

# Top 15 pivotal events in Alabama history, so says the state's chief historian

By **David White -- The Birmingham News**   
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Ed Bridges is retiring after 30 years as director of the state archives.

MONTGOMERY -- The days when men first walked on the moon and people first set foot in what is now Alabama are two of the 15 key dates in Alabama history listed recently by state archives Director Ed Bridges.

World War II, the Civil War and the civil rights movement also are represented by dates Bridges provided after he was asked to propose a top-10 list for Alabama history. He didn't stop at 10.

''Obviously, there are a lot of things I wanted to include here, and I couldn't get it down to 10, but somehow this 15 seemed to give a reasonably balanced overview," he said.

Bridges, 66, has been director of the state Department of Archives and History since May 1982. He plans to retire after Sept. 30.

''Thirty years is a long time for one person in an agency," he said. ''Institutions need some new blood, some new vitality."

Historian Leah Rawls Atkins of Hoover, a member of the department's board of trustees, said, ''Ed took the archives and made it professional in every way, took it to a new level."

Historian Wayne Flynt of Auburn also praised Bridges, saying, ''He's been so dedicated in promoting the history of this state in a balanced and fair way."

Bridges said he looks forward to hearing what people have to say about his list of 15 key dates in Alabama history. Here is his list, in chronological order:

**A day about 14,000 years ago, give or take 1,000 or 2,000 years:** The first human sets foot in what is now Alabama.

"We tend to think about Alabama history as being only a couple hundred years old. I think it's important to remember that people have been living here 16,000 years or longer," Bridges said.

**A day in 1540:** An expedition led by Spanish conquistador and explorer Hernando de Soto enters Alabama. Smallpox, measles and other diseases brought by these and other Europeans killed large numbers of Native Americans.

De Soto and members of his expedition were the first Europeans to explore the interior of Alabama.

"It marks the beginning of this clash of cultures between the Europeans and the Indians," Bridges said. ''The immediate effects were terribly destructive of Indian life, even then."

**Jan. 20, 1702:** French settlement of Mobile begins.

"It's the first European settlement in what is now Alabama," Bridges said. "It marks the arrival of a new people who over time would come to displace the Indians."

**March 27, 1814:** Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

An army led by Andrew Jackson inflicted a "decisive, crushing defeat" on Creek warriors. "It marks the end of Indian domination of this land," Bridges said.

"After this battle, Alabama starts opening up for massive settlement" by whites and blacks, he said.

**Dec. 14, 1819:** Alabama becomes the 22nd state.

"It really marks the time when we come together as a people within these boundaries, and we are Alabamians," Bridges said.

**Jan. 11, 1861:** Alabama becomes the fourth state to secede from the Union. The Civil War starts a few months later.

"To me, it marks the effort by white Alabamians to protect their old way of life, and the beginning of the war that ended the old way of life," which included slavery, Bridges said.

"The majority of white Alabamians clearly felt ... loyalty to the state after secession and wanted to defend their state," he said.

**Jan. 1, 1863:** U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared slaves in Confederate states such as Alabama to be free.

"I just think it's really important to think about the Civil War as both the effort by white Southerners to protect their way of life and the ending of the system of slavery on which that life was largely built," Bridges said.

"The economic and social system of slavery was so important to antebellum Alabama, and the Civil War ends that system and leads to the permanent abolition of slavery in America," he said.

**November 1874:** Democrats sweep back into power, effectively ending Reconstruction.

Alabama Republicans, including blacks, held many offices statewide and in Congress after the Civil War. Democrats calling for government austerity and white supremacy seized firm control of the Legislature and took back the governor's office after the election of Nov. 3, 1874.

"They were able to set up a new system of control that instituted segregation and prevented blacks from having any effective role in government," Bridges said.

**Aug. 18, 1920:** The 19th amendment to the U.S. constitution is ratified, granting women the right to vote.

"It's an important part of what I believe is really a huge expansion in Alabama of the role of women" in politics, in the workplace and in the home, Bridges said.

**March 4, 1933:** Inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, author of the New Deal.

''It's hard to overstate the impact of federal programs in Alabama that started with the New Deal and then continued, everything from Social Security to the Tennessee Valley Authority to wage-and-hour laws to price subsidies for agriculture to health and human services programs provided by the federal government," Bridges said.

**Dec. 7, 1941:** The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, triggering America's entry into World War II.

"It's hard to imagine anything that had more of an effect on Alabama society in the last 100 years than World War II," Bridges said.

Among other things, he said factories and military bases brought "an enormous infusion of money" into a state that had struggled economically in the 1920s and 1930s.

"Soldiers went into the service and got training and came out and got the (Veterans Administration) home loans and VA student loans," he added.

Also, Bridges said, "Blacks who participated in a war for democracy and freedom felt even more keenly their lack of freedom at home, helping lead to the civil rights movement."



Rosa Parks is fingerprinted by police Lt. D.H. Lackey in Montgomery, Ala., in this Feb. 22, 1956 file photo, two months after refusing to give up her seat on a bus for a white passenger on Dec. 1, 1955. She was arrested with several others who violated segregation laws. Parks' refusal to give up her seat led to a boycott of buses by blacks in December 1955, a tactic organized by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (AP File Photo)

**Dec. 1, 1955:** Arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus to a white passenger.

Her conviction sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, which a young pastor, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., helped organize.

"As much as anything you can think of, it symbolizes the beginning of the modern civil rights movement and also the emergence of Martin Luther King as a leader, and of his philosophy of non-violence," Bridges said.

**March 1965:** Marches for voting rights.

A planned march to Montgomery ended abruptly March 7, with state and local officers beating marchers in Selma. A completed Selma-to-Montgomery march started March 21 and ended March 25 at the state Capitol.

The marches galvanized support for the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, which provided for federal officials to oversee voter registration in many counties. The number of black voters in Alabama skyrocketed.

"This is the nail in the coffin of segregation, once African-Americans can fully participate in voting and regain their full rights as citizens to run for office and to vote," Bridges said.

Bridges said the marches were a bookend, along with the Montgomery bus boycott, to "10 incredible years" when "Alabama was the dynamic center of the civil rights movement."

**July 20, 1969:** Men land on the moon.

Bridges noted that the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville played huge roles in planning the moon mission, training astronauts and developing the mission's Saturn V rocket.

''When people look back on the history of the world 500 years from now, won't one of the landmarks in human history be landing a man on the moon?" Bridges asked. He said Alabama's substantial involvement in the effort made the moon landing "an important landmark in Alabama history."



Vehicles built at the Mercedes-Benz auto assembly plant in Vance are shown here in the facility's marshaling yard, where they are in line to be shipped to markets around the world. ( The Birmingham News / Joe Songer )

**Sept. 30, 1993:** Mercedes-Benz officially announces that its first vehicle-production plant in the United States will be built in Vance.

