

Alabama: Our Beautiful Home

A photograph of the Alabama State Capitol building in Montgomery, Alabama. The building is a grand, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent central dome topped by a clock tower. The facade is supported by a series of tall, white 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 well-manicured lawn with colorful flowers is in the foreground.

Chapter 6: Alabama, Finally a State
STUDY PRESENTATION



Section 1: Formation of Alabama's Government
Section 2: Transportation
Section 3: Industry, Worship, and Schools in Early Alabama
Section 4: Indian Removal



Section 1: Formation of Alabama's Government

- Essential Question: How did Alabama become a state?



Section 1: Formation of Alabama's Government

- What terms do I need to know?
 - census
 - oath
 - capitol
 - dome
 - artesian well
 - rotunda



Introduction

- St. Stephens in Washington County was the capital of Alabama Territory in 1818.
- The territory's first chartered school was here.
- Traders and visitors could travel by Huntsville Road or the Tombigbee River.



Territorial Government

- The first legislature met in January 1818 with 13 delegates.
- The governor asked the men to improve schools and transportation.
- The legislature approved a **census** to count the citizens. By 1819, there were enough people for Alabama to become a state.
- Congress approved statehood, and the governor and legislature decided to move the capital to Dallas County in the center of the state.



Founding of Huntsville

- John Hunt came to the area of Huntsville in 1805.
- The settlement was called Hunt's Springs, Twickenham, and later Huntsville.
- It became a temporary capital for Alabama.



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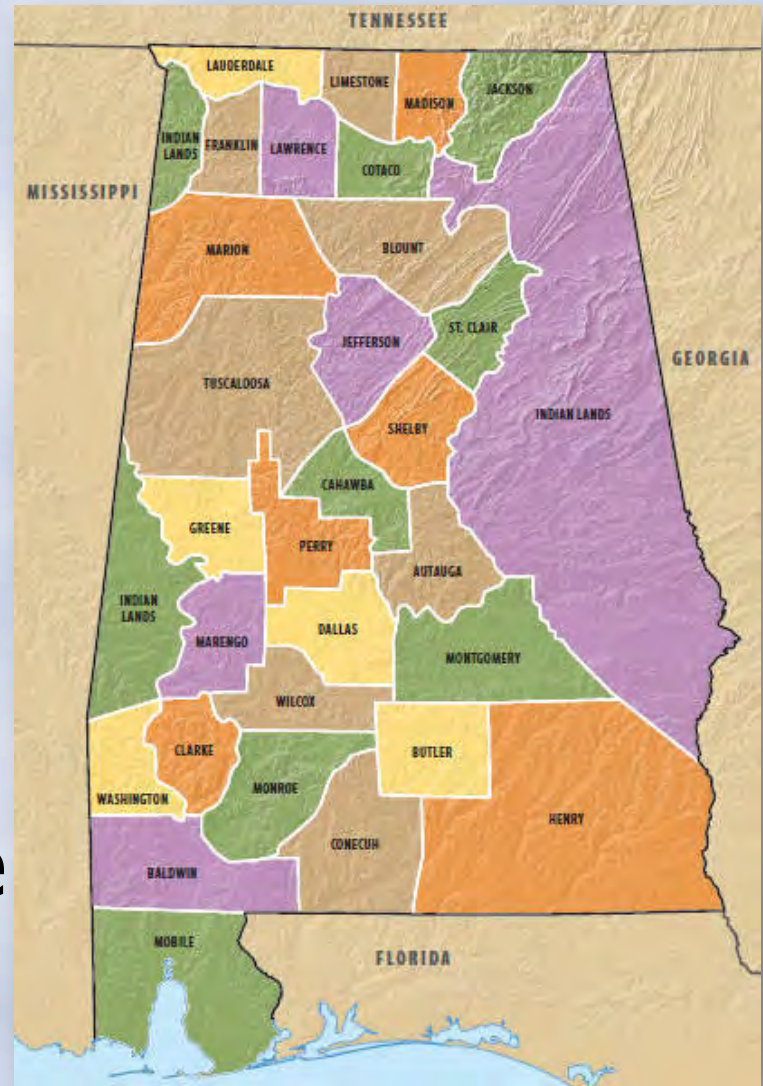
First Constitution

- In March 1819, Congress said Alabama could write its Constitution.
- Delegates met in Huntsville and chose John William Walker as president of the convention.
- A government was set up with three branches:
 - legislative – makes laws (House of Representatives & Senate)
 - executive – enforces laws (governor)
 - judicial – rules on meaning of laws (courts)



Alabamians Vote

- In September 1819, Alabama's citizens elected their first legislature and governor (William Wyatt Bibb).
- On December 14, 1819, the president declared Alabama the 22nd state.



