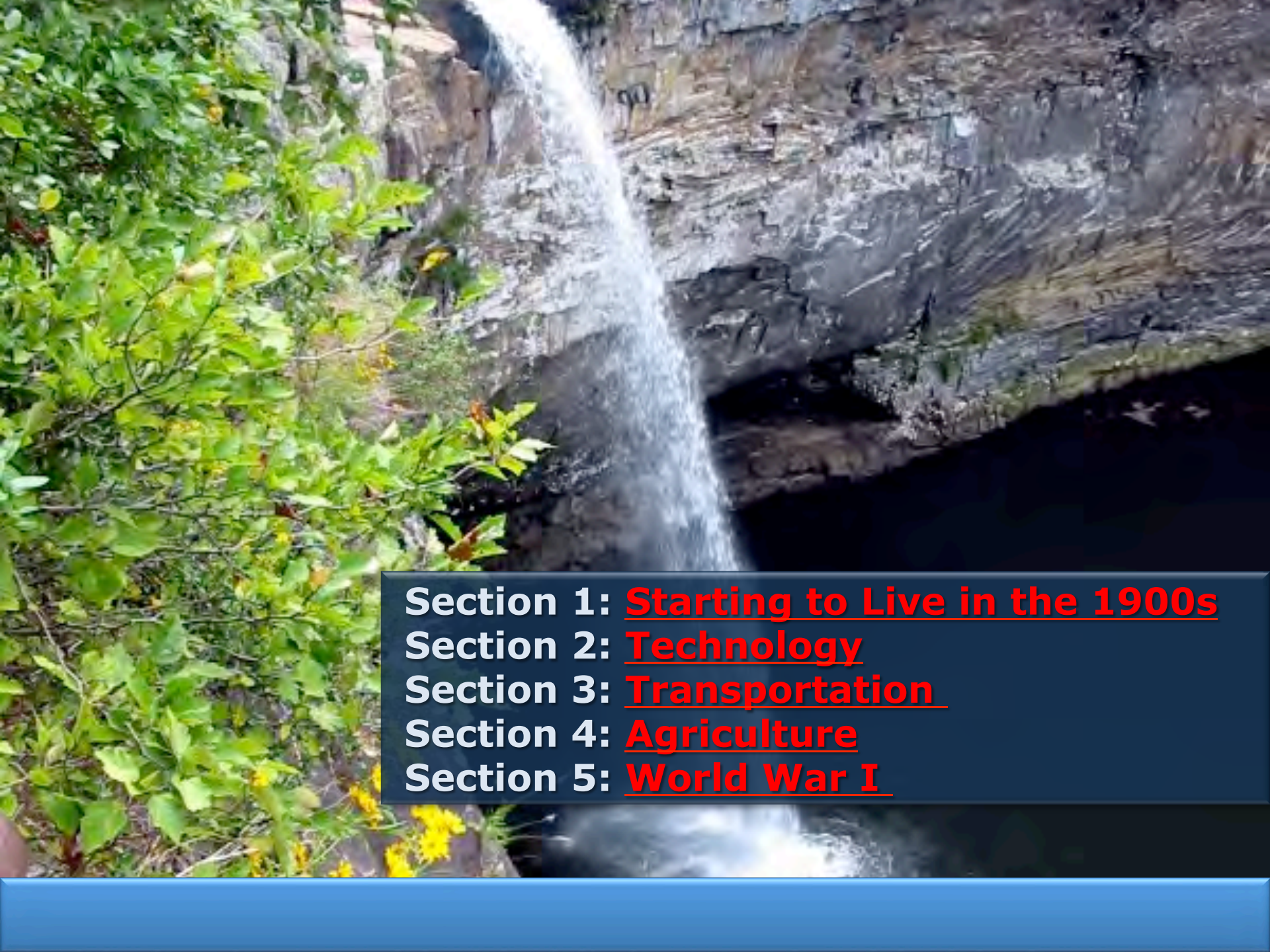


# Alabama: Our Beautiful Home

A photograph of the Alabama State Capitol building, a grand white neoclassical structure with a prominent dome and a portico supported by columns. The building is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. Lush green trees are visible on both sides of the building, and a wide stone staircase leads up to the entrance. In the foreground, there are rows of flower beds with pink and purple blossoms.

