

# 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 wide stone staircase leads up to the entrance. In the foreground, there are rows of flower beds with pink and purple blossoms.

Chapter 3: Europeans Come to  
Alabama

STUDY PRESENTATION



**Section 1:** [The Spanish Explore Alabama](#)  
**Section 2:** [The French Arrive in Alabama](#)  
**Section 3:** [From British Rule to Revolution](#)

# Section 1: The Spanish Explore Alabama

- Essential Question: What were effects of the Spanish exploring Alabama?



# Section 1: The Spanish Explore

## Alabama

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- immunity
- ancestor
- journal
- conquistador
- governor
- interpreter
- *entrada*
- slave
- permanent



# Introduction

- The first European explorers to our area were from Spain.
- They wanted land and gold for their country.
- Disease were carried by the Spanish. The Indians did not have **immunity** to these new diseases.
- Thousands of Indians died from smallpox, measles, chicken pox, influenza, and diphtheria.

[Click to locate Spain.](#)



# Cultures Clash

- The American Indians' culture was different from the Europeans' culture.
- Alabama's Indians lived in large families called clans. Some believed animals were their **ancestors**.
- The Indians did not have the idea of a person owning the land or getting rich.
- They did not have the same weapons, horses, or a written language.
- Many of the Europeans wanted land and gold for themselves and their king.



# Cultures Clash

	Native Americans (Indians)	European Explorers
<b>Weapons</b>	Bows and arrows, clubs, tomahawks	Muskets, pistols, cannons
<b>Horses</b>	No	Yes
<b>Written Language</b>	No	Yes
<b>Believed in People Owning the Land</b>	No	Yes



# Spanish Explorer, Alonzo Alvarez de Piñeda

## ➤ de Piñeda Facts:

- first European explorer of what we know as Alabama
- from Spain
- sailed into Mobile Bay in 1519
- drew maps that helped other explorers
- **journal** described large Indian villages in Alabama





# Conquistador Hernando de Soto

## ➤ de Soto Facts:

- **conquistador** from Spain
- made **governor** of Florida and Cuba
- looked for gold and land for the king of Spain
- explored areas that are now Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama
- two of his men (Robles and Feryada) stayed in Alabama and were first non-Indian settlers



# De Soto Meets Chief Tuskaloosa

- Chief Tuskaloosa was a very tall and powerful Indian chief.
- He learned that de Soto and his men had been cruel to many Indians.
- Tuskaloosa made a plan to stop de Soto and his men.



Hernando de Soto



# The Battle of Maubila

- Chief Tuskaloosa invited de Soto to the village of Maubila with a secret plan to ambush the Spaniards.
- The plan failed, and all the Indians were killed by the Spanish.



# The End of de Soto's *Entrada*

- Hernando de Soto explored the Mississippi River area.
- He died in Louisiana in 1542.
- His *entrada* helped other explorers.



# Map of De Soto's Exploration



# Mapping Mobile Bay

- In 1558, King Philip II of Spain decided to make a colony in the New World.
- He sent Guido de las Bazáres with three ships to map the region.
- Mobile Bay was chosen as a good location for a colony because of its timber, wildlife, fish, and grazing land.



# Don Tristán de Luna

## ➤ de Luna Facts:

- started first **permanent** colony in Mobile Bay area
- colony had over 1,500 colonists and soldiers
- hurricane struck before all ships unloaded
- lost 8 ships
- colony moved to area of Pensacola, FL
- was unsuccessful in starting a colony



# Section 2: The French Arrive in Alabama

- Essential Question: What were the effects of the French exploring Alabama?





# Section 2: The French Arrive in Alabama

- What terms do I need to know?
  - expedition



# Introduction

- French explorers came over 100 years after the Spanish.
- French king Louis XIV paid for an **expedition** led by Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville to the Gulf Coast.
- Fort Maurepas was built (near Biloxi) to be the capital of the French lands known as Louisiana (including Alabama & Mississippi).
- The French built Port Dauphine (Dauphin Island) and a village La Mobile at Mobile Bay.



Fort Maurepas

[Click to see map of New France.](#)



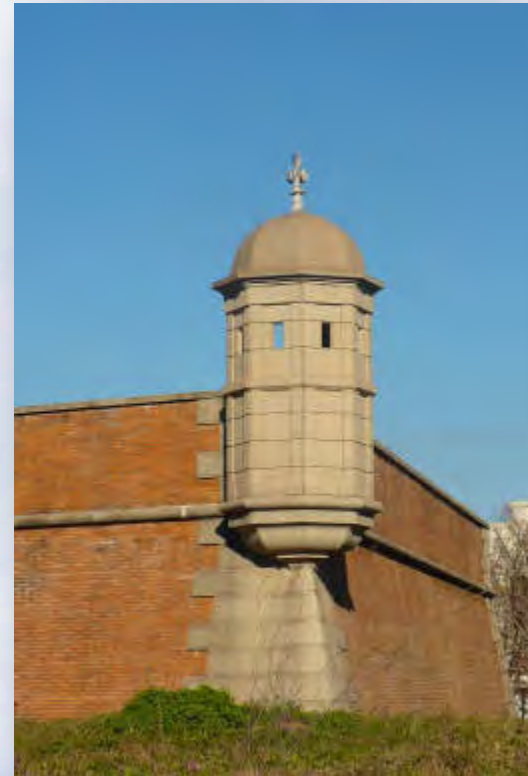
# Establishing a Permanent Colony

- Many of the French colonists wanted to return home to France, but the king wanted them to stay in Louisiana.
- In 1704, French women were sent to the colony to be the wives of the men.
- Most married quickly as they learned to live and grow families in the New World.



