and 12 feet wide. They were made of split logs and sealed with tar. Their wide, flat bottoms allowed them to operate in shallow waters. A flatboat was basically a raft that floated with the current. The flatboats carried man-made items and farm produce downstream to market. Since flatboats could not go upstream, it was a one-way trip. Most flatboats were sold for lumber when they arrived at the journey’s end. The boatmen had to walk or find a ride back upstream.



About Alabama

All of the state’s capitals were on a river. The importance of rivers grew with the use of steamboats. They could go up and down the rivers easily. Alabama has more miles of navigable waterways than any other state.



Above: This picture shows three kinds of early river transportation. In the front is a flatboat, It could carry large amounts of goods, but only downstream. Next to it is a man-powered keelboat, and in the distance, a keelboat powered by a sail. These two boats could go in both directions on a river.

Keelboats were able to go upstream as well as downstream, although not easily. They were used for the same purposes as flatboats. Some keelboats had sails. On some, men with poles or oars moved the boats. People walking along the bank sometimes pulled the keelboats with long ropes. Keelboats only operated in deeper waters.

Keelboats depended on men, horses, or wind for power to move the boats. Flatboats just went with the water's current. Steamboats were a new and easier means of transportation. The first steamboat built in the state was at St. Stephens in 1818. It was named the *Alabama*. The boat's first trip was downriver to Mobile. But it could not produce enough steam for the return trip to St. Stephens.

On October 22, 1821, the *Harriet* arrived in Montgomery after a 10-day trip from Mobile. It was the first steamboat to reach Selma or Montgomery from Mobile. By the late 1850s, there were 233 steamboats in Alabama. Most of these boats traveled the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers.

Steamboats carried passengers and bales of cotton up and down the rivers. Once the cargo and passengers were on board, the fun began. The food on steamboats was often very good. Passengers enjoyed visiting from one end of the boat to the other.



Bands played for dancing and entertainment. When passengers grew tired, they slept in staterooms (cabins).

Steamboats sometimes did not arrive on time. But whenever they turned up, they were always an exciting sight. Crowds waited on the riverboat landings and cheered when a steamboat appeared. The boat's tall stacks pumped out black smoke and its loud whistle blew.

On many trips, steamboats carried gold and other valuables. If a boat sank, so did the gold. Through the years, people have searched for and found some of the lost gold on the bottoms of rivers.

Steamboats regularly traveled up and down Alabama's rivers until 1932. There are still a few paddlewheel boats on the state's rivers.



Top: This river scene shows a sidewheel steamboat, and beyond it, a sternwheeler. A flatboat is selling groceries. **Above:** Some steamboats were as nice as fine hotels.

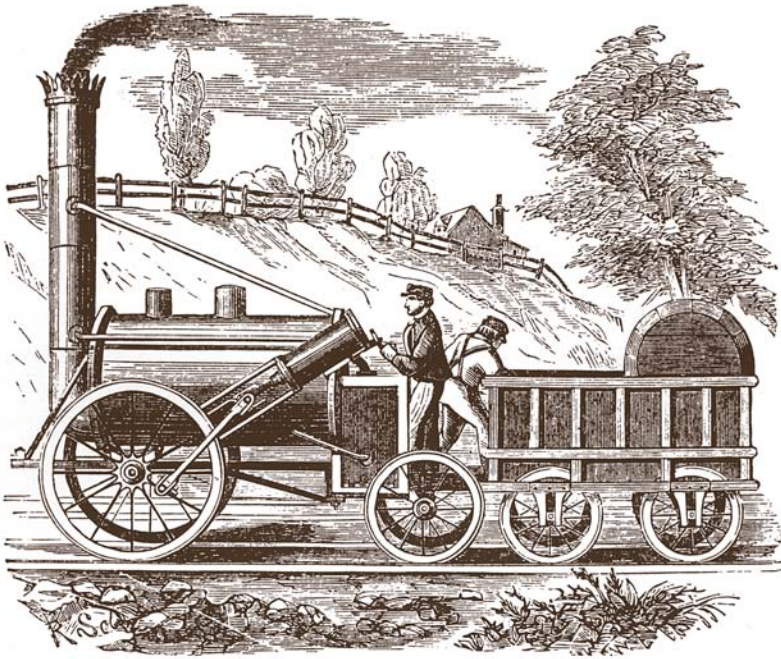
The Steam Engine on Land—Railroads

On June 23, 1832, the *Huntsville Advocate* wrote about the opening of the Tuscumbia Railroad. Part of the article said:

The cars were in motion throughout the day for...visitors. A procession formed at eleven o'clock a.m., of the cars drawn by one

horse, crowded with the beauty and fashion of the county....