Chapter 10: Entering the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Century

**STUDY PRESENTATION**



**Section 1: Starting to Live in the 1900s**

**Section 2: Technology**

**Section 3: Transportation**

**Section 4: Agriculture**

**Section 5: World War I**

# Section 1: Starting to Live in the 1900s

- Essential Question: How did Alabamians lives change in the early 1900s?



# Section 1: Starting to Live in the 1900s

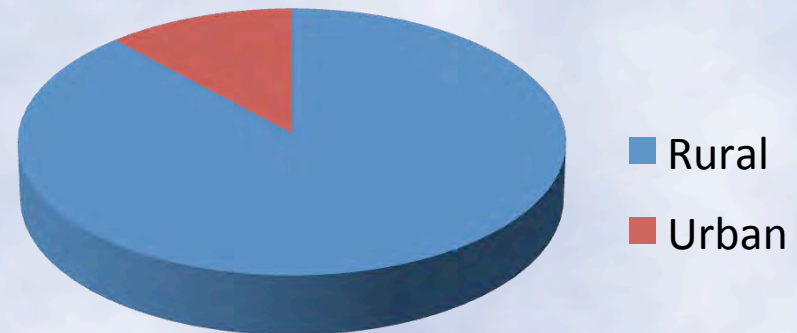
- What terms do I need to know?
  - poll tax



# Everyday Life in Alabama

- Life did not instantly change at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Heat came from iron stoves or fireplaces. People opened doors and windows to cool their homes.
- Candles and oil lamps were used at night, and water came from a well.
- Sick people were cared for at home and doctors tended to come to people's homes when needed.
- In 1900, Alabama was mostly rural and there were few large towns or cities.

Alabama Population 1900



# The New Constitution of 1901

- The main issue for the new constitution was who would have the right to vote.
- Blacks were 40% of the population, but the new constitution made it harder for blacks and the poor to vote.
- Voters had to be male, age 21 or over, able to read and write, able to explain any part of the U.S. Constitution, and pay a poll tax.
- These requirements reduced the number of voters, both black and white.
- The Constitution of 1901 is still in use, but has been amended to make it easier for all citizens to vote.



# Section 2: Technology

- Essential Question: What were effects of technological changes at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?



# Section 2: Technology

- What terms do I need to know?
  - patent
  - generate
  - hydroelectric





# Introduction

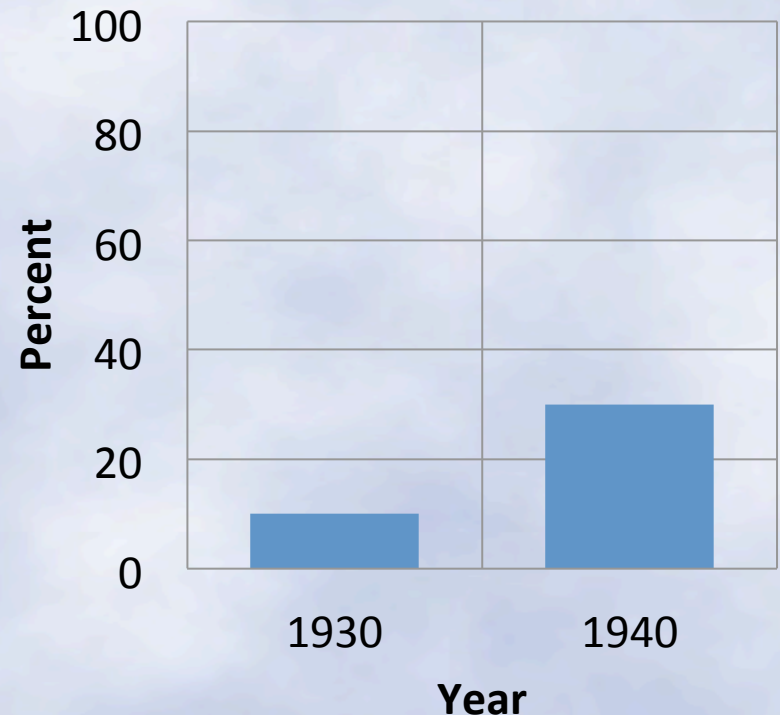
- Technology is the use of tools and skills to perform jobs.
- Technology is a part of medicine, education, industry, and our everyday lives.