"It seems to me to mark a turning point in Alabama's economic life," Bridges said, adding that the decision came as many textile jobs in Alabama were being moved to lower-wage nations.

Bridges said the decision by Mercedes-Benz to locate in Alabama opened the door for Honda, Hyundai and Toyota to build assembly or engine plants here, for ThyssenKrupp to build its steel plant near Mobile and for Airbus to announce plans to build its first airliner-assembly plant in the United States in Mobile. "It validated Alabama for these other companies," Bridges said.

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# Another list: The next 10 most important Alabama events

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The Bear

State archives director Ed Bridges injected life into Alabama conversation this week with his list -- compiled for News reporter Dave White -- **of the Top 15 events in state history**.

It was a good list, including everything from the first human on state soil to the first man on the moon. A good start.

These events didn't make it on that Top 15. But they surely deserve mention as the next most important events in our history. In no particular order.

**1958.** When moderate George Wallace lost the governor's race to John Patterson, he is said to have vowed -- more bluntly than this -- never to be out-N-worded again. That moment set his course as the segregationist demagogue we remember. Without '58, there would be no "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."

**1926.** Former Klansman Hugo Black's election to the U.S. Senate catapulted him to prominence and led to his appointment, by FDR, to the Supreme Court. He would become one of the most important Alabamians in history, and one of the most unpopular Alabamians in Alabama. He voted to strike down segregation in Brown v. Board of Education, and came to stand for civil liberty. Perhaps his greatest legacy is showing how a man can change.

**Sept. 27, 1958.** Paul "Bear" Bryant came home. He lost his first game, to LSU, but went on to win six national titles. Bryant changed football, and football changed Alabama, for better or worse. What started as a diversion Alabamians craved grew into a way of life and an economic engine. Not just for Alabama, but for rival Auburn.

**Oct. 22, 1955.** Frank M. Johnson's appointment to the federal bench changed the state the way few things have. His rulings integrated schools and buses, removed barriers to voting by blacks and reinforced the principle of one man one vote. He was the balance to Wallace.

**1971.** It's hard to believe it took so long for an African American to play varsity football at Alabama. John Mitchell took all-SEC and all-America honors, but his legacy was to open athletics in Alabama to all. Without Mitchell, there would be no Mark Ingram or Cam Newton.

**1954.** Martin Luther King Jr. was 25 when named pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. It was the right place and time for the right man. Without that job, there would have been no bus boycott, no children's march, no letter from jail and no Dream.

**1986.** Republicans were endangered in Alabama before the governor's race that year. Infighting between Democratic candidates Bill Baxley and Charlie Graddick paved the way for GOP Amway salesman Guy Hunt to steal a win. Alabama became a two-party state.

**2010.** So much for a two-party state. After years of corruption among old-school Democrats, and the election of Barack Obama, Republicans swept the Statehouse. It's a one-party state again.

**September 15, 1963.** The bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church killed four little girls and changed the world. It illustrated the cost of hatred. In its way it led to the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act, and to the America we know.

**July 11, 1960.** Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" became a best seller, a Pulitzer Prize winner and a classic. More importantly, it gave us -- and the world -- a different view of Alabama. We may have been bombings and burning crosses, but we were also Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson and Scout. In a work of fiction, Alabama was made real. And real was reaffirming.

*John Archibald's column appears Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Write him at****jarchibald@bhamnews.com****.*

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## Alabama

Alabama, which joined the union as the 22nd state in 1819, is located in the southern United States and nicknamed the “Heart of Dixie.” The region that became Alabama was occupied by American Indians as early as some 10,000 years ago. Europeans reached the area in the 16th century. During the first half of the 19th century, cotton and slave labor were central to Alabama’s economy. The state played a key role in the American Civil War; its capital, Montgomery, was the Confederacy’s first capital. Following the war, segregation of blacks and whites prevailed throughout much of the South. In the mid-20th century, Alabama was at the center of the American Civil Rights Movement and home to such pivotal events as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In the early 21st century, the state’s economy was fueled in part by jobs in aerospace, agriculture, auto production and the service sector.

Interesting Facts

**Date of Statehood:** December 14, 1819

**Capital:** Montgomery

**Population**: 4,779,736 (2010)

**Size:** 52,420 square miles

**Nickname(s):** The Yellowhammer State; The Heart of Dixie; The Cotton State

**Motto:** Audemus jura nostra defendere (“We dare maintain our rights”)

**Tree:** Southern Longleaf Pine

**Flower:** Camellia

**Bird:** Yellowhammer Woodpecker (Northern Flicker)

## Interesting Facts

* In 1919, the city of Enterprise erected a monument to the boll weevil in recognition of the destructive insect’s role in saving the county’s economy by encouraging farmers to grow more lucrative crops such as peanuts instead of traditional cotton.
* The DeSoto Caverns near the city of Birmingham, which contain a 2,000-year-old Native American burial site, served as a clandestine speakeasy with dancing and gambling during Prohibition.
* Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday, in 1836.
* The Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American flying unit in the U.S. military, were trained in Alabama. Their accomplished combat record, including the accumulation of more than 850 medals, was an important factor in President Truman’s decision to desegregate armed forces in 1948.
* In 1965, five months before President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act prohibiting discriminatory voting practices, thousands of non-violent protesters joined a 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery to bring attention to the injustice African Americans faced when attempting to register to vote.
* The Saturn V rocket that made it possible for humans to land on the moon was designed in Huntsville, Alabama.