It was truly novel and interesting to witness the rapid and graceful flight of the "majestic cars" in the country where but yesterday the paths of Indians were the only traces of human footsteps.



Above: Steam engines changed the way people traveled. For the first time, people could travel long distances at speeds faster than horses.

ing on the Tennessee River. Later, steam locomotives replaced horse-drawn cars. The first locomotive, the *Fulton*, could travel 40 miles an hour.

The Montgomery Railroad was planned in 1832. It was to connect the city of Montgomery with the Chattahoochee River near West Point, Georgia. Because of problems building the railroad, it was not ready for use until 1854.

Think It Through!

1. Alabama men had to work on the roads for ten days a year. How was this like paying a tax?
2. What were post roads?
3. What types of boats transported people or goods?
4. How was the first train in Alabama powered?

Section 3

Industry, Worship, and Schools in Early Alabama

As you read, look for

- the importance of natural resources;
- Alabama's early industries;
- the importance of religion to early Alabamians;
- the different types of early schools;
- terms: **blast furnace, foundry, synagogue.**

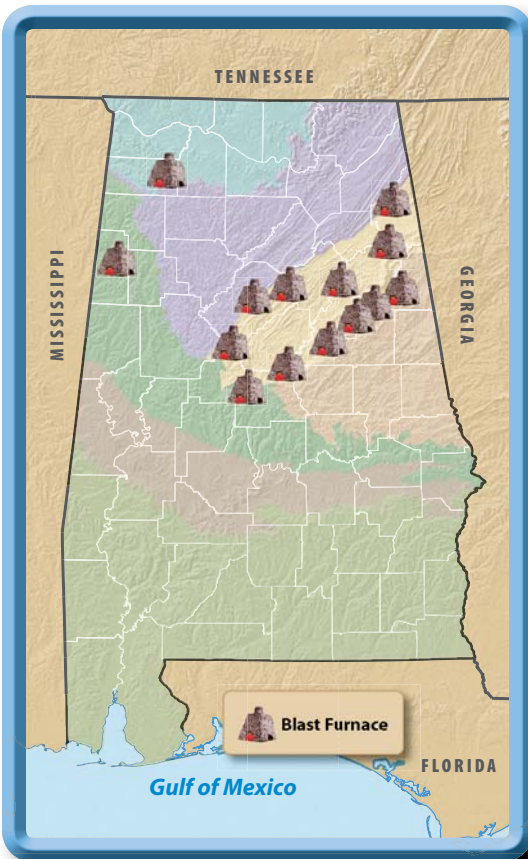
There were a few small industries in early Alabama. Blacksmith shops, sawmills, and gristmills were found in almost every county. Larger industries needed materials such as coal, iron, and cotton. To reduce transportation costs, these raw materials needed to be close by. That made it easier for the industry to make a profit.

Several churches were founded in early Alabama. American Indians had their religion, and early explorers brought Christianity to the area. Jewish people built houses of worship.

As the state grew, more private and public schools were built. Some of these schools were modern for that time, while others were very poor. Just like today, some children were homeschooled.



Above: Learn how a blacksmith works at Old Alabama Town, a living history museum in Montgomery.



Coal and Iron

There are three major coalfields in Alabama that produce soft coal: Warrior, Coosa, and Cahawba. Coal was mined in Bibb, Blount, Cherokee, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Tuscaloosa, and Walker Counties. Most of the coal was used in making iron.