# Electric Power

- Thomas Edison got a **patent** for electric light bulbs in 1880.
- In 1906, Alabama Power company began to **generate** electricity with a **hydroelectric** dam. It was the first of many used to make power for the state.
- Wires brought the power to homes and businesses. Those in cities had electricity before those in rural areas.

Rural homes with electricity in Alabama



# Changes in Everyday Life

- New inventions included George Eastman's Kodak camera.
- Alexander Graham Bell's telephone spread so that by 1900 there were over 1,000,000 telephones.
- Typewriters were used by office workers to improve their work, moving beyond pens and paper.



A typewriter improved the work of office workers.



# Section 3: Transportation

- Essential Question: How did the movement of people and goods change in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?



# Section 3: Transportation

- What terms do I need to know?
  - vehicle
  - assembly line
  - commute



# Automobiles

- Horse drawn **vehicles** were most common at the turn of the century.
- Railroads were the best way to get around.
- The first real automobile was built in Germany, but Henry Ford built a car in Detroit, Michigan using an **assembly line** to make the cars more inexpensively.
- With lower prices, more people purchase cars and wanted better roads. Many Alabama roads were paved in the years 1919 to 1923.
- Many people **commuted** in their cars to work in the city from the suburbs. Today there are three large automobile factories in the state.



# Railroads

- Railroads were important for the distribution of goods made in Alabama.
- Some trains carried mail and people.
- Students sometimes rode trains to school.



Union Station in  
Montgomery, 1915



# Riverboats Still in Use

- River transportation was still important. Timber, manufactured goods, and agricultural products were moved on river barges.
- Hydroelectric dams made rivers deeper in some parts and shallower in others. Rivers were dredged to make it easier for barges to travel.





# Airplanes

- Orville and Wilbur Wright invented the airplane in 1903. They did test flights in 1910 in Montgomery at what is now Maxwell Field.



# Section 4: Agriculture

- Essential Question: What changes affected farmers at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?



