


Unit IV

Alabama in the 20th Century



Above: Alabama played a key role in one of man's greatest achievements. It took powerful rockets to put a man on the moon. The engines for those rockets were developed at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. You can see the rockets, and a lot more, at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.



In the 100 years spanning the 20th century, there were many changes in Alabama and the world. In 1900, most Americans traveled by horse or in horse-drawn wagons or buggies. By the end of the century, trips into space were not unusual. At the beginning of the 1900s, most Americans were uneducated. At the end of the century, most people were literate (could read and write). There were even a large number of high school and college graduates. In 1900, most Americans were farmers. By 1999, farming methods had changed a lot. Modern practices meant that only a small number of farmers were required. They could raise all the food needed by people who worked at many other jobs.

Alabama is home to people of many cultures. Our citizens come from every populated continent. Learning to respect each other's culture is part of knowing about and enjoying our state.

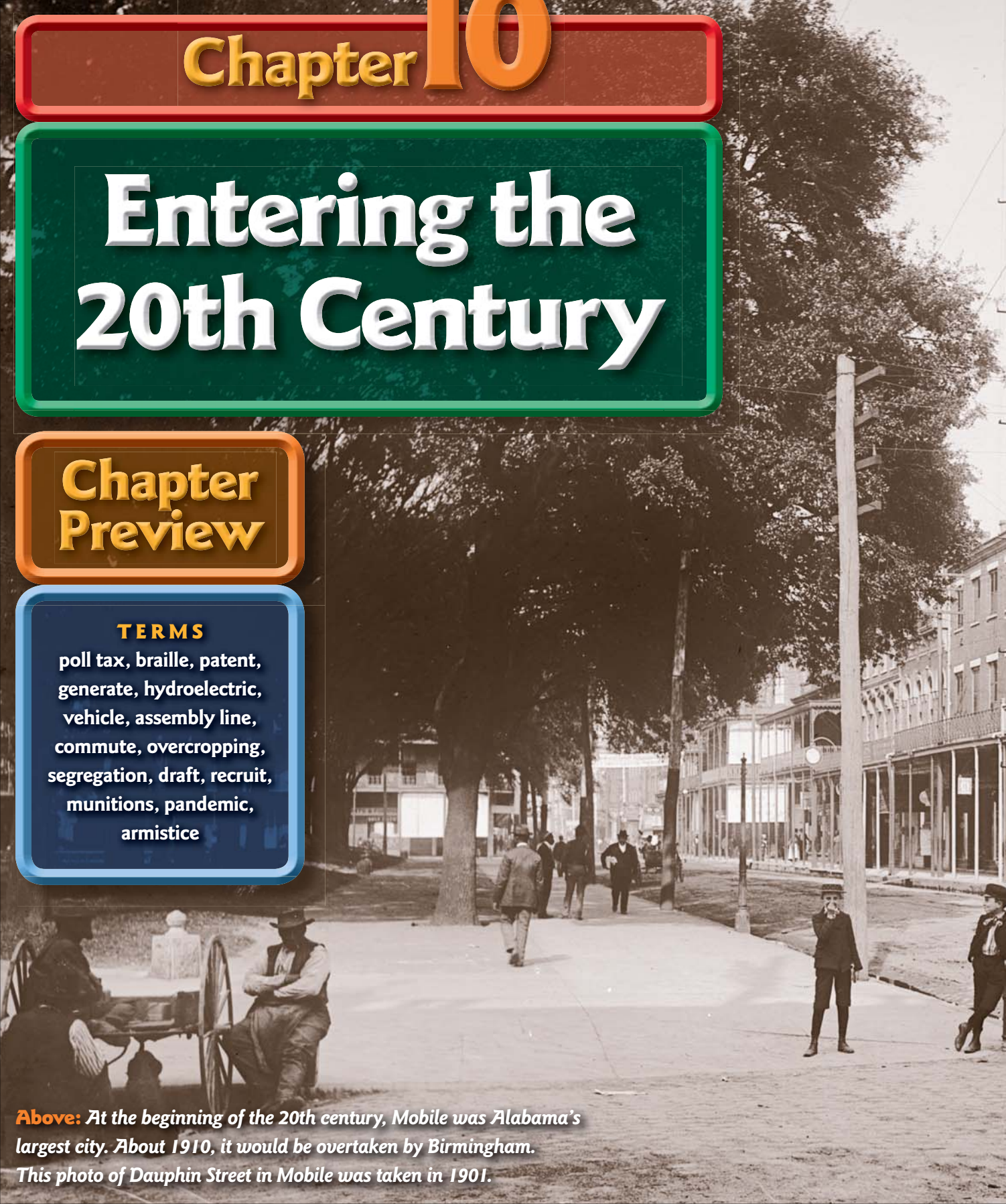
Chapter 10

Entering the 20th Century

Chapter Preview

TERMS

poll tax, braille, patent, generate, hydroelectric, vehicle, assembly line, commute, overcropping, segregation, draft, recruit, munitions, pandemic, armistice



Above: At the beginning of the 20th century, Mobile was Alabama's largest city. About 1910, it would be overtaken by Birmingham. This photo of Dauphin Street in Mobile was taken in 1901.



E

ntering a new century, the 1900s, was an exciting time. The idea of a new beginning was good for Alabamians. They had barely recovered from the Civil War. People were looking forward to good times with plenty of food and money.

Many people had moved away to find a better life, but some new people moved to Alabama. Families from Ohio came south and settled Cullman. Immigrants from Germany joined them. Cullman became a thriving (doing well) community. Economic growth and the blending of cultures continued to change Alabama.

Focus on Reading Skills

Using the Media Center for Research

Learning

The media center has many sources of information for a report or project. Encyclopedias contain articles on many topics. You will find the articles arranged in alphabetical order. Often, there are related topics listed at the end of the article. The encyclopedia may be in book form, on computer disk, or online.