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One location in Alabama has proof that prehistoric Native Americans existed there 10,000 years ago. Today, this location is preserved as the Russell Cave National Monument. The cave provided shelter for these people, while the surrounding forest provided them with food and fuel. The artifacts from the cave indicate that the site was inhabited almost continuously from that time.  Alabama was populated by many Native American groups when Europeans arrived in the 1500s. These Native Americans were mostly unaffected until the French established a permanent settlement in 1699. In the 1700s many more Europeans moved into the area. Eventually these new residents would clash with various Native American groups, many of whom were organized as the Creek Confederacy. 16th Century Alabama History Timeline **1519** - Alonzo Alvarez de Piñeda of Spain explores Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Mexico, including Mobile Bay.  **1528 - 1536** - Spaniard Pánfilo de Narváez fails in Florida Gulf Coast colonization attempt.  **1539 - 1541** - Hernando de Soto explores Southeast, meeting Chief Tuskaloosa (Tascaluza) in Battle of Maubila (October 1540).  **1540 - October 18** - The largest Indian battle in North America occurs at the village of Mabila (or Mauvila) between Hernando de Soto's Spaniards and Chief Tuscaloosa's (or Tascaluza's) warriors. Accounts vary, but most agree that the Indian village and most of its more than 2,000 inhabitants were destroyed. The exact location of this battle has eluded researchers for centuries.  **1559 -1561** - Don Tristán de Luna fails to establish permanent Spanish colony on Alabama-Florida coast. 17th Century Alabama History Timeline **1600** - Beginning of the rise of the historic tribes of Alabama - Muskogean-speaking Indian groups, remnants of the Mississippian chiefdoms, coalesces into the Creek Confederacy. Similar developments take place among the other heirs to the Mississippian tradition, creating the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Cherokee tribes. 18th Century Alabama History Timeline **1700's** - Alabama was first explored by the Spanish.  **1702** - **January 6** - Le Moyne brothers, Iberville and Bienville, establish French fort and settlement at Twenty-seven Mile Bluff; settlement and fort moved downriver to Mobile site, **1712**.  **1717** - Fort Toulouse on the Coosa River constructed to trade with the Indians and offset influence of British; farthest eastward penetration of the French.  **1720** - French Louisiana capital moved from Mobile west to Biloxi; then to New Orleans (**1722**).  **1721-** Africane sails into Mobile harbor with cargo of over 100 slaves.  **1724** - French Code Noir extended from French West Indies to North American colonies, institutionalizing slavery in Mobile area.  **1780** - Spanish capture Mobile during American Revolution and retain the West and East Floridas as part of war-ending treaty.  **1799** -   * **May 5** - US Army Lieutenant John McClary takes possession of Fort St. Stephens from the Spanish and the United States flag is raised for the first time on soil that would eventually belong to Alabama. * Andrew Ellicott surveys the boundary between the United States and Spanish West Florida and places a stone north of Mobile to mark the 31st latitude.  19th Century Alabama History Timeline **1802** - Georgia formally cedes western claims for its southern boundary at the 31st parallel.  **1803 - 1811** - Federal Road conceived and built connecting Milledgeville, Georgia to Fort Stoddert, American outpost north of Mobile.  **1805 - 1806 -** Indian cessions opened up to white settlement large portions of western (Choctaw) and northern (Chickasaw and Cherokee) Alabama.  **1810** - West Florida, from Pearl River to the Mississippi, annexed by US from Spain.  **1811 - 1812 -** Schools established in Mobile (Washington Academy 1811) and Huntsville (Green Academy 1812).  **1811 - 1816** - Newspapers established in Mobile to the south (Sentinel May 11, 1811; Gazette 1812) and Huntsville to the north (Alabama Republican 1816).  **1813 -1814** - Creek Indian War   * **July 27, 1813** - Battle of Burnt Corn Creek * **August 30, 1813** - Fort Mims Massacre * **December 1813** - Battle of Holy Ground * **March 1814** - Battle of Horseshoe Bend * **April, 1813** - US annexed West Florida, from the Pearl River to the Perdido River, from Spain; Spanish surrender Mobile to American forces. * **August 9, 1814** - The Treaty of Fort Jackson is finalized after warring Creeks, under the leadership of William Weatherford, aka Red Eagle, surrender to Gen. Andrew Jackson and cede their lands to the federal government. This event opened up half of the present state of Alabama to white settlement. * **September, 1814** - British attack on Fort Bowyer on Mobile Point fails, prompting them to abandon plans to capture Mobile and turn towards New Orleans. * **February, 1815** - British forces take Fort Bowyer on return from defeat at New Orleans, then abandon upon learning that the war is over.   **1817 - March 3** - The Alabama Territory is created when Congress passes the enabling act allowing the division of the Mississippi Territory and the admission of Mississippi into the union as a state. Alabama would remain a territory for over two years before becoming the 22nd state in December 1819.  **1818 -**   * **Janurary 19** - The first legislature of the Alabama Territory convenes at the Douglass Hotel in the territorial capital of St. Stephens. Attendance is sparse with twelve members of the House, representing seven counties, and only one member of the Senate conducting the business of the new territory. *The Alabama*, the area's first steamboat, constructed in St. Stephens. Cedar Creek Furnace, the state's first blast furnace and commercial pig-iron producer, established in present-day Franklin County. * **November 21** - Cahaba, located at the confluence of the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers, is designated by the territorial legislature as Alabama's state capital. Huntsville would serve for a short time as the temporary capital. The selection of Cahaba was a victory for the Coosa/Alabama River contingent, which won-out over a Tennessee/Tombigbee Rivers alliance group that wanted to place the capital at Tuscaloosa. The power struggle would continue between the two sections of the state; in 1826 the capital was moved to Tuscaloosa, but in 1847 it was moved to the Alabama River at Montgomery.   **1819** -   * **March 2** - President Monroe signs the Alabama enabling act. * **July**  - Constitutional Convention meets in Huntsville. Constitution adopted with Cahaba selected as temporary seat of government for the new State. * **September 20-21** - The first general election for governor, members of the US Congress, legislators, court clerks, and sheriffs is held as specified by the Constitution of 1819. Held on the third Monday and following Tuesday of September, the voters elected William Wyatt Bibb as the state's first governor. * **October 25 - December 17** - General Assembly meets in Huntsville until the Cahaba Capitol is constructed. * **December 14** - Alabama enters Union as 22nd state.   **1822 - December** - The Legislature charters Athens Female Academy, which later becomes Athens State University.  **1825** - French general and American Revolution-hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, toured Alabama at Governor Israel Pickens' invitation.  **1826** -Capitol moved to Tuscaloosa.  **1830** -   * Tuscumbia Railway Company chartered by General Assembly; first two miles of track link Tuscumbia and Sheffield (**1832**). * **January 19** - LaGrange College chartered by the Legislature; eventually becomes the University of North Alabama State's population=309,527. * 1830 Federal Census -  White population=190,406 African-American population=119,121 Slave population=117,549 Free black population=1,572 Urban population=3,194 Rural population=306,333.   **1831 - April 13** - The University of Alabama formally opens its doors. Fifty-two students were accepted that first day. By the end of the session, the student body had swelled to nearly one hundred. The faculty was made up of four men including the Reverend Alva Woods who had been inaugurated president of the University on April 12, 1831.  **1832** -   * Bell Factory (Madison County), state's first textile mill, chartered by General Assembly. * Alabama's first railroad, the Tuscumbia Railway, opens, running the two miles from Tuscumbia Landing at the Tennessee River to Tuscumbia. The railway was the first phase of a planned railroad to Decatur, forty-three miles to the east. That railroad was needed in order for river traffic to avoid the dangerous and often un-navigable Muscle Shoals of the Tennessee River.   **1833** -   * In a spectacle seen across the Southeast, a fantastic meteor shower causes this night to be known as "the night stars fell on Alabama." The shower created great excitement across the state and for years was used to date events and became part of Alabama folklore. It also became the title of a famous book and song in the 1930s. Jimmy Buffet sang "Stars Fell on Alabama" at the January 1999 inauguration of Governor Don Siegelman. * Daniel Pratt established cotton gin factory north of Montgomery; his company town, Prattville (founded 1839), became a manufacturing center in the antebellum South. * **1835 - 1836** - Alabama gold rush, concentrated in east-central hill country. Dr. James Marion Sims, "the Father of Modern Gynecology," established a medical practice in Mt. Meigs, then in nearby Montgomery (1840), before moving on to New York in 1853 to found the renowned Woman's Hospital.   **1836 - 1837**   * Second Creek War (Seminole War). * Battle of Hobdy's Bridge last Indian battle in Alabama (1837).   **1840** -State population=590,756.   * 1840 Federal Census -  White population=335,185 African-American population=255,571 Slave population=253,532 Free black population=2,039 Urban population=12,672 Rural population=578,084.   **1846 - January 28** - Montgomery is selected as capital of Alabama by the State Legislature on the 16th ballot. Montgomery won the final vote largely because of promises of Montgomery city leaders to provide $75,000 for a new capitol and the rise of the prominence of the Black Belt region of the state.  **1850** -   * State population=771,623. * 1850 Federal Census -  White population=426,514 African-American population=345,109 Slave population=342,844 Free black population=2,265 Urban population=35,179 Rural population=736,444 Cotton production in bales=564,429 Corn production in bushels=28,754,048 Number of manufacturing establishments=1,026.   **1852** -Alabama Insane Hospital established at Tuscaloosa (renamed Alabama Bryce Insane Hospital upon death of its first director, Peter Bryce, 1892).  **1854** -Alabama Public School Act creates first state-wide education system by establishing an office of State Superintendent of Education.  **1856** -   * Alabama Coal Mining Company begins first systematic underground mining in the state near Montevallo. * East Alabama Male College established at Auburn by Methodists; evolved into Auburn University.   **1860** -   * State School for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind established at Talledega. * State population=964,201. * 1860 Federal Census -  White population=526,271 African-American population=437,770 Slave population=435,080 Free black population=2,690 Urban population=48,901 Rural population=915,300 Cotton production in bales=989,955 Corn production in bushels=33,226,282 Number of manufacturing establishments=1,459.   **1861** -   * **January 11** - The Alabama Secession Convention passes an Ordinance of Secession, declaring Alabama a "Sovereign and Independent State." By a vote of 61-39, Alabama becomes the fourth state to secede from the Union. * **February 18** - After being welcomed to Montgomery with great fanfare, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as president of the Confederate States of America on the portico of the Alabama capitol. Davis, a former U. S. senator from Mississippi, lived in Montgomery until April, when the Confederate government was moved from Montgomery to its new capital of Richmond, Virginia. * **February - May** - Montgomery serves as C.S.A. capital until move to Richmond, Virginia. * **March 11** - The Confederate Congress, meeting in Montgomery, adopts a permanent constitution for the Confederate States of America to replace the provisional constitution adopted the previous month. The seceded states then ratified the essentially conservative document, which was based largely on the United States Constitution.   **1861 - 1865  -** 194 military land events and 8 naval engagements occurred within the boundaries of Alabama including -   * Streight's Raid in north Alabama (**April-May 1863**); * Rousseau's Raid through north and east-central Alabama (**July 1864**); * Wilson's Raid through north and central Alabama (**March-April 1865**); * Battle of Mobile Bay (**August 1864**) and the subsequent campaign which involved action at Spanish Fort (**April 8, 1865**) and Blakeley (**April 9, 1865**) before the fall of the city of Mobile (**April 12** **, 1865**). * **May 4 1865** -General Richard Taylor surrenders last sizable Confederate force at Citronelle, Mobile County * **September 12 -1865** - New Alabama Constitution adopted to comply with Presidential Reconstruction dictates to rejoin Union; rejected by US Congress. * **December 6 -1865** -The Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified, thus officially abolishing slavery.   **1866 -** Lincoln Normal School founded as private institution for African-Americans at Marion; relocated to Montgomery (1887) and evolved into Alabama State University.  **1868 -** Reconstruction Constitution ratified (February) gaining Alabama readmission to the Union, and allowing black suffrage for the first time.  **1870** -   * State population=996,992. * 1870 Federal Census -  White population=521,384 African-American population=475,510 Urban population=62,700 Rural population=934,292 Cotton production in bales=429,482 Corn production in bushels=16,977,948 Number of manufacturing establishments=2,188.   **1871** - Birmingham founded; evolves into center of Southern iron and steel industry.  **1873 -** Huntsville Normal and Industrial School chartered; evolves into Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.  **1874 -** State elections return conservative Democrat "Bourbon Redeemers" to political power.  **1875 - November 16** - Alabama's Constitution of 1875 is ratified. The Bourbon Democrats, or "Redeemers," having claimed to "redeem" the Alabama people from the Reconstruction rule of carpetbaggers and scalawags, wrote a new constitution to replace the one of 1868. It was a conservative document that gave the Democrats, and especially Black Belt planters, a firm grip on their recently reacquired control of state government.  **1880** -   * State population= 1,262,505. * 1880 Federal Census White population= 662,185 African-American population= 600,103 Urban population= 68,518 Rural population= 1,193,987 Cotton production on bales= 699,654 Corn production in bushels= 25,451,278 Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,070.   **1881 - February 1**0 - The Alabama Legislature establishes Tuskegee Institute as a "normal school for the education of colored teachers." The law stipulated that no tuition would be charged and graduates must agree to teach for two years in Alabama schools. Booker T. Washington was chosen as the first superintendent and arrived in Alabama in June 1881. Washington's leadership would make Tuskegee one of the most famous and celebrated historic black colleges in the US  **1887 -1896 -** Farmers' Alliance grew out of earlier Grange (1870s) and Agricultural Wheel (early 1880s) organizations; evolved into the Populist movement which challenged conservative Democrats for control of state politics.  **1890** -   * State population= 1,513,401. * 1890 Federal Census -  White population= 833,718 African-American population= 678,489 Urban population= 152,235 Rural population= 1,361,166 Cotton production in bales= 915,210 Corn production in bushels= 30,072,161 Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,977.   **1895** - February 16 - Alabama formally adopts a state flag for the first time. The legislature dictated "a crimson cross of St. Andrew upon a field of white," which was the design submitted by John W. A. Sanford, Jr., who also sponsored the bill. This flag remains Alabama's flag today.  **1896** - October 12 - The Alabama Girls' Industrial School opens its doors as the first state-supported industrial and technical school devoted to training girls to make a living. The school later became known as Alabama College, and is now the University of Montevallo. 20th Century Alabama History Timeline **1900 -**   * State population= 1,828,697. * 1900 Federal Census -  White population= 1,001,152 African-American population= 827,307 Urban population= 216,714 Rural population= 1,611,983 Cotton production in bales= 1,106,840 Corn production in bushels= 35,053,047 Number of manufacturing establishments= 5,602.   **1901** -   * January 31 - Tallulah Bankhead, star of stage, screen, and radio in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, is born in Huntsville. The daughter of US Congressman William B. Bankhead, Tallulah was most famous for her flamboyant lifestyle, throaty voice, and stage role in *The Little Foxes* (1939) and her part in the film *Lifeboat* (1943). (There is some question of the exact birth date; this is the most generally accepted). * March 2 - Trustees of the Alabama Department of Archives and History meet in Gov. William J. Samford's office to organize the nation's first state archival agency. Charged with, among other responsibilities, "the care and custody of official archives [and] the collection of materials bearing upon the history of the State," the department was housed in the capitol until 1940. In that year it moved across Washington Avenue to the War Memorial Building, which had been constructed for the Archives. * New state Constitution ratified, disfranchising substantial numbers of black and white voters (November).   **1902 -** November 29 - The New York Medical Record publishes an account of Dr. Luther Leonidas Hill performing the first open heart surgery in the western hemisphere when he sutured a knife wound in a young boy's heart. Dr. Hill was the father of Alabama politician and US senator Lister Hill.  **1904 -** Colonel William Crawford Gorgas of Alabama begins elimination of scourges of yellow fever and malaria in Panama Canal Zone.  **1907 -** Tennessee Coal and Iron Company in Birmingham purchased by US Steel.  **1909** -   * Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur, establish "flying school" on land outside Montgomery (present site of Maxwell Air Force Base) six years after their first flights. * Boll Weevil, insect destroyer of cotton, enters state from Mississippi border.   **1910 -**   * State population= 2,138,093. * 1910 Federal Census -  White population= 1,228,832 African-American population= 908,282 Urban population= 370,431 Rural population= 1,767,662 Cotton production in bales= 1,129,527 Corn production in bushels= 30,695,737 Number of manufacturing establishments= 3,398.   **1919 -** December 11 - The boll weevil monument is dedicated in Enterprise. The monument honors the insect that killed cotton plants and forced local farmers to diversify by planting more profitable crops such as peanuts. Even though the monument was in appreciation of the boll weevil, the weevil statue was not added to the monument until 30 years later.  **1920 -**   * State population= 2,348,174. * 1920 Federal Census -  White population= 1,447,031 African-American population= 900,652 Urban population= 509,317 Rural population= 1,838,857 Cotton production in bales= 718,163 Corn production in bushels= 43,699,100 Number of manufacturing establishments= 3,654.   **1928** - Convict lease system ended.  **1930 -**   * State population= 2,646,248. * 1930 Federal Census -  White population= 1,700,844 African-American population= 944,834 Urban population= 744,273 Rural population= 1,901,975 Cotton production in bales= 1,312,963 Corn production in bushels= 35,683,874 Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,848.   **1931 -**   * March 25 - Nine black youths, soon to be known as the Scottsboro Boys, are arrested in Paint Rock and jailed in Scottsboro, the Jackson County seat. Charged with raping two white women on a freight train from Chattanooga, the sheriff had to protect them from mob violence that night. Within a month, eight of the nine were sentenced to death. Based on questionable evidence, the convictions by an all-white jury generated international outrage.   **1936 -** August 3 - Lawrence County native Jesse Owens wins his first gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. Owens went on to win four gold medals in Berlin, but German leader Adolf Hitler snubbed the star athlete because he was black. Today visitors can learn more about Owens at the Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum in Oakville, Alabama. William B. Bankhead elected Speaker, US House of Representatives.  **1937** - State sales tax instituted to help fund education. Alabama Senator Hugo Black appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt to the US Supreme Court.  **1940 -**   * State population= 2,832,961. * 1940 Federal Census -  White population= 1,849,097 African-American population= 983,290 Urban population= 855,941 Rural population= 1,977,020 Cotton production in bales= 772,711 Corn production in bushels= 31,028,109 Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,052.   **1941 -** Training of African-American military pilots, the "Tuskegee Airmen," underway.  **1944 -** First Oil Well In Alabama: On January 2, 1944, the State of Alabama granted Hunt Oil Company a permit to drill the A.R. Jackson Well No. 1 near Gilbertown, Choctaw County.  **1945 -** University of Alabama Medical School moved from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham.  **1947** - Georgiana's Hank Williams signs recording contract with MGM and becomes regular on *The Louisiana Hayride* radio program.  **1948** -   * **July 17** - The Dixiecrat Convention assembles in Birmingham, with over 6,000 delegates from across the South in attendance. They selected Strom Thurmond as their candidate for President for their States' Rights Party. In the 1948 presidential election the Dixiecrats carried four states, including Alabama, where Democratic candidate Harry Truman's name did not even appear on the ballot.   **1950 -**   * State population= 3,061,743. * 1950 Federal Census -  White population= 2,079,591 African-American population= 979,617 Urban population= 1,228,209 Rural population= 1,833,534 Cotton production in bales= 824,290 Corn production in bushels= 40,972,309 Number of manufacturing establishments (1954)= 3,893.   **1954 -** Democratic nominee for state Attorney General, Albert Patterson, murdered in Phenix City, prompting clean-up of the "wickedest city in America."  **1955** -   * **December 1** - Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, is arrested for refusing to give up her seat for a boarding white passenger as required by Montgomery city ordinance. Her action prompted the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott and earned her a place in history as "the mother of the modern day civil rights movement. "Ms. Parks was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in August 2000.   **1956 -**   * Army Ballistic Missile Agency established at Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal. * Autherine Lucy unsuccessfully attempts to desegregate the University of Alabama. * **December 21** - The Supreme Court ruling banning segregated seating on Montgomery's public transit vehicles goes into effect. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks were among the first people to ride a fully integrated bus, ending the historic year-long Montgomery Bus Boycott.   **1960 -**   * **September 8** - The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville is dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Gov. John Patterson and Werner von Braun, director of the space flight center, were in attendance as was Mrs. Marshall who unveiled a bust in honor of her husband. * State population= 3,266,740. * 1960 Federal Census -  White population= 2,283,609 African-American population= 980,271 Urban population= 1,689,417 Rural population= 1,577,323 Cotton production in bales= 683,491 Corn production in bushels= 62,580,000 Number of manufacturing establishments (1963)= 4,079.   **1961** -   * **May 1** - Harper Lee of Monroeville wins the Pulitzer Prize for *To Kill A Mockingbird*, her first, and only, novel. The gripping tale set in 1930s Alabama became an international bestseller and was made into a major Hollywood motion picture starring Gregory Peck. * **May 20** - The Freedom Riders arrive at the Greyhound bus terminal in Montgomery where they are attacked by an angry mob. The Freedom Ride, an integrated bus trip from Washington D.C., through the Deep South, was formed to test the 1960 Supreme Court decision prohibiting segregation in bus and train terminal facilities. Before reaching Montgomery, they had already suffered violent reprisals in Anniston and Birmingham. The Freedom Ride eventually resulted in a campaign that caused the Interstate Commerce Commission to rule against segregated facilities in interstate travel.   **1963 -**   * Governor George C. Wallace inaugurated for first of four terms in office. * Birmingham bombings of Civil Rights-related targets, including the offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the home of A.D. King (brother of Martin Luther King, Jr.), and the 16th Street Baptist Church (in which 4 children were killed), focus national attention on racial violence in the state. * Governor Wallace's "stand in the schoolhouse door" at the University of Alabama protests federally forced racial integration; Vivian Malone and James Hood register for classes as first African-American students. * University of South Alabama founded in Mobile.   **1965 -**   * February 15 - "The man with the velvet voice," Nat King Cole dies in Santa Monica, California. Born the son of a Baptist minister in Montgomery in 1919, Cole sold over 50 million records and became the first African-American male with a weekly network television series. * March 7 - Six-hundred demonstrators make the first of three attempts to march from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery to demand removal of voting restrictions on black Americans. Attacked by state and local law enforcement officers as they crossed Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the marchers fled back into the city. The dramatic scene was captured on camera and broadcast across the nation later that Sunday, causing a surge of support for the protestors. * March 21 - Rev. Martin Luther King leads 3,200 marchers from Selma toward Montgomery in support of civil rights for black Americans, after two earlier marches had ended at the Edmund Pettus Bridge - the first in violence and the second in prayer. Four days later, outside the Alabama state capitol, King told 25,000 demonstrators that "we are on the move now . . . and no wave of racism can stop us." On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law.   **1967** - Lurleen Wallace inaugurated as state's first woman governor (died 1968).  **1969** - University of Alabama at Huntsville established. University of Alabama at Birmingham established, joining University's medical and dental schools there since the 1940s.  **1970** -   * State population= 3,444,165. * 1970 Federal Census -  White population= 2,533,831 African-American population= 903,467 Urban population= 2,011,941 Rural population= 1,432,224 Cotton production in bales= 507,000 Corn production in bushels= 12,535,000.   **1972** - May 15 - Gov. George C. Wallace is shot in Maryland while campaigning for the Democratic nomination for president. The assassination attempt by Arthur Bremer left the Governor paralyzed from the waist down and effectively ended his chances at the nomination. He campaigned again for president in 1976, marking his fourth consecutive run for that office.  **1980** -   * State population=3,894,000. * 1980 Federal Census -  White population=2,783,000 African-American population=996,000 Urban population=2,338,000 Rural population=1,556,000 Cotton production in bales=275,000 Corn production in bushels=15,000,000.   **1981** - Country music group Alabama selected "Vocal Group of the Year" by Academy of Country Music; went on to garner fifth consecutive "Entertainer of the Year" award from the Country Music Association (1986).  **1985** - Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway opens.  **1990** -   * State population=4,040,587. * 1990 Federal Census -  White population=2,975,837 African-American population=1,020,677 Urban population=2,439,549 Rural population=1,601,038 Cotton production in bales=375,000 Corn production in bushels=13,920,000.   **1993** - Governor Guy Hunt, in second term as first Republican governor of the state since Reconstruction, convicted of misuse of public funds and removed from office.  **1995** - Alabama's Heather Whitestone serves as first Miss America with a disability.  **1998** - Anniston native Dr. David Satcher is appointed Surgeon General of the United States. 21st Century Alabama History Timeline **2000** -   * State population=4,447,100. * 2000 Federal Census -  White population=3,188,102 African-American population=1,138,726 Hispanic population=45,349   **2000** - Etowah County Circuit Judge Roy Moore is elected Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. Moore rose to national attention earlier when he was sued by the ACLU for displaying the Ten Commandments in his courtroom.  **2001-**   * Birmingham native Condoleeza Rice is appointed National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush. She is the first woman to occupy that position. * 2001 (November) Winfield native and CIA operative Michael Spann dies in prison uprising in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan, becoming the first US casualty in the war in Afghanistan.   **2002** -   * Birmingham native Vonetta Flowers and teammate Jill Bakken win a gold medal in bobsledding at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Flowers is the first African American to win a gold medal in a winter Olympics. * May 22 - Bobby Frank Cherry is convicted of murder for his part in the bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth St. Baptist Church. Cherry is the last living suspect to be prosecuted for the Sept. 15, 1963, blast that killed 11-year-old Denise McNair, and 14-year-olds Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley and Addie Mae Collins   **2004** - Condoleezza Rice appointed US Secretary of State by President George W. Bush  **2005 -** Hurricane Katrina caused major damages along coastal areas  **2009** - Gunman burned down own house, killed 10 people  **2011** - Barrage of storms killed over 200  **2011** - Most stringent immigration laws in U.S. passed in Alabama  *Source* - Alabama Department of Archives & History *Source* - *History of the University of Alabama, volume I, 1818–1902* by James Benson Sellers, University of Alabama Press, 1953 *Source* - *History of the University of Alabama, volume II, 1902–1952* by James Benson Sellers, revised and edited by W. Stanley Hoole, unpublished manuscript in The William Stanley Hoole Papers, The W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library (Ready Reference Section) *Source* - *The University of Alabama 1999–2000 Factbook*, Office of Institutional Research, 2000 *Source* - *The University of Alabama - A Pictorial History* by Suzanne Rau Wolfe, University of Alabama Press, 1983  **Here is Another List** |  |  |  | US History Overview  S History Guide  The word **History** comes from the Greek word ***historía*** meaning "to learn or know by inquiry." History is not static. It's fluid. 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We do everything we can to help prepare you for a new career. >](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83F606A-02F6-11E5-A88B-C66D3E5DDB8C&sig=c36dc03f" \t "_blank)  [[http://cdn.katch.com/logos/36132.gif?e=e7fcb696-1b34-47b8-88cb-553e363d8bfd_111716&pos=6&e=1b5e3550-0a95-4dfd-baf9-b137a2cd8f5e_243359&pos=2](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83F7BB8-02F6-11E5-A88B-C66D3E5DDB8C&sig=b2755c7d)](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83F7BB8-02F6-11E5-A88B-C66D3E5DDB8C&sig=b2755c7d" \t "_blank)  [Your Medical Billing and Coding Degree Awaits! - Education Connection >](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83F7BB8-02F6-11E5-A88B-C66D3E5DDB8C&sig=b2755c7d" \t "_blank)  http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/webevent/event.gif?r=4784498&testgroup=12221-widget-default-headline-take2-2 Featured Schools with Legal Professions Programs [[http://cdn.katch.com/logos/53799_177.gif?e=35834f78-cd3f-4934-94b3-4eb869f8a9b7_62239&pos=2&e=57a45f9c-5e43-473b-b504-fc43aacf2e74_243470&pos=1](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83B9C78-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=e824e5a0)](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83B9C78-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=e824e5a0" \t "_blank)  [Regent University - Achieve Your Higher Calling >](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83B9C78-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=e824e5a0" \t "_blank)  [[http://cdn.katch.com/logos/37187_531.gif?e=35834f78-cd3f-4934-94b3-4eb869f8a9b7_44888&pos=4&e=57a45f9c-5e43-473b-b504-fc43aacf2e74_74906&pos=2](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83BBD0C-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=a983364d)](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83BBD0C-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=a983364d" \t "_blank)  [Earn Your Masters Degree Online in Criminal Justice  >](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83BBD0C-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=a983364d" \t "_blank)  [[http://cdn.katch.com/logos/36130.gif?e=35834f78-cd3f-4934-94b3-4eb869f8a9b7_363887&pos=5&e=57a45f9c-5e43-473b-b504-fc43aacf2e74_243343&pos=3](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83BDB0C-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=0bfc6b41)](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83BDB0C-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=0bfc6b41" \t "_blank)  [Education Connection | Find The Right Criminal Justice Degree Program For YOU Today! >](http://www.campusexplorer.com/track/out/?iid=E83BDB0C-02F6-11E5-83D0-9CF2FA22AC21&sig=0bfc6b41" \t "_blank)  [igher Education: Colleges and Universities](http://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/alabama.html)  [Search Now!](http://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/alabama.html) |