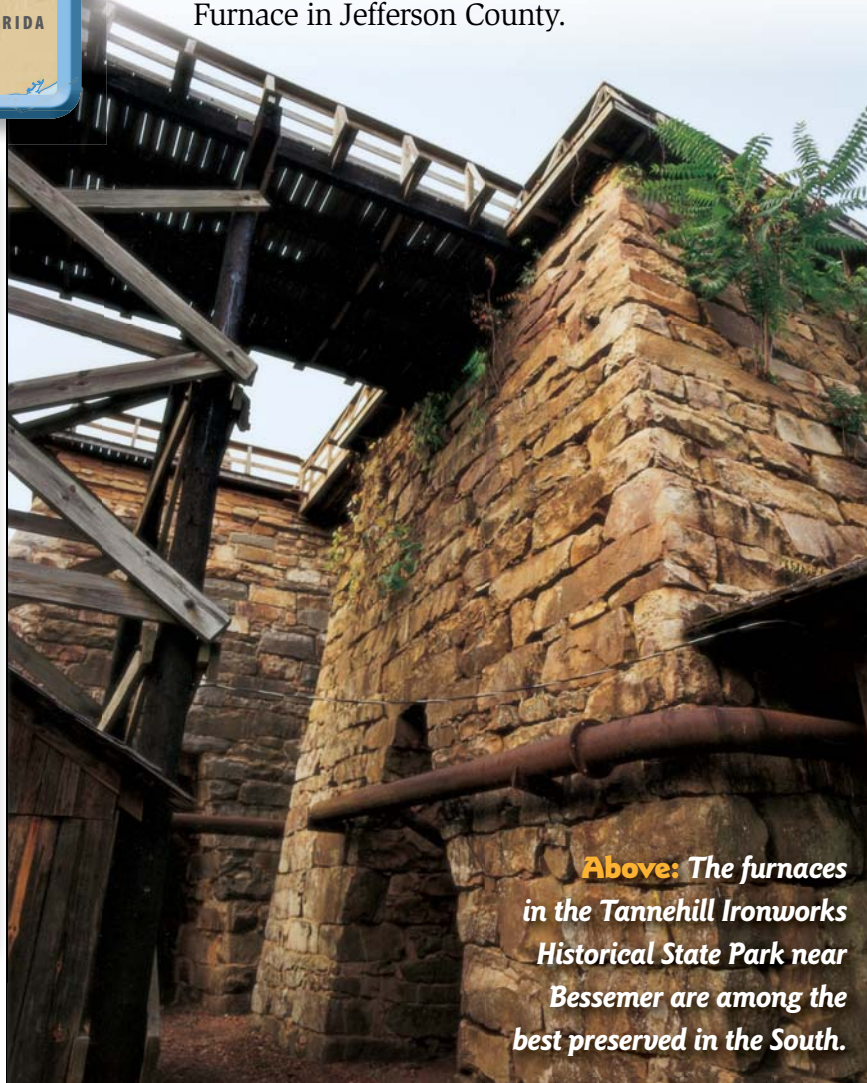
Alabama's iron industry began in 1815, five miles southwest of present-day Russellville in Franklin County. In that year, Joseph Heslip built Cedar Creek Furnace. It was the state's first blast furnace. (A **blast furnace** uses blasts of hot air to help melt pure iron to remove it from iron ore.)

Alabama had four working blast furnaces in the 1850s. These were the Cane Creek Furnace in Calhoun County, the Shelby Iron Works in Shelby County, the Round Mountain Furnace in Cherokee County, and the Tannehill Furnace in Jefferson County.

Map 21 Alabama's Early Blast Furnaces

Map Skill: Furnaces appear in a cluster in the area called the Mineral Belt. Where in Alabama do you expect to find the most resources for making iron?

- (a) Southeast
- (b) Central
- (c) Southwest
- (d) Far North



Above: The furnaces in the Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park near Bessemer are among the best preserved in the South.

Focus on the Economy

Alabama's Early Industries

Iron furnaces, foundries, and textile mills were some of Alabama's earliest industries. Their locations were related to Alabama's geography. In the state's hill country, geologists found rocks containing hematite (iron ore). Because this ore is very heavy, it is expensive to move it very far. That is why iron furnaces were built near places the ore was found.

Iron furnaces were heated using charcoal. To make charcoal, men chopped down hardwood trees and cut them into logs. The logs were stacked in piles, set on fire, and then covered with dirt. When the pile was uncovered later, the logs had turned into charcoal. Hardwood trees grew all over the hill country. They provided fuel for the furnaces.

Iron furnaces used *bellows* to blow air on the charcoal fire to make it hotter. Bellows are a tool that takes air in and forces it out. The bellows were attached to a waterwheel. When the wheel turned, it made the bellows move. Iron furnaces had to be near streams so the running water could turn their waterwheels.

The iron furnaces turned ore into slabs of iron. These slabs were taken to foundries. The foundries used the iron to make farm tools like shovels,



Above: You can see how a cotton gin works at Old Alabama Town.

