

Alabama: Our Beautiful Home

A photograph of the Alabama State Capitol building, a large white neoclassical structure with a prominent dome and a portico supported by columns. The building is set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Lush green trees are visible on both sides of the building, and a well-manicured lawn with some flowers is in the foreground.

Chapter 14: Alabama Today STUDY PRESENTATION

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- Section 1: Agribusiness**
Section 2: Transportation
Section 3: Mining and Manufacturing Industries
Section 4: Service Industries
Section 5: Military Presence

Section 1: Agribusiness

- Essential Question: What is the role of agriculture in Alabama's economy today?



Section 1: Agribusiness

- What terms do I need to know?
 - poultry



Introduction

- Agribusiness means the business of producing farm products for markets.
- About 27% of Alabama's economy is based on agriculture.
- New technology has meant that it takes fewer workers to run large farms.
- New scientific methods have helped farmers to increase their crops.



Agricultural Products

- Cotton was once the most important crop.
- Now we have many important crops.
- Some of them are cattle, catfish, peanuts, **poultry**, eggs, nursery plants, sod, and hogs.
- Alabama's warm climate is good for growing vegetables, too.



Alabama's Agricultural Products



Aquaculture

- Growing fish and plant crops in water is a new business worth millions of dollars. Examples: catfish, crappie, bass, bluegill, goldfish
- Seafood is caught along the Gulf Coast. Examples: shrimp and oysters
- Research scientists work to increase production.



Forestry

- Alabama's warm, humid climate helps trees grow quickly.
- About 2/3 of the state is covered by pine and hardwood forests.
- The state produces about 6% of America's timber each year.
- There are mills to cut the trees into useable wood.
- Factories make paper, plywood, furniture, and more!



Section 2: Transportation

- Essential Question: How are goods and people moved across Alabama today?



Section 2: Transportation

- What terms do I need to know?
 - multimodal
 - tributary



Roads and Highways

- Alabama has about 100,000 miles of highways.
- Roads connect all parts of our state, and connect us to other states.
- Alabama has over 5,000,000 cars and trucks registered.
- Trucking business transport goods into and out of the state. Buses move people where they need to go.
- The Alabama Department of Transportation builds roads, bridges, and tunnels.



Railroads

- Goods transported on trains are called freight. Trains take goods made in Alabama to other states to market. They also bring in goods sold here.
- **Multimodal** shipments are very important. These are containers of goods that are moved from railroads to ships, planes, or trucks.
- Mobile, Birmingham, Dothan, and Huntsville have large multimodal terminals.
- *The Crescent* is a passenger train that passes through Alabama on its route from New York to New Orleans.



Water Transportation

- Alabama has about 1,500 miles of navigable waterways.
- The Tenn-Tom Waterway connects the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee River systems with the Port of Mobile.
- The Intracoastal Waterway provides a passageway between ports, protecting ships from the open sea.



Construction of the Tenn-Tom Waterway in the 1980s.



Air Transportation

- Alabama has over 100 airports. These are important for business and tourism.
- The airport in Montgomery supports travel to the state capitol.
- Security at airports has increased since the 9/11 attacks. Money has been spent to make airports and airplanes safer from attack.

Birmingham International Airport



Section 3: Mining and Manufacturing Industries

- Essential Question: How are Alabama's natural resources used to produce goods?



Section 3: Mining and Manufacturing Industries

- What terms do I need to know?
 - service industry
 - labor force
 - strip mining
 - state-of-the-art
 - synthetic



Introduction

- Alabama's industries are mining, manufacturing, and service.
- Raw materials from the earth (natural resources) are used to manufacture goods that people buy and use.
- The **service industry** provides work without producing goods. Examples: doctors, waiters, lawyers, teachers
- Alabama's **labor force** is over 2 million workers.



Mining Industries

- Technology has meant that fewer workers are needed in mining work.
- **Strip mining** means miners do not have to work in tunnels. They scoop away large areas of ground to reach the coal. About 75% of our electricity comes from burning coal.
- Alabama is a top producer of oil and natural gas and production is increasing.
- Limestone is cut from the ground to make cement and used in building roads. Our marble is used in buildings, monuments, and art.