**1519** Alonso Álvarez de Piñeda of Spain probably sailed into Mobile Bay.  
**1540** [Hernando de Soto](http://www.robinsonlibrary.com/america/discovery/soto.htm) explored much of what is now Alabama.  
**1559** Tristán de Luna established several temporary settlements in what is now Alabama.

**1702** French Canadians founded Fort Louis on the Mobile River. In 1711, the colony moved to what is now Mobile.  
**1763** France gave the Alabama region to Great Britain.  
**1783** Great Britain gave the United States much of the territory that became Alabama, but gave the Mobile region to Spain.  
**1795** The United States and Spain signed the Treaty of San Lorenzo el Real, setting the southern boundary of the United States at the 31st parallel, across Alabama.

**1813** The United States captured Mobile Bay from Spain.  
**1814** The Creek Indians surrendered nearly half the present state of Alabama to the United States.  
**1817** The Alabama Territory was created.  
**1819, December 14** Alabama became the 22nd state.  
**1861, January 11** Alabama seceded from the Union and became the Republic of Alabama.  
**1861, February 8** Alabama joined the [Confederacy](http://www.robinsonlibrary.com/america/unitedstates/1861/confederate/states.htm).  
**1868, June 25** Alabama was readmitted to the Union.  
**1880** The state's first blast furnace began operating in Birmingham.