Cahaba, the “Chosen” Site

- Cahaba seemed a good choice for the capital. The governor made plans for the city and the **capitol** building.
- The government moved to the new capitol building in 1820.
- With two rivers for transportation and wealthy farmland all around, it seemed Cahaba would grow.



The capitol at Cahaba



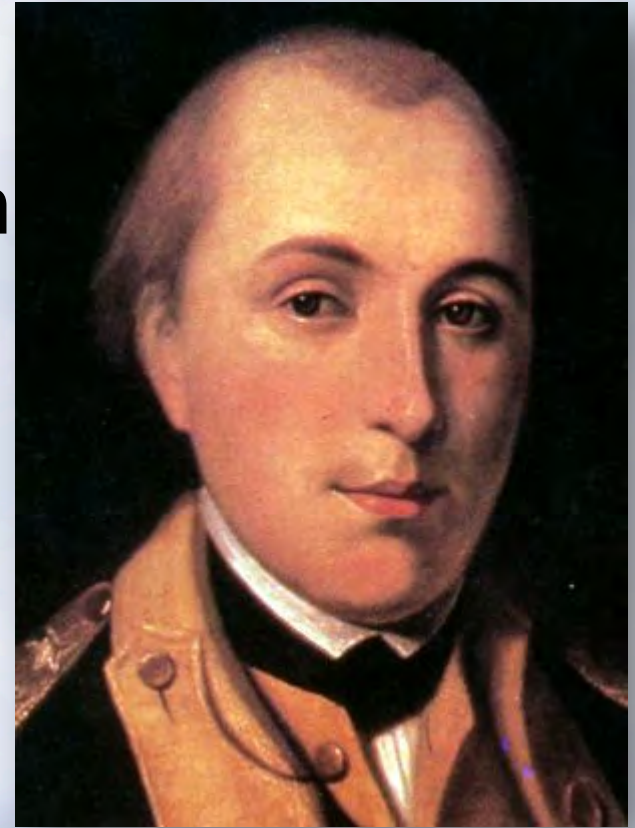
The “Era of Good Feelings”

- The state government started well. Cahaba grew and people had a good feeling about the state – it was an “era of good feelings.”
- Steamboats made stops at the new capital and fine homes were built, drawing water from **artesian wells**.



Lafayette Comes to Alabama

- During this time, General Marquis de Lafayette visited the state. He had an important role as a French officer helping America during the Revolution.
- Crowds of people cheered and greeted Lafayette in cities and towns including Cahaba and Montgomery.



Flooding Causes a Move

- In 1825, heavy rains caused the rivers to rise and flood the town.
- The capitol building's first floor was under water. This weakened the building's foundations and the building began to crumble.
- Legislators voted to move the capital to Tuscaloosa, but the city of Cahaba grew until another flood in 1865.



Tuscaloosa

- Tuscaloosa was a river town, but was on a high bluff. It became capital in 1826.
- As capital, the city grew quickly. Steamboats were busy on the river, schools and the University of Alabama began classes.
- By 1829, the new capitol opened.
- In less than 20 years, the legislature voted to move to Montgomery.



Montgomery

- Land was donated for a new capitol building on Goat Hill. Records were brought to the new capitol but many were lost in a fire in 1849.
- Another building was built and completed in 1851. The three storey **rotunda** is beneath the dome of the beautiful landmark.



Section 2: Transportation

- Essential Question: How did people move people and goods in the early years of Alabama?



Section 2: Transportation

- What terms do I need to know?
 - flatboat
 - keelboat



Introduction

- Alabama's people used rivers and rough roads in the beginning. Roads improved by 1845.
- The legislature passed a law to pay for roads. Each male citizen had to help work on roads for 10 days per year, or loan mules or workers, or pay a \$10 fee.



