

Alabama

Heart of Dixie

On December 14, 1819, Alabama became the 22nd state admitted to the Union. The name “Alabama” originates from a Native American tribe which lived in the region. The tribal name, *Alibamu*, means “clearer of thickets.” Alabama is located in the heart of the Deep South, and its capital is Montgomery.

Adopted in 1895, Alabama’s flag displays the red cross of St. Andrew that was the principal feature of the Confederate battle flag.

Alabama’s climate is hot and wet. The northern part of the state has pine forests, hills, and lakes. In the south, the hills give way to rolling grasslands and fertile farmland. Further south are the swamps and bayous of the Mobile Delta. Along the southern tip, sandy beaches border Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Interesting Facts:

- The first electric street cars in the United States were used in Montgomery in 1866.
- The deepest gorge in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains is at Little River Canyon near Fort Payne, Alabama.
- For decades “King Cotton” dominated Alabama’s farm economy. In 1910, boll weevils destroyed the cotton crops, which turned out to be a good thing. The state’s farmers learned to grow other crops and not be so dependent on cotton.
- During the Civil War, a company of Alabama soldiers paraded in uniforms trimmed with bits of yellow cloth. This reminded people of the state bird, which has patches of yellow under its wings. From that day on, Alabama troops were known as Yellowhammers.

General Reference

- Alabama* - Anne Welsbacher
- Alabama Facts and Symbols* - Emily McAuliffe
- Alabama* - Dottie Brown (contains evolution)

Geography

- gulf
 - *Geography from A to Z*, page 22
- Gulf of Mexico

History & Biographies

Booker T. Washington

- *Booker T. Washington: Leader and Educator* – Patricia and Frederick McKissack
- *Booker T. Washington* – Thomas Amper

George Washington Carver

- *Pocketful of Goobers* - Barbara Mitchell
- *A Weed Is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver* – Alike
- *A Picture Book of George Washington Carver* – David A. Adler
- <http://members.enchantedlearning.com/inventors/page/c/carvercloze.shtml>
- *Considering God's Creation* – Scientist Detective

Robert Goddard

- *Robert Goddard: Pioneer Rocket Boy* - Clyde B. Moore
- *Usborne Book of Famous Lives*, page 141
- <http://members.enchantedlearning.com/inventors/page/g/goddardcloze.shtml>
- *Considering God's Creation* – Scientist Detective

Jesse Owens

- *A Picture Book of Jesse Owens* – David A. Adler
- *Jesse Owens: Olympic Star* – Patricia and Frederick McKissack
- <http://members.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/aframer/owens/print.shtml>
- <http://members.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/aframer/owens/cloze.shtml>

USS Alabama

- www.ussalabama.com

Civil Rights Movement

- *The Bridge at Selma* – Marilyn Miller
- *The Montgomery Bus Boycott* – R. Conrad Stein

Rosa Parks

- *Rosa Parks: Fight for Freedom* - Keith Brandt
- *Young Rosa Parks: Civil Rights Heroine* - Anne Benjamin
- *A Picture Book of Rosa Parks* - David A. Adler
- <http://members.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/aframer/parks/index.shtml>
- <http://members.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/aframer/parks/cloze.shtml>

Science

- yellow hammer (flicker) (state bird)
- longleaf pine (state tree)
 - *Considering God's Creation* - Tree Detective
- camellia (state flower)
 - *Considering God's Creation* - Flower Detective
- marble (state rock)
 - *Considering God's Creation* - Rock Detective
- boll weevil
- rockets & spacecraft
 - *Spacecraft* - Darlene R. Stille
 - *Flying the Space Shuttles* - Don Dwiggin
 - *Let's Visit a Space Camp* - Edith Alston
 - *Book of Rockets* - Anne Baird
 - *Look Inside Cross-Sections: Space* - Nick Lipscombe & Moira Butterfield
 - *Rocket: How a Toy Launched the Space Age* - Richard Maurer
 - *Space Vehicles* - Anne Rockwell
 - *Usborne Book of Famous Lives*, pages 19 and 41
 - <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/devices/spaceshuttle/label/>

Literature

- Judy's Journey* - Lois Lenski (RA)
- Ma Dear's Aprons* - Patricia McKissack
- Mousehole Cat* - Antonia Barber (†)
- Cecil's Story* - George Ella Lyon (†)
- Brave Irene* - William Steig (†)

Language Arts

Preamble to the State Constitution:

We, the people of the State of Alabama, in order to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish the following Constitution and form of government for the State of Alabama.