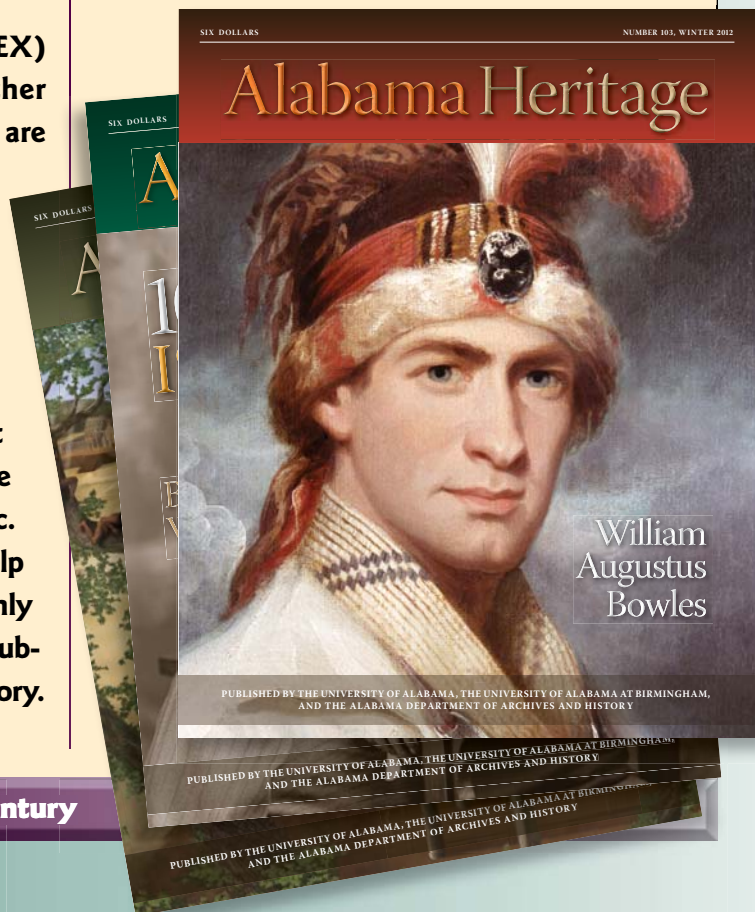
Books will have information in more detail. Look for the topic name in Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) or other sources at your media center.

The Alabama Learning Exchange (ALEX) and the Alabama Virtual Library are other good sources of information. These tools are Internet-based, so you may need help from an adult to access them. You can use Internet search engines to find all kinds of information about history and geography.

Magazines may offer up-to-date information on your topic. Your library might have a reference that lists all articles by subject and author. Look for your subject. There may be many articles listed under one topic. Then you must choose which ones might help you. There are even magazines that write only about history. *Alabama Heritage* magazine, published since 1986, is devoted to Alabama history. Many magazine articles are online.

Practicing

Some sources are better than others for different topics. As a class, choose one topic and form teams. You could look for Dr. William Crawford Gorgas and his work with yellow fever. Another good subject is the textile industry and how it has changed our state's economy. Each team will look for information on the topic. After about 30 minutes, the teams will share their information. No team will win, but try to agree on which *source* (not team) was best for this topic.



Section 1

Starting to Live in the 1900s

As you read, look for

- the main reason for the new state Constitution of 1901;
- how voting laws changed;
- term: **poll tax**.

People looked forward to a new century because the previous one had been so hard. However, life in Alabama did not instantly change when the calendar rolled over to the 20th century.

Figure 20 Timeline: 1885 to 1920

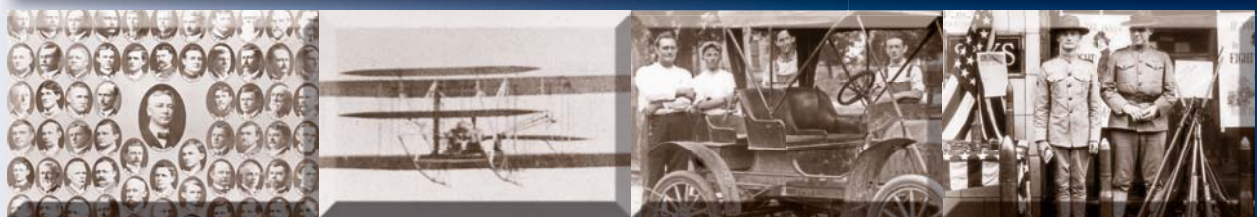




Figure 21
Population of
Alabama
Cities 1900

Anniston	9,998
Bessemer	6,358
Birmingham	38,415
Florence	6,478
Huntsville	8,068
Mobile	38,469
Montgomery	30,346
Selma	8,713
Talladega	5,056
Tuscaloosa	5,094

Everyday Life in Alabama

Most people lived as they had for many years. Fireplaces or iron stoves usually heated buildings. To keep cool, people opened windows and doors. Candles or oil lamps lit houses at night. Water was drawn from a well or spring with buckets or a hand pump.

Sick people were usually cared for at home. At that time, people used home remedies and folk medicine to treat most illnesses. A family only called a doctor when they did not know what else to do for the sick person. Doctors had offices, but often went to patients' homes to treat them. Most people in Alabama had never been to a hospital.

In 1900, Alabama was still mostly rural. At that time, there were only 10 cities in the state with a population of more than 5,000. The state's population was growing rapidly though.

The New Constitution of 1901

A state's constitution is a written guide for running the state government. Alabama's first constitution was written in 1819. The state had four different constitutions during the 1800s.

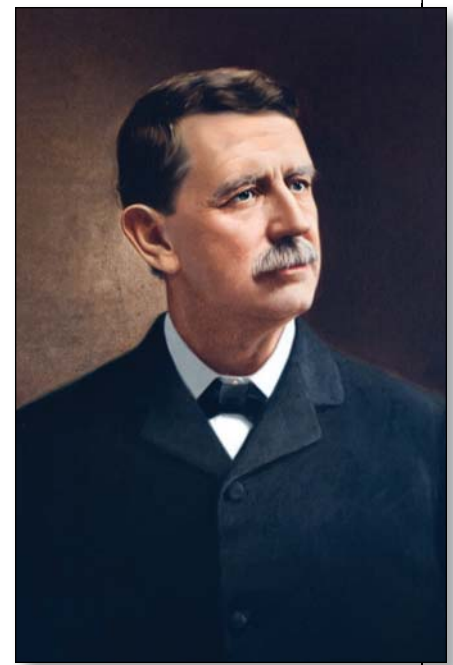
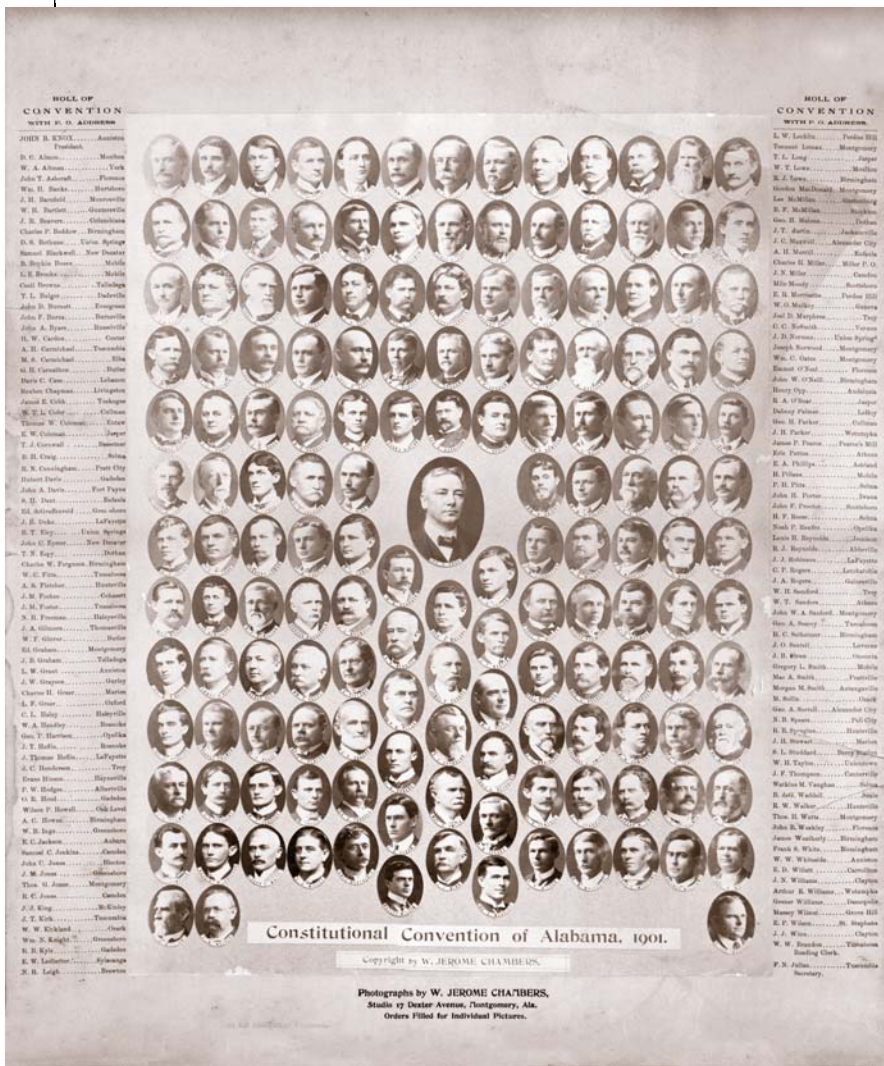
In May 1901, 155 delegates met to change the constitution again. Albert Moore, a historian, said the main issue the convention faced was who would be allowed to vote.