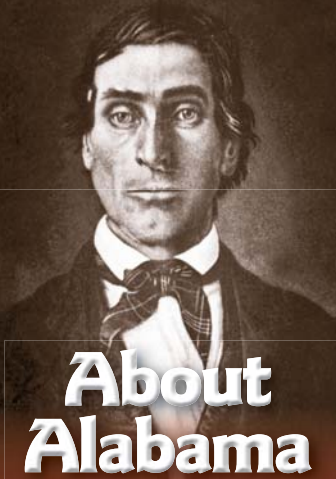
hoes, and plows. They also made pots, nails, and hinges. Foundries were built on good transportation routes. They needed to get their products to customers. One important foundry was in Selma. Its products were shipped on the Alabama River.

When cotton was taken from the fields, it was sent to a cotton gin. At the gin, the seeds were removed. Then the cotton was sent to a textile mill. At the mill, raw cotton was spun into thread. The thread was then woven into cloth on a loom. Alabama's first

textile mills were built in areas where there were many large cotton plantations. They were all located in the Tennessee River Valley or on the Coastal Plain.

The first railroads built in the state were in these same cotton-growing regions. These early railroads were started by planters. They wanted a faster way to move cotton to the mills.

The state's first railroad ran from Tusculumbia to Decatur. The second ran from Montgomery to Opelika. A third railroad was built to connect the state's two cotton-growing regions. It ran from Selma in the Coastal Plain to Guntersville on the Tennessee River.



About Alabama

Daniel Pratt (above) was “Alabama’s first industrialist.” An industrialist is a business owner who becomes well known and successful in an industry. Pratt began making cotton gins in 1833 and built his first factory in Prattville in 1846. Rebuilt in 1859, it became the largest factory of its kind in the world (top).

The Cedar Creek Furnace is described here.

...the greater portion of the building was limestone rock quarried from the bluffs near by. The furnace proper was shaped like a cone, being about twenty-five to thirty-feet wide at the bottom and narrowing at a height of about twenty-five feet into a short smokestack. The furnace and smokestack together were not over fifty-feet high.

Cotton Mills

Around 1815, Charles Cabiness built the Beech Grove factory. It was located near present-day Hazel Green in Madison County. This was the first cotton mill in Alabama. The mill made thread for home weaving and a small amount of cloth.

The Bell factory was on the Flint River in Madison County. It made cloth for sheets and clothing in plaids, checks, and solid colors. By the time of the Civil War, there were 14 cotton mills in the state.

Daniel Pratt

Daniel Pratt was one of the most important businessmen in Alabama before the Civil War. He was a carpenter from New Hampshire. In 1819, Pratt moved to Georgia where he learned to make cotton gins.

In 1821, Pratt moved to Autauga County, Alabama. He built the Pratt Gin Company factory. Pratt also purchased 2,000 acres and began Prattville, a “company town.” This was a town with churches, schools, and houses for the factory workers.

Pratt later started a gristmill and printing company. He also ran a factory that made window sashes (frames), doors, and blinds. Pratt built a machine shop and **f foundry** (a place for casting metal). He also had a store and a factory that made carriages and wagons. Pratt was Autauga County's representative to the state legislature during the Civil War years.

Religion

American Indians continued their religious practices in Alabama. The first Christians in early Alabama were the Spanish explorers. They usually brought Catholic priests with them. A Catholic church was built in Mobile in 1713.

Between 1764 and 1817, Baptists, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Presbyterians built churches in Alabama. There are churches all over the state that were begun by these settlers. Most early churches had services when a traveling preacher could visit. People often used a church building for both worship services and community meetings.

There were a few Jewish settlers in early Alabama. The first Jewish congregation was in Mobile in 1844. The Kahl Montgomery synagogue was built in 1862. (A **synagogue** is a house of worship for a Jewish congregation.)



Above: Circuit riders traveled from one town to another to hold religious services. **Below:** People traveled to “camp meetings” to hear preachers. These gatherings were very popular with worshippers in rural areas with no churches.





Above: *The Adams Chapel School is a typical one-room school of the period before the Civil War. It was moved to Old Alabama Town in 1982.*

Some plantations had churches of their own. The planter's family and slaves worshipped there together. When there was no preacher, the plantation owner often read from the Bible and talked. Before the Civil War, most churches had both black and white members. In some places, there were both black and white ministers.

Public Education

The city of Mobile saw the need for public education very early. It started Barton Academy in 1836—the first public school in the state. Some towns already had small schools before Barton Academy opened.

The oldest college in Alabama is Spring Hill College near Mobile. Michael Portier, Mobile's first Catholic bishop, founded the school in 1830. It was a boarding school for boys. By 1832, the school had 130 students. Spring Hill was also the first Catholic college in the Southeast.