Stagecoaches and Mail

- Post roads were built to allow for mail delivery. Men on horseback could carry the mail, but stagecoaches could carry more.
- Coaches road a distance, or stage, and then changed horses to allow the animals to rest.
- Stagecoach travel was often rough and dusty and either too hot or too cold.



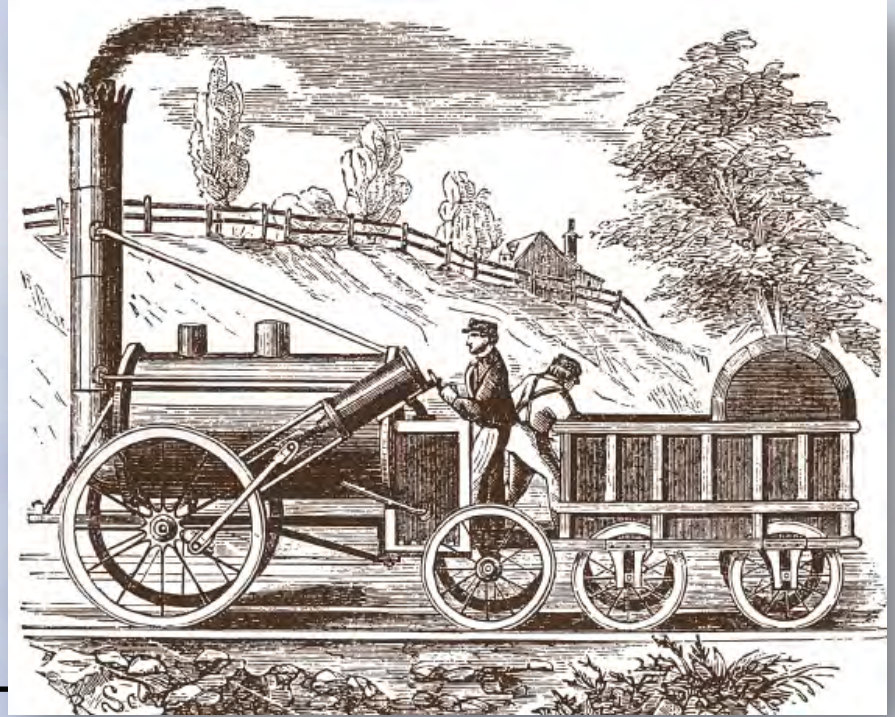
Travel on Rivers

- **Flatboats** were made of split logs and were sealed with tar. They traveled well in shallow water. However, they could only move downstream; the boatmen walked back to the starting point!
- **Keelboats** could travel upstream or downstream, but could only work in deeper waters.
- **Steamboats** were an improvement. Reliable travel was proved in 1821 and by the 1850s, more than 200 steamboats traveled Alabama's rivers.
- Passengers and cargo (like cotton) traveled by steamboat. Bands and other entertainment made travel fun. Passengers slept in their own cabins.



The Steam Engine on Land - Railroads

- In 1832, the Tuscumbia Railroad began service. Horses pulled the cars at first, then steam engines were used.
- The Montgomery Railroad was planned in 1832 to link Montgomery to the Chattahoochee River at West Point, GA.
- Problems delayed the opening until 1854.



Section 3: Industry, Worship, and Schools in Early Alabama

- Essential Question: What was life like for people in the young state of Alabama?