Blacks made up more than 40 percent of the state's population in 1901. This large number of voters could have been important in any election. The Constitution of 1901 made it harder for blacks and poor people to vote.

The Constitution of 1901 said that in order to vote, a person must

- be a man,
- be at least 21 years old,
- be able to read and write,
- be able to explain any part of the U.S. Constitution,
- pay a poll tax.

Paying a **poll tax** (a tax to vote) kept most poor people from voting. It also reduced the number of black voters. In 1900, there were 181,315 black voters and 232,821 white voters in Alabama. But by 1902, only 2,980 blacks and 191,492 whites could still vote. All of these qualified voters were men since women were not allowed to vote.



Above: Governor William J. Samford died in office while the convention was being held. Left: Every delegate to the constitutional convention was white. One of the main reasons for a new constitution was to limit the voting rights of blacks.

The Constitution of 1901 is still in use today. It has been amended more than 400 times since it was first written. It is no longer difficult to register to vote, and no Alabamian pays a poll tax today. All citizens now have an equal opportunity to vote.

Think It Through!

1. Name the cities with a population of 5,000 or more in 1900.
2. Which groups of people lost the right to vote because of the Constitution of 1901?
3. Why do you think women were denied the right to vote?

Alabama Portrait

Helen Keller

Helen Keller was a normal, healthy baby when she was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in June 1880. But after she recovered from a serious illness, Helen could not see or hear. Because she could not hear, she did not learn to talk.

Helen's family contacted the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts. This school sent Anne Sullivan to Tuscumbia to be Helen's teacher.

Teaching Helen was not easy. One day Anne held Helen's hand under the water pump while she pumped water over it. Then she spelled **W A T E R** in Helen's hand. Helen finally understood that things have names. She realized that her teacher was telling her that water was the thing running over her hand. In 3 hours, she learned 30 new words, and a whole world of understanding opened for her.

Helen learned to read words printed in **braille** (raised characters). She learned to write too. When she was ten years old, Helen began learning to speak. She worked hard at her studies and graduated from Radcliffe College with honors in 1904.

Helen Keller had many talents. She could swim, dive, row a boat, ride a horse, knit, and ride a bicycle for two. She gave talks and wrote books and magazine articles. Her most famous book, *The Story of My Life*, was published in 1903. It was translated into several languages.

Keller traveled over the world for the American Foundation for the Blind. She spoke in more than 25 countries trying to bring new hope to people who were blind and deaf.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt called Keller a "good will ambassador to the world." In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Helen Keller was 88 years old when she died in 1968. She spent most of her adult life helping others.

The Helen Keller School of Alabama in Talladega is a school for children who are both deaf and blind. It is part of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and the Blind (AIDB). The E. H. Gentry Special Technical Facility is also part of AIDB. It is one of very few technical schools in the country especially designed for deaf and blind people.

A statue of Helen Keller is in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall. The statue sits on a base of Alabama white marble. Helen is shown as a seven-year-old girl at the water pump. This statue is the first one in the hall of a child. It is also the hall's first statue of a person with a known disability.

Opposite page: *Helen Keller was able to conquer huge obstacles. This made her famous even as a young woman. She spent her life traveling the world speaking about the rights of the disabled.*



Section 2

Technology



About Alabama

In the early 1930s, only about 10 percent of people in rural areas had electricity in their homes. But 90 percent of people in towns had electric power. By 1939, the rural number had grown to 25 percent.

As you read, look for

- how technology improved life;
- terms: **patent**, **generate**, **hydroelectric**.

Technology is the use of tools and skills to perform jobs.

It also involves using these tools and skills with science to solve problems. Technology is part of medicine, education, industry, and our everyday lives.

It is hard for us to think of a time without electricity, cars, tractors, or telephones. In this chapter, watch for ways improvements in technology changed how things were done.

Electric Power

Thomas Edison patented the electric lightbulb in 1880. A **patent** is a document registering an invention with the government patent office. It gives the inventor the sole (only) right to sell his or her product. By the late 1880s, many cities had electric





power. In 1906, the Alabama Power Company built its first dam to generate power. (**Generate** means to make or produce power.)

More dams and power stations were built along Alabama's rivers. These **hydroelectric** dams used waterpower to generate electricity. Wires carried the electricity from the power stations to homes and businesses in the state.

People who lived in cities were the first to have electric lights in their homes. Some of them also worked in factories where electricity ran the machinery.

DYK>About Alabama

Above: Birmingham displayed its technology with this picture of 3rd Avenue North lit with electric light bulbs in a 1908 ad for the city. **Below:** The U.S. government built Wilson Dam on the Tennessee River in Alabama. It was needed to provide hydroelectric power to make explosives for World War I.





Above: *Just 24 years after the telephone was invented, there were over 1 million being used in the United States. Calls could not be made directly though, as we do today. An operator was needed to connect the two parties. Many young women found work as telephone operators.*

Changes in Everyday Life

There were many new technologies introduced during this time. These things changed the way people communicated.

Digital and disposable cameras are common today. The first cameras were used as early as 1860. But not many people owned one of these early cameras. George Eastman introduced the Kodak camera in 1888. Cameras became a popular technology. People liked being able to capture pictures of special events and loved ones.

Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone in 1876 was a huge leap in communication. But it took several years to install telephone lines so that phones could be useful. By 1900, over one million telephones were in use.