There were different kinds of schools in early Alabama. Some were large and well equipped while others were small and had only a few books. Often, children only went to school a few months a year. This was because their families needed them to work on their farms. Some children could not go to school because they lived too far away. Students were not given rides to school like today. Children learned farming and other skills from their parents.

Think It Through!

- 1. Where are the major coalfields in Alabama?**
- 2. What county had the first iron industry in the state?**
- 3. How do you know that religion was important in the lives of early Alabamians?**
- 4. Why do you think the preachers traveled around?**
- 5. Why did some children only attend school for part of the year?**

Section 4

Indian Removal

As you read, look for

- how a large number of settlers changed the American Indians;
- how the Indians were moved from Alabama;
- how some Indians avoided removal.

President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. This law allowed the president to force the Indians from their land. President Jackson wanted this law made because of a Supreme Court decision. In it, the Court ruled on the side of the Cherokee in a land dispute with Georgia.

In the end, the Indians were moved west of the Mississippi River. On the way to their new homes in Indian Territory (today's Oklahoma), many died of disease, hunger, and hardships. The tribes did not travel at the same time or on the same roads. Some took water routes and some land routes.

Choctaw and Chickasaw

The Choctaw signed the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in September 1830. This treaty gave the United States all Choctaw land in Mississippi and Alabama. Many Choctaw were then moved west to Indian Territory. Some Choctaw hid in swamps or forests. They are the ancestors of some of the Choctaw who live in Alabama today.

A short time after the Choctaw were moved, the Chickasaw were also forced to sign a treaty. In 1832, the Chickasaw ceded land in northwest Alabama and Mississippi to the U.S. government. They exchanged Alabama land for land in Indian Territory.

From 1831 to 1834, the U.S. Army moved some of the Chickasaw and Choctaw to the west bank of the Mississippi River.

Below: Karl Bodmer was a Swiss artist famous for his true-to-life pictures of Indians. He painted this Choctaw man at the time of the Choctaw removal to Indian Territory.





Above: Creek Chief William McIntosh was killed by his own people. They were angry because he signed the Treaty of Indian Springs. **Below:** About 4,000 of 13,000 Cherokee died on the forced march to Indian Territory.

From there, they had to travel to Indian Territory. Some had to walk all the way. The Indians did not have enough food to eat or blankets to keep them warm.

Creek

In February 1825, William McIntosh and several other Creek chiefs went to Washington, D.C. There they signed the Treaty of Indian Springs. The treaty ceded to the federal government all Creek land in Georgia and almost all Creek land in Alabama.

The Creek Nation was angry about what McIntosh had done and killed him. When President John Quincy Adams learned how most Creek felt about the Treaty of Indian Springs, he would not honor it. It was not until 1832 that all Creek land in Alabama was ceded to the United States. But settlers began to attack the Creek. In just a few years, almost all the Creek were moved to the West.

A few Creek families in the Tensaw community were allowed to keep their land. This close-knit group of Creek families became the Poarch Creek Indians.

The “Trail of Tears”

The federal government put great pressure on the Cherokee. A few Cherokee signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835. This treaty ceded all Cherokee land east of the Mississippi River. Although the Cherokee government did not agree to this treaty, the U.S. Senate approved it. Two years later, the Cherokee were forced to leave their homes.





Map 22 Main Routes for Removal of Alabama's Indians

Map Skill: How many different states did the Cherokee travel through on their longest route?

The Cherokee were the last group of American Indians to be moved from the state. Tribal leaders asked the U.S. government to let them stay, but President Jackson would not agree. Some Cherokee hid in the mountains, but most were sent to Indian Territory. One chieftain said:

I am one of the native sons of these wild woods. I have hunted the deer and turkey here more than fifty years. . . . The [settlers] have shown a grasping spirit lately; . . . I know the Indians have an older title than theirs. We obtained the land from the living God above. . . . Yet they are strong and we are weak. We are few, they are many. . . . I know we love the graves of our fathers. . . . We can never forget these homes. . . .

The Cherokee called their walk to the western United States *nuna-da-ut-sun'y*, "the trail where they cried." Each of these Indian removals was truly a "Trail of Tears."

Think It Through!

1. Where were the Indians of Alabama sent after the Indian Removal Act of 1830?
2. How did a few American Indians avoid being sent to Indian Territory?
3. Why was the removal of Indians sometimes called the "Trail of Tears"?