# Section 4: Agriculture

- What terms do I need to know?
  - overcropping
  - segregation



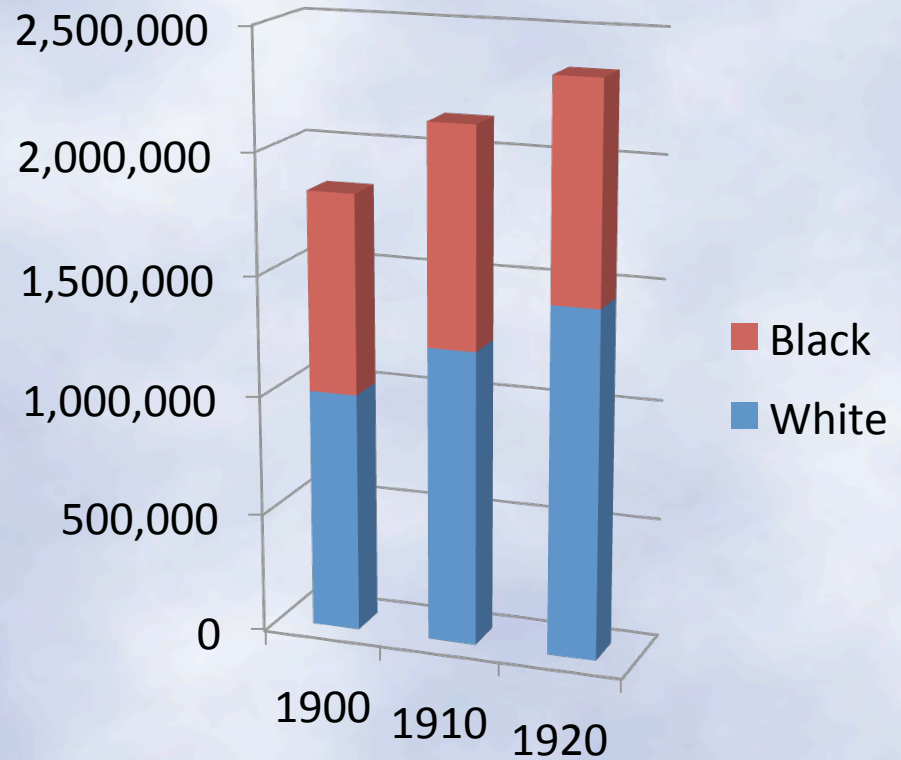
# Farming Methods Change

- In 1900, 88% of Alabamians lived on farms and cotton was the major crop. Many were living at a poverty level.
- Most farm work was done by hand or with the help of animals. Farmers planted the same crop, cotton, over and over (**overcropping**).
- This practice made the soil less fertile.
- Dr. George Washington Carver showed farmers better methods and other crops, like soybeans and peanuts.
- This was good because the boll weevil insect was destroying large areas of cotton crops.



# Shift in Black Population

- In 1915, African Americans from Alabama began moving west to California or north to industrial cities.
- Most were farmers and very poor.
- They hoped to find better jobs and less **segregation**.



# Section 5: World War I

- Essential Question: How did World War I affect Alabamians?



# Section 5: World War I

- What terms do I need to know?
  - draft
  - recruit
  - munitions
  - pandemic
  - armistice



# The War Begins

- Countries of Europe had made agreements to help each other if attacked by another country.
- On June 28, 1914, a leader from one country was murdered. This started a reaction among the other countries.
- The United States did not side with any country.
- Americans later became angry with Germany when the ship *Lusitania* was sunk by a German submarine killing 128 Americans.



Tanks like this one were a new invention during World War I.





# Countries at the Start of World War I

Allies	Central Powers
Belgium	Austria-Hungary
France	Germany
Russia	Ottoman Empire
Serbia	
United Kingdom (England)	



# The United States at War

- The Germans kept sinking unarmed ships, so the United States declared war on Germany on April 2, 1917.
- The United States became allies with England, France, and Russia.
- Congress allowed the U.S. Army to **draft** men to become soldiers.
- The military also **recruited** citizens as soldiers and sailors.
- About 95,000 Alabamians served during World War I and about 6,000 of them died.



# New War Weapons

- World War I had new weapons: tanks, poison gas, and airplanes.
- The first airplanes flew to gather information. Later guns and bombs were added.
- Pilots were trained in Alabama at Maxwell Field.



World War I Sopwith F-1 Camel aircraft



# Alabama during the War Years

- Industry and trade grew in Alabama during the war.
- **Munitions** such as bullets, bombs, and explosives were manufactured here.
- Factories supplied the iron and steel for weapons, and textile mills made cloth for the military.
- Shipbuilding grew in the Mobile area.
- Citizens everywhere volunteered and did without goods so that the soldiers could use them.
- A flu **pandemic** killed millions from 1918-1920. Soldiers with the flu were too weak to march or fight.



# The War Ends

- The United States and Allies won the war after four years. An **armistice** ended the war on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918. We celebrate this day with Veterans Day each year.
- More than 10 million died in the war including over 116,000 Americans.
- People called it the Great War or “war to end all wars” because there had never been such a bad war. They thought there could never be another war so bad.
- The war changed which countries were thought to be the most powerful.





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