Most people at this time wrote using pens or pencils and paper. People today often use word processing software on a computer to write and print. But long before computers, there was a "writing machine" called a typewriter.

The first successful typewriter was invented in the United States in 1868. These machines were important tools for lawyers and businesses such as newspapers and magazines.

Think It Through!

1. What company built dams on Alabama's rivers to produce electricity?
2. How did electricity help factories?
3. Trace ways of writing from 1900 to today.

Section 3

Transportation

As you read, look for

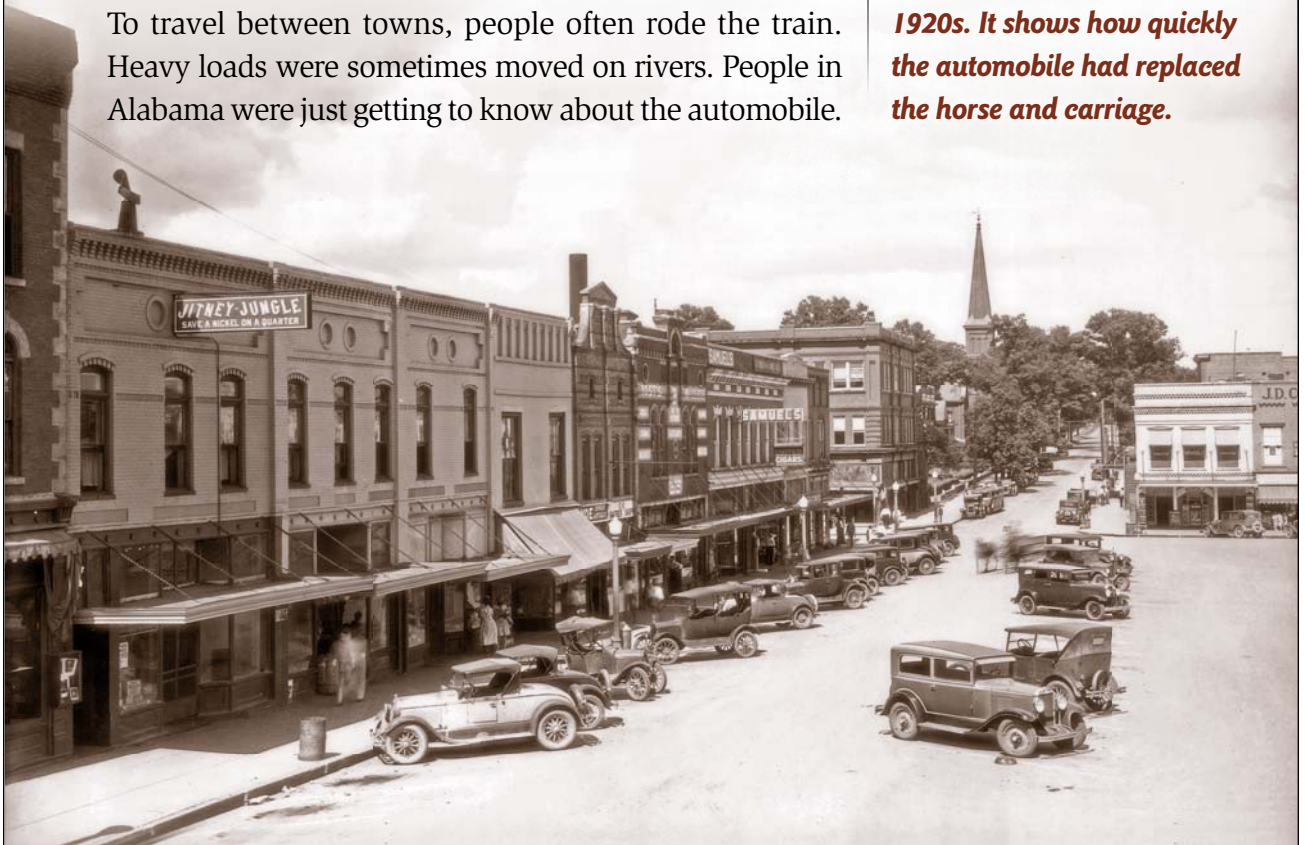
- the changes in transportation;
- terms: **vehicle**, **assembly line**, **commute**.

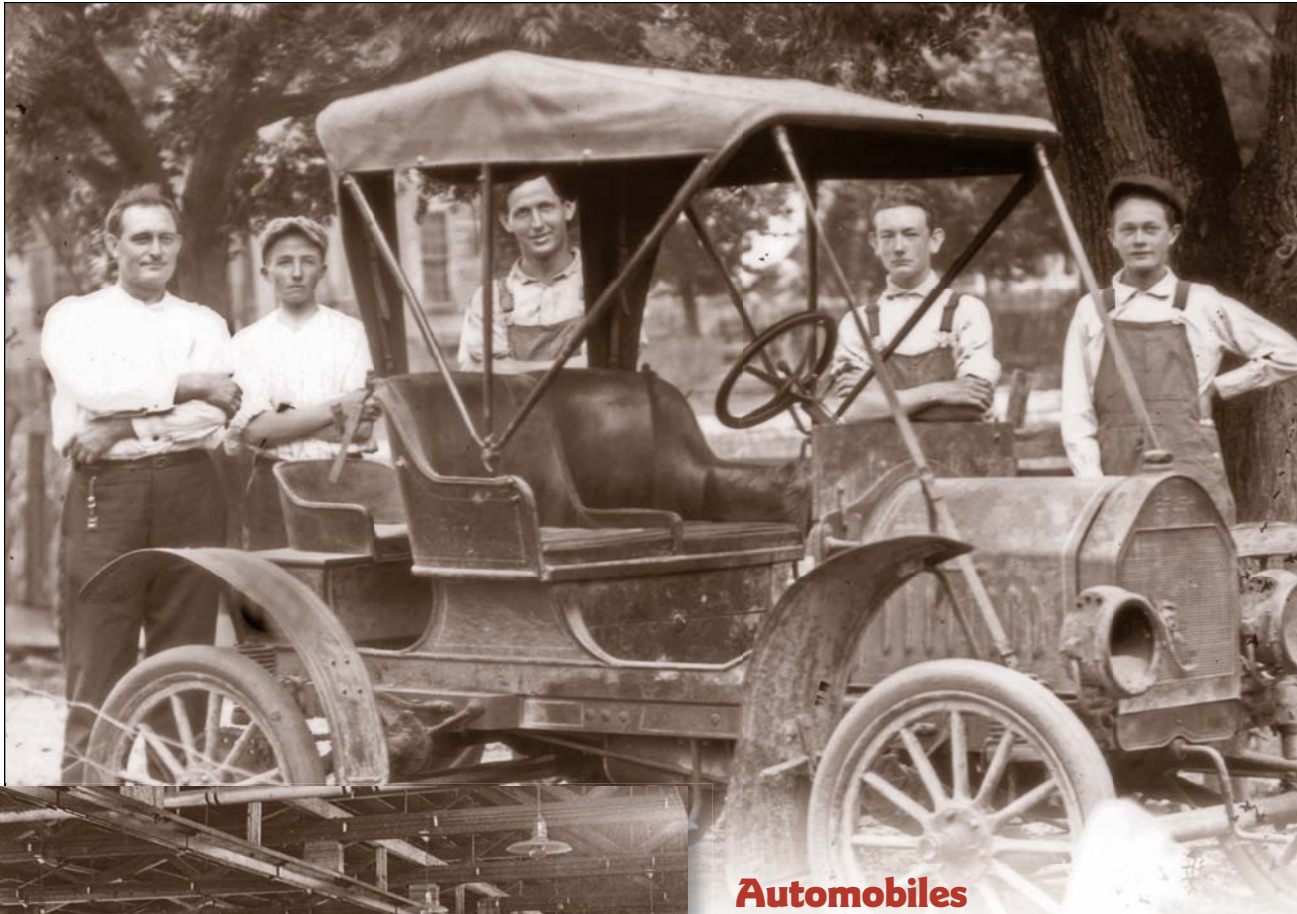
In 1900, roads between towns were still mostly rough dirt tracks. Most city streets were not paved. Many larger towns had electric streetcars to carry people to and from work or on shopping trips.