About Alabama

Many places in the state have American Indian names. Creek: Chattahoochee (marked rocks), Notasulga (many teeth), Talladega (border town), Wetumpka (tumbling water). Chickasaw: Tuscumbia (warrior killer), Sipsey (poplar tree). Choctaw: Mobile (to paddle), Tombigbee (box makers). Cherokee: Attala (mountain).

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Alabama was once a part of the Mississippi Territory. In 1817, it became the Alabama Territory with St. Stephens as its capital.

In March 1819, a constitutional convention was held in Huntsville. The men attending it wrote Alabama's first state constitution. On December 14, 1819, Alabama became a state.

Huntsville served as the state capital while Cahaba was being built. When the Capitol at Cahaba flooded, the state capital was moved to Tuscaloosa. Later, as the population in the eastern part of the state grew, the capital was moved to Montgomery.

In early Alabama, roads were very poor. Travel was slow and difficult. People traveled by horseback, wagon, and stagecoach. Flatboats, keelboats, and steamboats were used on Alabama's rivers. The 2-1/10-mile-long Tuscumbia Railroad was built in 1832.

Industry in early Alabama used the materials found in the state. Coal and iron ore were mined and used to make iron. Cotton mills were built to turn the farmers' cotton into thread and cloth.

Worship in Alabama grew quickly as settlers brought their religion with them. Many faiths were present in early Alabama, including Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish. American Indians were the first religious people in Alabama.

The state's first public school was in Mobile. Some children had no school nearby to attend. Others met in simple cabins with few materials to study. There were also private schools and homeschooling.

President Jackson was very determined to remove the Indians. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 started the forced removal of most American Indians from the state. After each tribe signed a treaty, they were sent to Indian Territory.



Remember

On a separate sheet of paper, complete each sentence using words from the list below. Be careful. You will have one word left over.

Artesian wells	Dome
Blast furnace	Flatboats
Capitol	Foundry
Census	Keelboats
Deed	Rotunda

1. Citizens built the _____ (building) in Montgomery.
2. The _____ and the _____ make the Alabama Capitol very beautiful.
3. After the _____ counted more than 60,000 people, Alabama needed a constitution to begin the government.
4. The homes in Cahaba got their water from _____.
5. A land _____ shows who owns a piece of property.
6. _____ could only go downstream, but _____ could go upstream too.
7. A(n) _____ melts iron ore by blowing very hot air on it.



Reviewing the Facts

1. When did Alabama become a territory?
2. Where was Alabama's first constitution written?
3. When did Alabama become a state?
4. Who was the state's first governor?
5. Why was the capital moved from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery?
6. Why did the federal government decide which roads would be post roads?



Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. Why do you think it took 2 years to build the 2-1/10-mile-long Tusculumbia Railroad?
2. How do you think life in Alabama would have been different if the Indians had not been removed?



Making Decisions

1. If you had grown crops in early Alabama, what form of transportation would you have chosen to take your crop to market? Why?
2. The capital's location changed many times. If the capital were to change again, where would you locate it? Why?



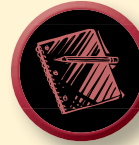
Project

Make a drawing of what you think would be in a steamboat's stateroom.



Writing

Imagine you are the first governor of Alabama. You are planning a road system for the state. Look at a map of the state. Where are roads needed? Write a memo to the legislature telling them about your plan. How will the state pay for the roads?



Preparing for Tests

Multiple Choice—These questions are like those you may find in tests.

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Type of Transportation	Size of Load	Speed	Cost
Air—cargo plane	•	•••	•••
Rail—freight train	•••	••	••
Water—barge	•••	•	•
Land—truck	••	••	••

• Least •• Average ••• Greatest

1. Look at the chart above. If you were choosing the best type of transportation, which of the following statements gives correct information for making a decision?
 - A. Air travel is least expensive.
 - B. Water transportation would be good for emergency cargoes.
 - C. Railroads carry a large load.
 - D. Land transportation is most expensive.
2. Which of the following industries was *not* in almost every county?
 - A. Blast furnace
 - B. Gristmill
 - C. Blacksmith shop
 - D. Sawmill



Using Technology

You are going to look at the once thriving town of St. Stephens in the Alabama Territory. Go to the website www.usgulfstatesgeotourism.com and search for the Old St. Stephens Historical Park. What businesses did the town have? Why do you think archaeologists are so interested in St. Stephens today?