Strip mine area near
Birmingham, 1972



Manufacturing Industries

- Goods produced in Alabama are shipped to other states and exported to other countries.
- Paper mills make many products including cardboard and fine writing paper.
- Textile mills make fabric, thread, and yarn. Some of these companies have left our state to find cheaper labor sources.
- Chemical plants make glue, plastic, fertilizer, and chemical fibers.
- Iron and steel plants make vehicle parts, ships, missiles, rockets, bridges, and railcars.



Manufacturing Today

- Today there are newer industries in the state such as a **state-of-the-art** rocket plant and missile plants for the U.S. Army.
- Automobiles are built by Mercedes-Benz, Honda, Hyundai, and Toyota.
- **Synthetic** diamonds is a product out of the University of Alabama at Birmingham – the state's largest employer.
- Carbon and stainless steel products are produced by ThyssenKrupp.



Section 4: Service Industries

- Essential Question: What are services provided by people in Alabama?



Section 4: Service Industries

- What terms do I need to know?
 - wholesale
 - retail
 - therapy
 - mass communication



Introduction

- Service workers provide services to help people. These jobs include government workers.
- Trade is another kind of service.
Wholesale trade sells products to a store. **Retail** trade sells products to customers like you!
- The number of service workers is increasing. There are more service workers in Alabama than manufacturing workers.



Health Care

- Doctors are a part of the medical care in the state. They work in hospitals and clinics helping people with physical and mental problems.
- There are nursing homes for the elderly and special hospitals for veterans.
- Two teaching hospitals are UAB in Birmingham and University of South Alabama in Mobile.



Medical Research

- Doctors in Alabama do research to learn how to keep people healthier.
- Example: studying how mosquitoes carry diseases that can kill animals and people.



Communication

- Radio, television, the Internet, and newspapers are examples of **mass communication** in Alabama.
- The state has many newspapers, but many people now get their news from the Internet.
- The state's oldest radio station started in 1922, and the oldest television station started in 1949. Both are in Birmingham.
- Radio and TV have improved over the years.
- Cell phones and FAX machines make it possible for people to quickly communicate over long distances.



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- Computers help businesses and the government communicate quickly.



Technology

- Technology is how we use science to solve problems.
- Huntsville is a center of technology research and development.
- Computers are a type of technology that all people use to communicate, learn, and play.



Tourism

- Tourism is a service industry that supports travelers.
- Taking care of tourists generates a lot of money and jobs in the economy.
- Some tourists come from outside the state, but they may be from Alabama, too.



Section 5: Military Presence

- Essential Question: How does the military make use of Alabama's location and resources today?



United States Air Force

- Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery is the educational center for the Air Force.
- The Air Force's computer network is managed here.
- Over 12,000 people work for the armed forces in the Montgomery area.



United State Army

- Fort Rucker is the home of Army Aviation, and it trains helicopter and airplane pilots.
- The Redstone Arsenal is one of Alabama's largest bases. It is famous for missile and rocket technology.
- The Anniston Army Depot is a center for weapons, munitions, and tank repair.



United States Coast Guard

- The Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center is in Mobile.
- It is home to the Gulf Strike Team and Law Enforcement Detachment.

A U.S. Coast Guard EADS HC-144A Ocean Sentry from Coast Guard Air Station Mobile, Alabama



National Guard and Reserve

- Men and women in the National Guard have regular civilian jobs, but they train for military jobs on weekends and during vacations.
- Alabama's National Guard had a large role in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Bottled water is loaded onto a pickup truck by members of the Alabama National Guard. Water, ice and food is being distributed to residents of Alabama affected by Hurricane Dennis.



Military People to Remember

- Alabama has had many brave and intelligent military heroes.
- Lieutenant General Harold G. Moore fought in the Vietnam War. He won many medals for bravery, and later he wrote a book about his service.
- Admiral Thomas H. Moorer became the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – the highest military officer.
- Major General William L. Sibert fought in World War I and led the “chemical corps.”





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