In small towns and in the country, horses and horse-drawn vehicles were still in use. (A **vehicle** is a way of transportation.)

To travel between towns, people often rode the train. Heavy loads were sometimes moved on rivers. People in Alabama were just getting to know about the automobile.

Below: This is a photo of downtown Talladega in the 1920s. It shows how quickly the automobile had replaced the horse and carriage.





Automobiles

Before the automobile, families traveled in wagons or buggies. Karl Benz built the first real automobile in Germany in 1885. Then in 1896, Henry Ford made his first car in Detroit, Michigan. There were only about 4,000 cars in the United States in 1900.

In 1903, Henry Ford opened the Ford Motor Company. By 1914, Ford had built an improved moving assembly line. This was a new idea for factories. **Assembly**

lines make products on a moving belt. Each worker does only one task. This might be putting on a steering wheel or a gas pedal. Workers do their jobs quickly as the car moves by them.

This new process took a lot less labor than the old way. It meant that cars cost less and more people could buy them. About that time, the price for a Ford was \$780. That would be around \$41,000 for the average wage earner to pay today. By 1910, there were about 187,000 cars in the country. In 1918, there were nearly 8 million automobiles in the United States.

Top: A group of men from Pike County pose proudly with their automobile in this 1915 photo. **Above:** The Ford Motor Company's use of assembly lines made cars affordable for middle-class families.

More cars meant more and better roads were needed. During the early 1900s, Alabama began putting gravel on roads and keeping them repaired. It was a long time before the state began paving roads. There was no pavement between Montgomery and Mobile as late as 1918. Governor Thomas Kilby was elected in 1919. He had many new roads built in the state. A lot of roads were also paved between 1919 and 1923.

By 1929, Americans had almost 23 million cars on the road. A growing number of people lived in the country and suburbs. They **commuted** (traveled to work) to city jobs. The automobile business is an important industry in Alabama today. The state has 3 large automobile factories. Alabama is also home to many companies that make parts for cars.

Railroads

Railroads were important to Alabama industries. The trains made it easier to send Alabama goods to market. The railroads connected towns within the state and joined Alabama to other states. Rail companies were big businesses at that time.

People traveled on trains and shipped goods on them. Some trains carried mail from one town to another. When the state had few high schools, some students rode the train to school each day.



Riverboats Still in Use

The spread of railroads reduced steamboat use. But river transportation was still important in the state. Timber, manufactured goods, and agricultural products often moved on river barges. In the early 1900s, Alabama Power Company and the federal government began building dams. These projects made the rivers deeper in some places and shallower in others. Sometimes, the bottom of the river was dredged (dug out) so barges would not get stuck. As the rivers were improved, more barges were

Above: Riverboats were still in use in the 20th century. They were mainly used for hauling barges loaded with goods like cotton.



About Alabama

The Wright brothers chose Alabama (above) as the location for their flying school. It was the first one in the nation for training non-military pilots.

used. Later in the 20th century, the Tenn-Tom Waterway made travel easier for barges. It did this by overcoming the obstacles of fast-moving rivers and falls.

Airplanes

In 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful airplane flight. It was from a beach in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Around 1910, the brothers came to the Montgomery area. They did test flights over what is now Maxwell Field. The Wright brothers chose Montgomery because of its good climate.

Think It Through!

1. What were three things railroads carried?
2. What made rivers deeper in some places?
3. Who made the first successful airplane flight?
The first affordable car?

Spotlight

A New Vulcan

Vulcan travels a lot for a statue. At 56 feet tall, he is the largest cast iron statue in the world. The molds were created in *New Jersey* by sculptor Giuseppe Moretti. James McWane of *Birmingham Steel and Iron* made Vulcan. It was the largest casting ever made. Vulcan was a huge success at the 1904 World's Fair in *St. Louis, Missouri*. Vulcan remained on exhibit at the *Birmingham Fairground* for 30 years. Then Vulcan traveled to the crest of *Red Mountain* overlooking Birmingham. He stood on a pedestal (supporting base) that included a museum. As Vulcan aged, his skin cracked. He needed repairs.

Vulcan stayed on the move. First, engineers and historians carefully checked the statue's condition. Then, Vulcan's fans raised money to restore the grand old statue and his surroundings. With a crane, he was taken apart piece by piece. The public came to view his parts up close. The parts were taken to the *Art Museum* parking lot in downtown Birmingham for the public to view. Then the parts were transported to a foundry in *Alexander City* for repair. Imagine seeing a huge hand or an enormous head pass you on the highway. Finally, Vulcan was put back together like a puzzle. He stands atop *Red Mountain* on a special pedestal. Do you think Vulcan's traveling days are over?