Section 3: Industry, Worship, and Schools in Early Alabama

- What terms do I need to know?
 - blast furnace
 - foundry
 - synagogue



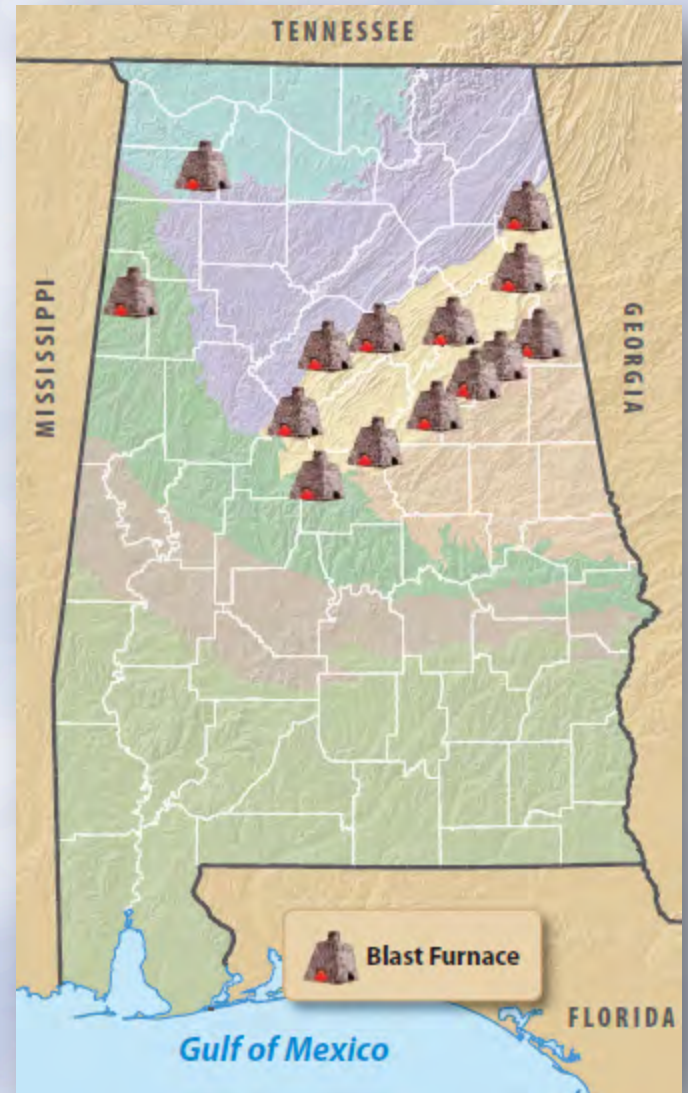
Introduction

- Blacksmith shops, sawmills, and gristmills were in nearly every county in Alabama.
- Factories grew in areas where there were materials such as coal, iron, and cotton.
- Christianity spread in most of the state but there were Jewish citizens, too.
- More and more schools were added including public, private, and homeschooling.



Coal and Iron

- Coal used to make iron was mined in three main mines (Warrior, Coosa, Cahawba).
- The first **blast furnace** was near Russellville (1815). The great furnace was needed to melt pure iron from the ore.
- By the 1850s, the state had four blast furnaces.



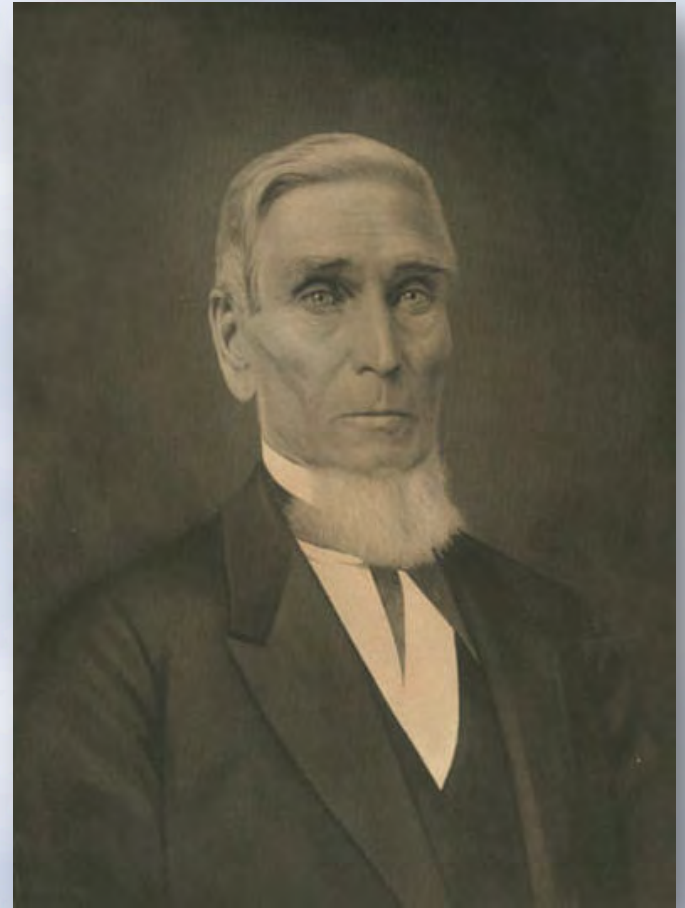
Cotton Mills

- Around 1815, the first cotton mill opened near Hazel Green to make thread and cloth.
- By the time of the Civil War (1861), there were 14 cotton mills in the state.