# Yellow River Causes a Move

- Yellow fever was brought to the colony.
- The disease killed many people.
- Floods caused problems in 1710.
- The French worried that they should make their homes in a safer, healthier area.
- The colony moved to the Mobile area in 1711 and built a brick fort, Fort Condé.



Fort Condé



# French Trading in Alabama Territory

- Fort Toulouse was built to trade with the Indians and keep the British away.
- It was built on a bluff where the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers meet to form the Alabama River.
- Frenchmen traded guns, cloth, bullets, knives, and axes for animal furs that could be sold in France.
- The French and British sometimes claimed the same land and threatened to fight over it.



# A Leased Colony

- In Europe, France and England were at war.
- France needed money for the war, so it sold the right to govern the colony to Antoine Crozat who named a new governor, Antoine de La Mothe, Sieur de Cadillac.
- Bienville became governor again later and got the name "The Builder" because he started so many forts (Louis de la Louisiana, Toulouse, Tombeckbe) and villages (Mobile, Port Dauphine, Biloxi, and New Orleans).



Fort Louis in Mobile



# What France Left Behind

- France lost the war with Great Britain. It gave up all land in Canada and east of the Mississippi River. Spain got New Orleans and lands west of the Mississippi River.
- There are still some reminders of the French colonists such as the *Mardi Gras* celebration and French street names in Mobile.
- Bienville Square in Mobile is named for the governor who worked most of his life to build a colony for France.



# Section 3: From British Rule to Revolution

- Essential Question: What were the effects of British rule for the future state of Alabama?





# Section 3: From British Rule to Revolution

- What terms do I need to know?
  - tax
  - Declaration of Independence
  - American Revolution
  - command
  - boundary
  - survey



# More Than a New Flag

- The British changed flags and leaders in the lands they got from France.
- Settlers had to swear loyalty to the British king, George III. About ½ would not and moved from the Mobile area.
- A plan was made to avoid future fights with Indians. The British king made a Proclamation Line of 1763. No settlers could move past the line. He thought that now the Indians and settlers would trade peacefully.



# Creek Chief Alexander McGillivray

- Alexander McGillivray's father was a Scottish trader; his mother a Creek princess.
- He grew up among the Creek at his parents' trading post.
- When he was older, he was educated in good British schools.
- He later went home and was made a chief of the Creek people. He spent his life working to protect their lives, customs, and lands.



Chief Alexander McGillivray



# The United States of America

- In the 1770s, colonists in America became unhappy with the **taxes** they were paying to Great Britain.
- Colonists were not allowed to vote for the leaders who created the taxes, so the colonists signed the **Declaration of Independence** (1776) to make their own country.
- The **Revolutionary War** followed, but most battles were fought away from Alabama.
- Spain and France helped the American colonists fight the British. They hoped to get back some of their lost colonies.
- In 1780, the Spanish took the British fort at Mobile.
- The war ended in 1781, and the Americans won their freedom.



# Andrew Ellicot's Stone

- Spain controlled Florida and land west of the Mississippi after the war. A **boundary** between Spanish and American lands was set.
- Andrew Ellicot was hired to **survey** the land and mark the boundary. Ellicot's stone may still be seen at the boundary between Alabama and Florida.



# A Plan for a New National Government

- The new American government worked to write the laws the people would live under.
- They wanted to protect people's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- In 1781, the **Articles of Confederation**, were approved as the plan for government.
- This plan did not work well. The states argued among themselves, and the national government had little power.



# “...To Form a More Perfect Union...”

- Leaders saw a need for a stronger national government. They sent **delegates** to Philadelphia to work on the problem.
- A new **constitution** was written with three branches of government: **executive**, **legislative**, and **judicial**.
- “Checks and balances” were in place to make sure no branch was too powerful.
- The Constitution was signed in 1787. Then, at least 9 states had to **ratify** it.
- A Bill of Rights was added. These 10 **amendments** spelled out Americans’ rights.



# The War of 1812

- Leaders saw a need for a stronger national government. They sent **delegates** to Philadelphia to work on the problem.
- A new **constitution** was written with three branches of government: **executive**, **legislative**, and **judicial**.
- “Checks and balances” were in place to make sure no branch was too powerful.
- The Constitution was signed in 1787. Then, at least 9 states had to **ratify** it.
- A Bill of Rights was added. These 10 **amendments** spelled out Americans’ rights.





# The End of Spanish Rule

- Part of Alabama had belonged to Spain until the War of 1812.
- American soldiers took the area.
- This brought all the land that is Alabama into the United States!



1812 map – Before Alabama existed!





## Image Credits

Title slide: Alabama Capitol by National Park Service; National Register of Historic Places; Slide 2: Desoto Falls by JS Fouche Public Domain Wikimedia Commons; Slide 11: Herb Roe; Slide 20: National Park Service on Wikimedia Commons; End slide: Coosa River by Mike Cline

[Return to Main Menu](#)