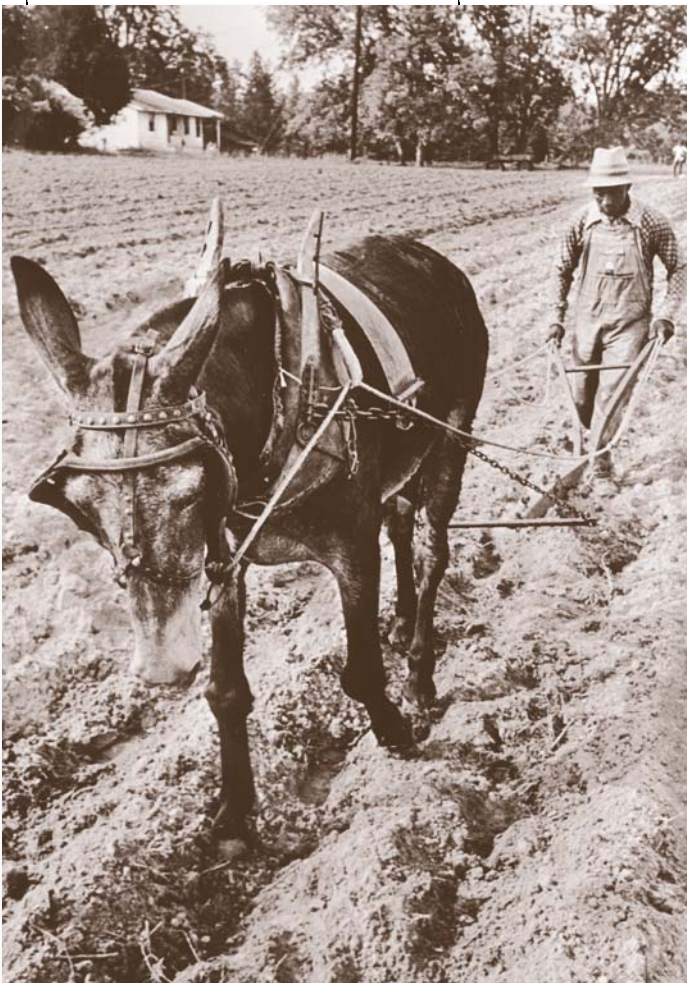
Section 4

Agriculture

Below: Cotton was still the most-grown crop on Alabama farms, but overcropping led to smaller harvests. **Opposite page, left:** Dr. Carver urged farmers to plant other crops to help protect the soil.

As you read, look for

- changes in agriculture;
- the cause of farmers' poverty;
- why blacks migrated from Alabama;
- terms: **overcropping**, **segregation**.



In 1900, 88 percent of Alabamians lived on farms. Cotton was the major crop on about two-thirds of the farms in the state. Sharecroppers or tenant farmers worked over half of Alabama's farms. Many farmers lived in poverty during this period.

Farming Methods Change

New farming machines were in use by 1900. But most of the work was still done with animals or by hand. Life was hard for farm families. Their work provided them with little more than basic food and clothing.

Farmers planted cotton in their fields year after year. This practice, called overcropping, used up all the nutrients in the soil. (**Overcropping** is planting the same crop over and over.) That meant the soil was less fertile. You read about Dr. George Washington Carver's work in Chapter 9. He wanted to help the farmers learn to farm scientifically. By changing crops, farmers could protect the soil and make a better living.



Dr. Carver's work came at an important time in the lives of cotton farmers. The boll weevil had destroyed cotton crops. This forced many Alabama farmers to quit growing cotton. They began growing peanuts and other profitable crops instead. Because this forced change was a good one, a statue was built in Enterprise to honor the boll weevil.

Shift in Black Population

In 1915, African Americans from Alabama and other southern states began moving out of the region. Most blacks in Alabama were farmers or worked at low-paying jobs. The majority of them could not vote. Many African Americans in the South were looking for better jobs and less **segregation** (separation of the races). A large number of them went west to California or north where there were big centers of industry.

Think It Through!

1. Why is overcropping a bad practice?
2. Why did the town of Enterprise honor the boll weevil?
3. Why did many blacks leave the state during this time?



About Alabama

The boll weevil is a small insect that had a big impact on the state's economy. The female weevil lays her eggs in a cotton flower bud. The larvae then feed on the bud causing it to drop off. Without the flower, no cotton boll develops.

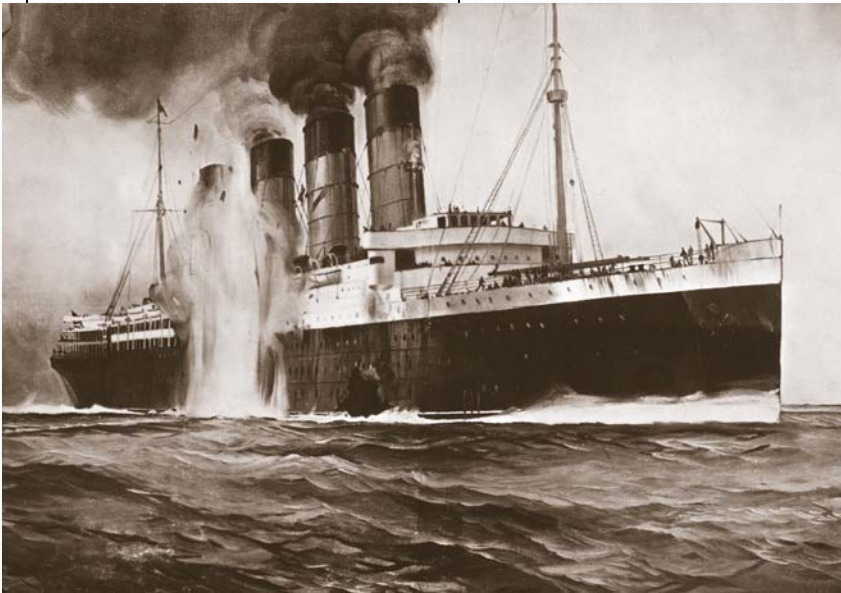
Section 5

World War I

Opposite page, above: *This famous recruiting poster was painted by James Montgomery Flagg. Opposite page, below:* *A young marine poses in front of a Birmingham recruiting office. When the U.S. entered the war, thousands of young men volunteered for the military.*

As you read, look for

- why the United States entered World War I;
- what was the Rainbow Division;
- new weapons used in World War I;
- how the pandemic affected Alabama;
- terms: **draft, recruit, munitions, pandemic, armistice.**



Above: *In 1915, the Lusitania, an unarmed British passenger ship, was torpedoed by a German U-boat. The loss of American lives in the attack pushed the U.S. closer to war.*

Some historians have called the early years of the 20th century a time of progress. Electricity and other inventions improved the lives of many people. But the beginning of World War I also caused hardships in Alabama and the whole nation. Citizens had to make sacrifices because there were shortages of goods. Many lives were lost due to disease and the war.

The War Begins

Over many years, some countries in Europe had gained land or lost it. Countries sometimes settled these disputes over land by fighting a war.

On June 28, 1914, there was a political murder in Europe. This assassination touched off a war. Austria-Hungary, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire fought against Belgium, France, England, Russia, and Serbia.