1. Refer to Language Arts Guide starting on page 17.
2. Make a list of “loud” adjectives to describe the sound of rockets.
3. Write a story about how it feels to be treated differently.

Bible

The Alabama state motto - *We dare defend our rights* - was adopted in 1939 from a poem by Sir William Jones entitled “What Constitutes a State?” The director of the State Archives, Mary Bankhead Owen, was searching for “a phrase that would interpret the spirit of our peoples in a terse and energetic sentence.” When she came across the poem by Jones and read the stanza “Men who their duties know. But know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain,” she knew that she had found the motto for Alabama. Professor W. B. Saffold of the University of Alabama translated the motto into Latin: *“Audemus jura nostra defendere.”*

For a people to defend and maintain their rights, they must know what those rights involve and have a love of their country - **patriotism**. They must also be willing to defend those rights, even in the face of opposition - **courage**.

- **Patriotism** - Love of one’s country: the passion which aims to serve one’s country, either in defending it from invasion or protecting its rights and maintaining its laws and institutions in vigor and purity. Patriotism is the characteristic of a good citizen, the noblest passion that animates a man in the character of a citizen.

The Bible is full of patriotic themes about Israel. God often exhorts His people to have a passion for Israel. This is an example for us as Americans. The following verses are a model for how Americans should feel about their country.

Psalm 51:18, 85:1-13, 122:6; Isaiah 62:1

- **Courage** - Bravery; intrepidity; that quality of mind which enables men to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness or without fear or depression of spirits; valor; boldness; resolution.

The Bible has many characters who portrayed courage in performing God’s work in their lives. Moses, Joshua, David, Esther, Deborah, and Paul are just a few characters whom you could discuss when learning about courage.

Joshua 1:1-9; Proverbs 28:1; Acts 4:19, 5:29; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 1:27

Other sources:

- *The Book of Virtues* - William Bennett, pages 441- 524. These pages have several short stories, poems, and quotes that relate to courage. Please preread them and use your own discretion as to which ones to read aloud to your children.
- *The Spirit of America* - William Bennett, "Patriotism and Courage," pages 25-97. These are short excerpts from letters, quotes, and poems which deal with patriotism and courage as they relate to the founding of our country. Please use your discretion as to which ones you read aloud to your children.

Activities

1. Color or label a map of Alabama.
2. Label the Gulf of Mexico on a map of the United States.
3. Go to <http://www.kidzone.ws/geography/usa/> for printable flag and state symbol coloring pages.
4. Go to <http://www.atozkidsstuff.com/alcolor.html> for a state coloring page.
5. Prepare a meal typical of the residents of Alabama.
6. Make a poster of how God wants people to treat each other.
7. Make a model rocket.
 - Wrap construction paper around a paper towel tube; tape or glue in place.
 - On one end of the tube, cut four 2-inch slits. The slits should divide the tube into four equal parts.
 - Cut 2 triangles out of construction paper. Each triangle should be 5 inches long at the base and 4 inches high.
 - Cut a slit halfway through each triangle - one from the top and one from the bottom.
 - Slip the triangle with the slit in the bottom into the rocket's body in two of the slits.
 - Slip the triangle with the slit in the top into the rocket's body in the other two slits. In addition to going onto the rocket, this triangle should also slip into the other triangle. You may have to jiggle the paper a bit to line up the slits. You should now have four "fins" forming a stable base for the rocket.
 - Trace a CD onto a piece of construction paper and cut out. Cut a slit from the outer edge of the circle to the center.
 - Form a cone from the circle; use tape or glue to secure. Tape or glue cone onto rocket.
 - Decorate rocket.
8. For instructions on experiments with rockets, go to <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/>.