Daniel Pratt

- Daniel Pratt opened the Pratt Gin Company in 1821 and started company town – Prattville.
- The town had churches, schools, and houses for the factory workers.
- Pratt expanded his business to include a **foundry**, window and door manufacture, carriages and wagons.



Religion

- The Catholic religion was brought to the area with the Spanish explorers.
- From the 1760s – 1810s, other groups such as Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians built churches.
- Most early churches were led by a traveling preacher. The buildings were used to worship but also for social times.
- A **synagogue** for Jewish worshippers was built in Mobile in 1862.
- Some plantations had their own churches.
- Most churches had black and white members, and some had black and white ministers.



Public Education

- Mobile started the first public school in 1836.
- The oldest college was there, too, at Spring Hill. It became the first Catholic college in the Southeast.
- Some schools were large, but most were small and ill-equipped, having only a few books.
- Children who worked on farms often could not attend school except in winter. They may have also been too far from a school to attend.



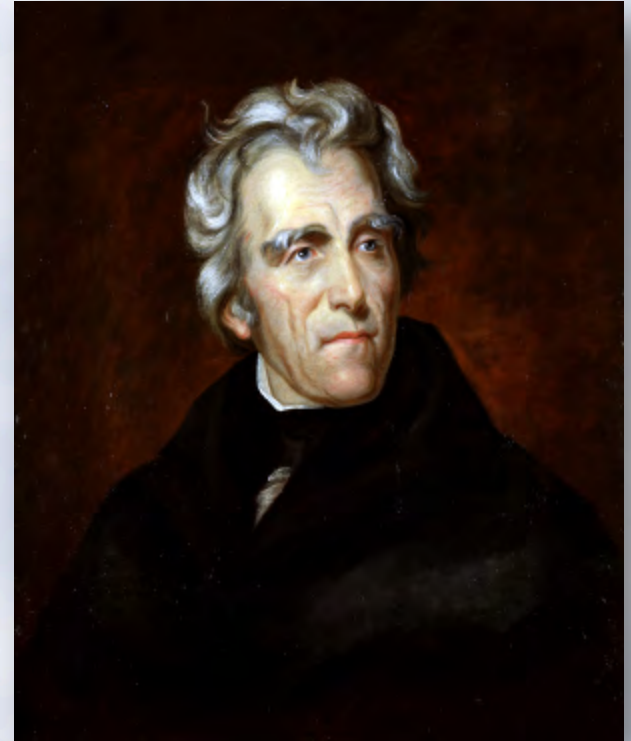
Section 4: Indian Removal

- Essential Question: Why was Indian removal allowed?



Introduction

- President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. It allowed the president to send in soldiers to remove Indians.
- The Indians were moved west of the Mississippi River into Oklahoma. Many died of disease, hardships, and hunger along the way.



Choctaw and Chickasaw

- Some Choctaw did not leave Alabama. They hid in swamps and forests. They are ancestors of Choctaw now living in the state.
- From 1831-1834 the Chickasaw and Choctaw were moved by the U.S. Army to the Mississippi River. From there they had to walk to their new homes in Indian Territory. Many did not have enough food to eat or blankets to keep them warm.



Creek

- Several chiefs signed a treaty giving up Creek land in Alabama and Georgia. Many Creeks were angry and killed the chiefs.
- President Adams refused to honor the treaty since it was not agreeable to the Creek.
- By 1832, however, the push was on, and most Creek were moved to Indian Territory.
- A small group were left behind and became the Poarch Creek Indians.



The “Trail of Tears”

- The Cherokee were eventually forced to move, too, in 1835.
- They were the last Indians removed from the state.
- President Jackson forced them to move, though some hid in the mountains.
- Many suffered and died along the way west giving the path the name “Trail of Tears.”



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