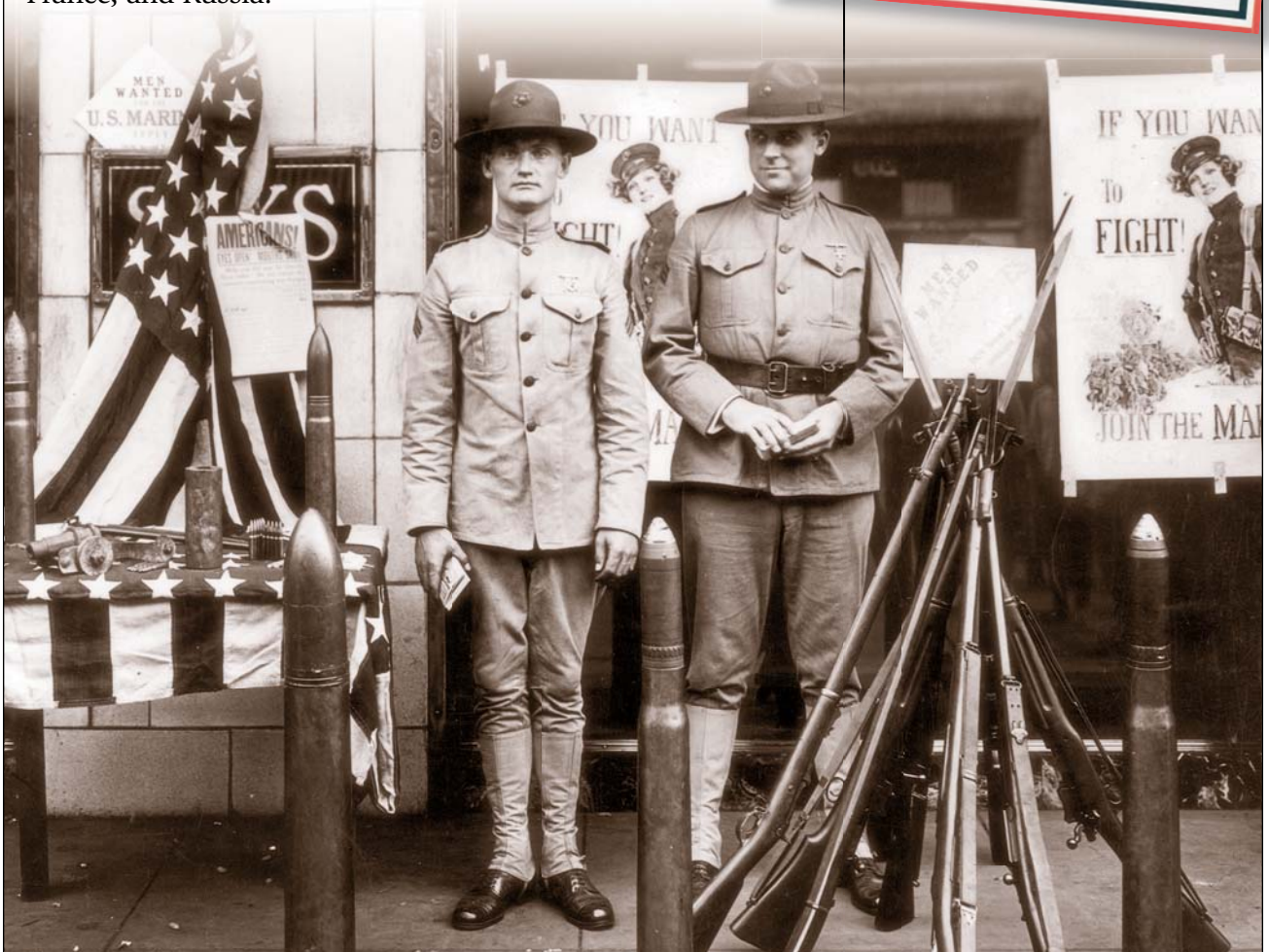
When the war started in Europe, the United States decided not to take sides. Some of the warring countries bought steel and other supplies from the United States.

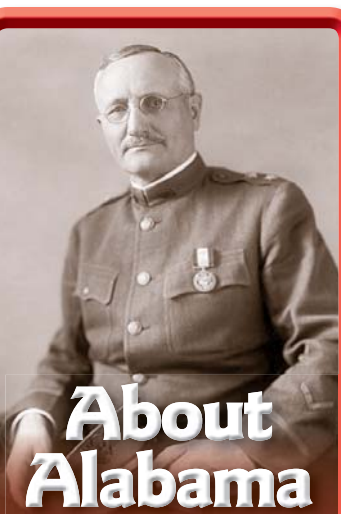
German submarines, called U-boats, sank several ships that were carrying supplies to England and France. In 1915, the Germans sank an unarmed British passenger ship, the *Lusitania*. There were 128 Americans among those killed in the attack.

The United States at War

President Woodrow Wilson asked the Germans to apologize for sinking the *Lusitania*. The Germans apologized but kept sinking unarmed ships.

On April 2, 1917, the president asked the U.S. Congress to declare war on Germany. In his speech that day, President Wilson said, “The world must be made safe for democracy.” The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. America became allies with England, France, and Russia.





About Alabama

General William Sibert from Gadsden was one of the builders of the Panama Canal. He later handled the construction of the Alabama State Docks in Mobile. This seaport is a very important part of the state's shipping industry.

Below: Camp McClellan was opened in 1917 to train troops for World War I. In 1929, it was renamed Fort McClellan.

Part of the Alabama National Guard was included in the newly formed Rainbow Division. It was made up of units from 25 states and the District of Columbia. Most fighting by the Rainbow Division was in France. John Hayes of the Alabama National Guard wrote about the division's role in the war.

On August 15, the Alabama National Guard was drafted into Federal service and the 4th Alabama Infantry [became] the 167th U.S. Infantry and became a part of the 42nd Rainbow Division Colonel Douglas MacArthur, Chief of Staff of the new division and its first member, gave the [division] its name.... The Rainbow Division. The symbol of the rainbow, composed of all the colors of the spectrum, suggests the many states of the Union from which the division [came].... Although the Americans suffered heavy losses, they [fought off] all enemy attacks.

The U.S. Congress passed the Selective Service Act of 1917. This law allowed the U.S. Army to draft men to become soldiers. (The **draft** is when the government requires people to serve in the military.) The military also recruited citizens to serve as soldiers and sailors. (**Recruit** means to sign up or hire people.) Many men and women volunteered for service. Patriotic posters were one way the U.S. military recruited troops.

About 95,000 Alabamians were in military service during World War I. Over 6,000 of these were killed in action or died from wounds or disease.



New War Weapons

World War I was the first time that tanks, poison gas, and airplanes were used in battle. These early airplanes were mostly biplanes (two sets of wings). At first, airplanes used in the war were unarmed. They just flew over enemy territory and reported on the movements of soldiers. Later, the planes were armed with machine guns and bombs. Many early pilots were trained at Maxwell Field in Montgomery.