**1901** The present state constitution was adopted.  
**1956** A federal court ordered Montgomery to desegregate its public bus system.  
**1960** The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center was established in Huntsville.  
**1965** Martin Luther King, Jr., led a march from Selma to Montgomery to demonstrate Negro demands for an end to discrimination in voter registration.  
**1974** [George C. Wallace](http://www.robinsonlibrary.com/america/uslocal/gulf/alabama/history/wallace.htm) became the first Alabama Governor to be elected to a third term.

**List of Interesting Facts about Indians of Alabama**  
Facts are statements which are held to be true and often contrasted with opinions and beliefs. Our unusual and interesting facts about Indians of Alabama, trivia and information, including some useful statistics will fascinate everyone from kids and children to adults. [Facts about Indians](http://www.findfast.org/tribes-native-americans/facts-about-native-americans.htm) and interesting Facts about Indians Alabama are as follows:

* Fact 1 - Alabama is a state in the south-eastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico. The indigenous people of Alabama included various tribes of Native Americans
* Fact 2 - South-eastern tribes were hunters and gatherers and lived in states including Louisiana, Georgia and Alabama.



* Fact 3 - The Alabama Indians were originally from Mississippi and members of the Muscogee Creek Confederacy. The Alabama tribe first encountered Europeans when Hernando de Soto arrived in 1540
* Fact 4 - The Tunica - Biloxi Indians inhabited an area near the coast of the Gulf of Mexico - Mississippi. They were eventually forced west into Louisiana and eastern Texas.
* Fact 5 - The [Cherokee Indians](http://www.findfast.org/tribes-native-americans/facts-about-cherokee-native-americans.htm) are members of an Iroquoian people formerly living in the Appalachian Mountains but now chiefly in Oklahoma
* Fact 6 - The Chickasaw Indians of the Muskhogean people formerly living in northern Mississippi
* Fact 7 - The Choctaw Indians of central and southern Mississippi and southwest Alabama, with present-day populations in Mississippi and southeast Oklahoma
* Fact 8 - The Koasati Indians members of the Muskhogean people formerly living in northern Alabamawho belonged to the the Creek Confederacy
* Fact 9 - The [Creek (Muskogee) Indians](http://www.findfast.org/tribes-native-americans/facts-about-creek-native-americans.htm) tribe of Indians were members of the Creek Confederacy formerly living in eastern Alabama, southwest Georgia, and northwest Florida and are now located in central Oklahoma and southern Alabama. The Creek received their name from white traders because so many of their villages were located by rivers and creeks. The Creeks were removed to Indian Territory in the 1830s.



*Creek Indians meeting Benjamin Hawkins, a US Indian Agent, who established the Creek Agency*

* Fact 10 - The Yuchi tribe of Indians were later occupants of Alabama. The Yuchi tribe of Indians originally lived in the eastern Tennessee River valley in Tennessee. They were were decimated from extensive epidemics of new infectious diseases and warfare from other tribes. During the 17th century, they moved south to Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. They were included in the Creek confederacy for political reasons in the 19th century



*Yuchi Native Amerucan*

* Fact 11 - The Alabama or Alibamu are a South-eastern culture people of Indians
* Fact 12 - Alabama 1805 - 1806 - (Choctaw) and northern (Chickasaw and Cherokee) Indian cessions open up land to white settlement
* Fact 13 - 1813 - 1814 - The Creek Indian War - At the start of the 1500's the Creeks occupied nearly all of southeast United States
* Fact 14 - 1836 - 1837 - The Second Creek War (Seminole War) in which Creek warriors were defeated at Hobdy's Bridge South Alabama
* Fact 15 - 1832-1839 - Removal of the [Seminole](http://www.findfast.org/tribes-native-americans/facts-about-seminole-native-americans.htm), [Cherokee](http://www.findfast.org/tribes-native-americans/facts-about-cherokee-native-americans.htm), Chickasaw, Choctaw and [Creek](http://www.findfast.org/tribes-native-americans/facts-about-creek-native-americans.htm) Indians, known as the "Five Civilized Tribes", to Indian Territory
* Fact 16 - The Choctaw (alternatively spelt as Chato and Chocktaw) are a Native American tribe originally from the South-eastern United States (Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana).
* Fact 17 - The Alabama tribe migrated from Alabama and Mississippi to the area of Texas in the late 18th century
* Fact 18 - The Creek Confederacy: The Creek Confederacy was a Native American Indian confederacy organized by the Muskogee tribes that dominated the southeastern part of the United States before being removed to Oklahoma. Muskhogean is a family of North American Indian languages spoken in the south-eastern United States.

