

A high-angle, wide shot of the interior of the Alabama State Capitol dome. The central feature is a large, circular skylight with a colorful, geometric pattern. Below the skylight, the dome's surface is divided into a series of radial segments, each containing a decorative, repeating motif in shades of pink and gold. The dome is surrounded by a circular band of smaller, square-shaped recessed areas, each containing a small, glowing light. The outer edge of the dome is decorated with a series of small, white, classical-style columns. The overall color palette is warm, featuring gold, pink, and brown tones. The text "ALABAMA" is centered in the middle of the dome, with "Our Beautiful Home" written below it in a smaller font.

# ALABAMA

Our Beautiful Home



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Dr. B. Donette Bower

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## About the Author

Dr. B. Donette Bower has been a lifelong educator. She began by playing school as a child and went on to achieve her dream of becoming a teacher. She taught in rural, suburban, and urban schools and taught at all levels: elementary, middle, high, and adjunct professor.

Dr. Bower grew up in Jasper, Alabama, where she attended the Jasper Public Schools. She continued public school in Birmingham, Alabama, and went on to graduate from Samford University with a degree in elementary education and a minor in social studies. She taught in Jasper, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Carbon Hill, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She earned masters and doctorate degrees from the University of Alabama and an AA teaching certificate from UAB. Dr. Bower worked in a social studies supervisory position in Birmingham. She has also worked as a senior curriculum consultant traveling throughout the United States.

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# Introduction

**The American historian and philosopher** George Santayana wrote, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” This startlingly true quote sets a goal for students and educators. With that in mind, both students and teachers should strive for a firm foundation in history and geography. *Alabama: Our Beautiful Home* gives far more than a listing of facts. This book sets the stage for gaining skills and knowledge in geography, history, economics, civics, and anthropology. These skills and this knowledge will influence who the learners will become.

What you know and what skills you have will influence what the future will be for all of us. You are a part of the story of Alabama, and Alabama is a part of the story of the world. The events that tell the history of Alabama include the horrors of war, social conflict, and difficult economic times. However, progress and wonderful changes are also experienced. The people of Alabama, both natives and immigrants, have set examples of bravery, intelligence, persistence, talent, and character. The land itself helped create the history of Alabama. The natural environment continues to add a special element to life today. We must value this environment and protect it for the future.

Don't just nibble around the edges of history, but feast on the rich heritage of your state. Jump in and enjoy the many sports and activities. Revel in the broad vistas. Soak up the varied cultures with language, food, architecture, art, and customs. Alabama is rich, exciting, delicious, and fun. I can hardly wait.



**Above:** *Barton Academy in Mobile is the oldest public school in Alabama. Page i:* *The rotunda of the Alabama State Capitol is decorated with murals about Alabama history. Page ii-iii:* *The chamber of the house of representatives in the State Capitol has been the scene of many historic events.*

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**Background:** *A closeup of the the iron-rich rock in the Red Mountain Cut, south of Birmingham.*