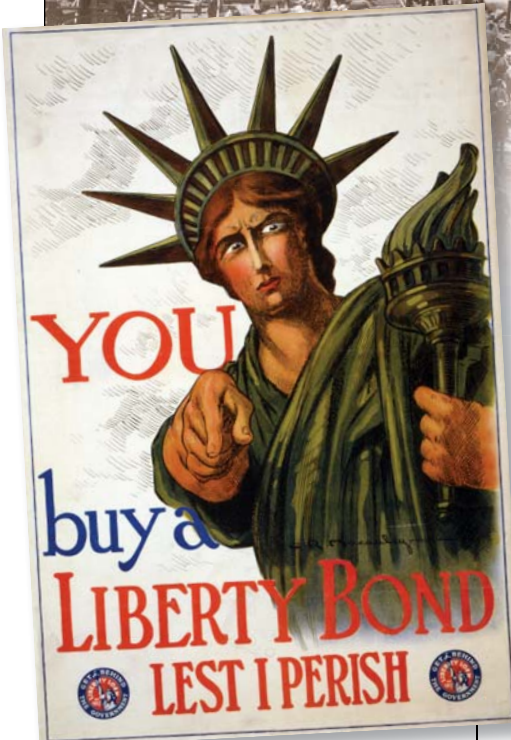
Alabama during the War Years

Industry and trade in the state grew during the war. In 1918, the building of Wilson Dam began on the Tennessee River near Muscle Shoals. Its purpose was to supply power for 2 nitrate plants. Nitrates were needed for making **munitions** (bullets, bombs, and explosives) for the war. The war ended 2 weeks before the plants began production. But the building of the dam had a huge impact on the area's economy. There were over 18,000 workers and 1,700 temporary buildings at the site.

Factories in Birmingham, Gadsden, Anniston, and other cities ran at top speed. They were making the iron and steel needed for weapons. The textile plants at Alexander City, Tallassee,

Top and above: World War I was the first war that made use of airplanes and tanks in combat. The tank is British and the biplane is French.





and Prattville played a role in the war too. They were among the mills that made cloth for use by the military. Workers at lumber mills turned trees into lumber for war needs.

Shipbuilding grew in Mobile to support the war needs. Ships also crowded the docks in Mobile Bay. They waited there to be loaded with supplies for the soldiers in Europe. Hundreds of people worked in dry docks repairing ships for the war effort.

Farmers grew more food to support the war. Families planted vegetables for their own use in their yards and on empty lots.

Children gathered books to send to military hospitals and army camps. Women knitted socks, mittens, and caps for servicemen. The Red Cross opened centers where people made bandages. Volunteers sold Liberty Bonds to raise money for the war. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts also sold war bonds.

Citizens had “meatless days” so there would be enough meat for the soldiers. It was hard to get flour and sugar, so cooks used cornmeal and molasses instead. Posters reminded citizens to cook with less meat, flour, and sugar.

There was a terrible flu **pandemic** (widespread disease) from 1918 to 1920. It killed 40 to 50 million people around the world.

Top: World War I brought lots of work to the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company in Mobile. Here, the USS Houston is being launched. **Above:** Posters urged people to buy Liberty Bonds.

It was called the Spanish flu because it first appeared in Spain. Schools and other public places closed. There was no medicine for the flu at that time. Every county in the state suffered from this deadly influenza. About 675,000 people in the United States died of the Spanish flu. The illness spread fast in military camps. The soldiers became too weak to march or fight.

The War Ends

The United States and its allies won the war, which lasted 4 years and destroyed much of Europe. The **armistice** (agreement to stop the war) was signed in France on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Each year we celebrate Veterans Day to mark this event.

More than 10 million people died in the war including 116,000 American fighting men. At the time, the war was simply called the Great War. Many people believed it was the “war to end all wars.” They thought there would never again be such a war.

World War I changed national boundaries on three continents. The war also changed which countries were most powerful in the world.



Above: A victory arch was built in Montgomery to welcome home members of the 167th U.S. Infantry. The girls dressed in white are members of the Girls' Patriotic League.

Think It Through!

1. What large national division included the 4th Alabama Infantry and the Alabama National Guard?
2. What was the first job airplanes had in World War I?
3. What two ways did the U.S. Army use to get soldiers to serve in the war?
4. Why do you think people called World War I the “war to end all wars”?

About Alabama

The largest Veterans Day parade of its kind is held in Birmingham on November 11, the national holiday.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

New developments in technology, transportation, and agriculture happened at a fast pace during the 20th century. At the beginning of the 1900s, most people in Alabama lived on farms.

Transportation was changing very quickly. Horses, trains, and riverboats were still important ways to travel. The automobile made better roads necessary. Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the first airplane. The Wright brothers brought their plane to Montgomery for testing and pilot training.

The greatest political change of the new century was the state Constitution of 1901. This new constitution sharply lowered the number of people allowed to vote. It required a poll tax and literacy tests. This kept most black men and some white men from voting. Women never had the right to vote, so they were not affected.

The United States entered World War I in 1917. The war effort involved most Alabamians. Some went to Europe and fought, and others worked in war industries. The Alabama National Guard and the 4th Alabama Infantry fought as a part of the Rainbow Division. It was one of the most famous units in the war. When the war ended, some people believed there would never again be such a war. The armistice was signed on November 11. We now celebrate that day as Veterans Day.

A great flu pandemic occurred from 1918 to 1920. The Spanish flu killed millions of people worldwide.



Remember

On a separate piece of paper, write each of the words on the list. Then match each word with one of the definitions that follow.

Assembly line	Overcropping
Commute	Pandemic
Munitions	Patent

1. Farming method of growing the same crop over and over
2. To travel from the country (or suburb) to the city to work each day
3. A widespread disease usually killing many people
4. A document registering an invention with the government.
5. A way to make a product where each worker does only one part
6. Weapons like bombs, guns, and bullets



Reviewing the Facts

1. What kinds of dams use water to generate power?
2. In 1900, what percentage of Alabamians lived on farms?
3. In what year was the present Alabama state constitution written?
4. Who invented the electric lightbulb? The telephone?
5. What was the Spanish flu?



Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. What was the growth in the number of cars between 1910 and 1918? What changes did this bring to the country? Why?
2. Historians think railroads put steamboats out of business. How could this be true?



Making Decisions

1. As a student in 1917, you want to do your part in the war effort. What will you do?
2. You are a farmer in 1910. Boll weevils have destroyed your cotton crop again. What will you plant next year? Why?



Project

Make a drawing or build a model of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first plane.



Writing

1. Make a chart of the different kinds of transportation with the advantages and disadvantages of each. The example below will help you get started.

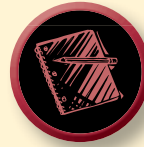
Transportation: Steamboat

Advantages: Comfortable;
Could carry large loads

Disadvantages: Not convenient for all people

2. After you make the chart, write a report using the information you gathered. Use

each type of transportation in a paragraph. Each advantage and disadvantage should be a sentence. The chart that you made should help you organize your report.



Preparing for Tests

Multiple Choice—These questions are like those you might see in tests.

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. In what month do we celebrate the World War I armistice?
 - A. September
 - B. November
 - C. January
 - D. July
2. Why was Wilson Dam built?
 - A. To provide a lake for fishing
 - B. To provide power for Florence and Tuscumbia
 - C. To keep the land from eroding
 - D. To provide power for nitrate plants for the war



Using Technology

You are going to find out more about Alabama's ties to early aviation (flying).

On the Internet, go to encyclopediaofAlabama.org. Search for Wright Brothers Flying School. The first choice is the article that you need. Note the small pictures on the left show if it is an article (paper) or a photograph (a camera). Click the article and read it. Then prepare a PowerPoint presentation on the computer. Give your presentation to an audience such as your parents or classmates.