**Facts about the History of Alabama History**

* Facts about the History of Alabama History - 1700's
  + Alabama was first explored by the Spanish
  + 1756 - 1763 - The Seven Years War (French and Indian War) due to disputes over land is won by Great Britain. France gives England all French territory east of the Mississippi River, except New Orleans. The Spanish give up east and west Florida to the English in return for Cuba.
  + 1775 - 1783 - The American Revolution creates the United States of America. The Revolution was due to the British burden of taxes and total power to legislate any laws governing the American colonies
  + July 4, 1776 - United States Declaration of Independence
  + July 10, 1778 - France declares war against Britain and makes an alliance with the American revolutionary forces
  + September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris is signed by the victorious United States and the defeated Great Britain
* Facts about the History of Alabama History - The Early 1800's
  + The southern section was claimed by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase (1803)
  + The Louisiana Purchase - In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The U.S. Secretary of State, James Madison paid 15 million dollars for the land
  + 1805 - 1806 - (Choctaw) and northern (Chickasaw and [Cherokee](http://www.findfast.org/tribes-native-americans/facts-about-cherokee-native-americans.htm)) Indian cessions open up land to white settlement
  + 1812 - 1815 - The War of 1812 between U.S. and Great Britain, ended in a stalemate but   
    confirmed America's Independence
  + 1813 - 1814 - The Creek Indian War - At the start of the 1500's the Creeks occupied nearly   
    all of southeast United States. Their defeat at the battle in Lumpkin County near   
    Slaughter Gap forced them farther and farther West
  + 1835 - The Alabama gold rush
  + 1836 - 1837 - The Second Creek War (Seminole War) in which Creek warriors were   
    defeated at Hobdy's Bridge South Alabama
  + 1832-1839 - Removal of the Seminole, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Creek Indians, known as the "Five Civilized Tribes", to Indian Territory
* Facts about the History of Alabama History - The American Civil War
  + 1861 - 1865 The American Civil War. In 1859 John Brown raided Harpers Ferry and set in   
    motion events that led directly to the outbreak of the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln, a   
    known opponent of slavery, was elected president and in 1861 the South Secedes. The   
    initial Secession of South Carolina was followed by the secession of Mississippi, Florida,   
    Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina.   
    These eleven states eventually formed the Confederate States of America. The   
    bombardment of Fort Sumter was the opening engagement of the American Civil War.   
    The surrender of Robert E. Lee on April 9 1865 signalled the end of the Confederacy
  + 1865 December 6 - The Abolishment of Slavery. The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S Constitution is ratified, thus officially abolishing slavery
  + 1898-1901 The Spanish American War. On December 10, 1898 the Treaty of Paris the US annexes Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines.
* Origin of the name - Named after a tribe of the Creek Indian nation

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**Fast Facts about Alabama**

* Alabama is a state in the south-eastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico
* Capital city of Alabama - Montgomery
* Info about Statehood - The Date that Alabama was admitted to the Union - December 14, 1819
* Abbreviation - The abbreviation for the state is as follows:
  + Abbreviation - AL
* The Constitution -  Alabama was the 22nd State to be admitted to the Union
* The Nickname(s) - Yellowhammer State - The Heart of Dixie
* 3 Largest Cities in Alabama - Birmingham, Montgomery and Mobile
* State Motto - Audemus jura nostra defendere - motto translated as " We Dare Defend Our Rights "
* Name of the State Song is " Alabama " the words of the song are by Julia S. Tutwiler and music composed by Edna G. Gussen
* Origin of the name - Named after a tribe of the Creek Indian nation

### Best Places to Visit in Alabama - Tourist attractions

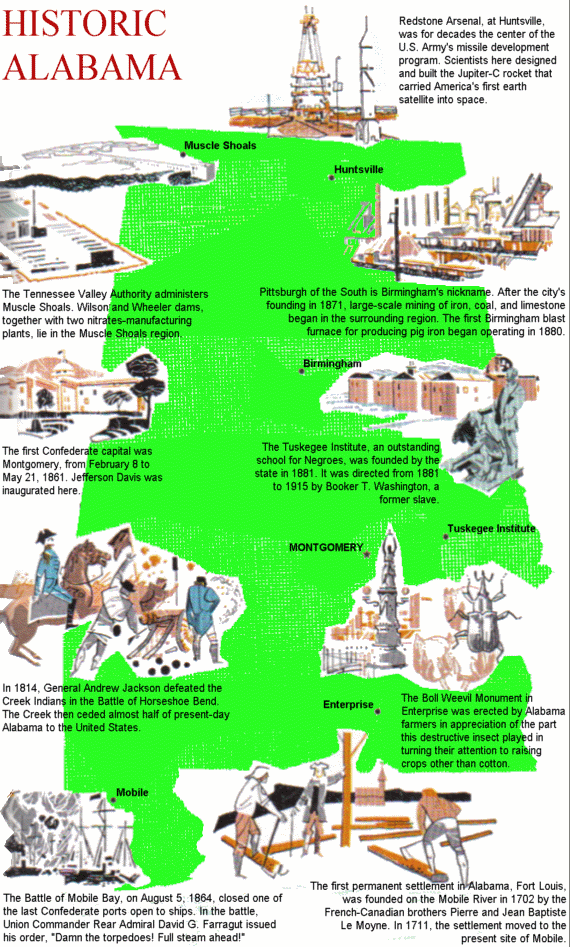
* Birmingham Zoo  
  Dauphin Island Sea Lab Education Center  
  Water World  
  Alabama Princess Riverboat  
  U.S. Space and Rocket Center McWayne Center

### Best Places to Visit in Alabama - Historical Sites

* Alabama Constitution Village  
  Arab Historical Society  
  Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park  
  Fort Gaines Historic Site  
  Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park

### Facts about the Names of the Symbols / Emblems of of Alabama The following animal, bird, flower and tree are the symbols / Emblems of the State of Alabama:

* Alabama State Reptile Symbol - Red-Bellied Turtle (Pseudemys alabamensis)
* Alabama State Bird Symbol - Yellowhammer
* Alabama State Flower Symbol - Camellia ( Camellia japonica )
* Alabama State Insect Emblem - Monarch Butterfly
* Alabama State Tree - Southern Longleaf Pine (Pinus palustris Miller)

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