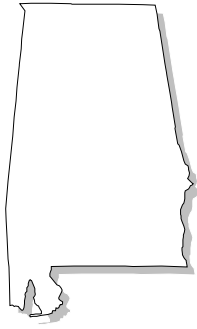


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Welcome to Alabama

Let's start our tour of the United States in Alabama, the "Heart of Dixie." Hang on to your hats. Hot air balloon races are held in Decatur during the annual Alabama Jubilee.

Nicknames: Heart of Dixie, Camellia State, Cotton State and Yellowhammer State

State motto: We Dare Defend Our Rights

State flower: Camellia

State tree: Southern pine

State bird: Yellowhammer

State game bird: Wild turkey

State fish: Tarpon (saltwater)
and largemouth bass (freshwater)

State mineral: Red iron ore

State rock: Marble

State fossil: *Basilosaurus cetoides*
(a prehistoric whale)

State song: "Alabama"

Capital: Montgomery

Statehood: December 14, 1819,
the 22nd state

1990 Population: 4,040,587:
the 22nd largest in population

Area: 51,705 square miles:
the 29th largest in area

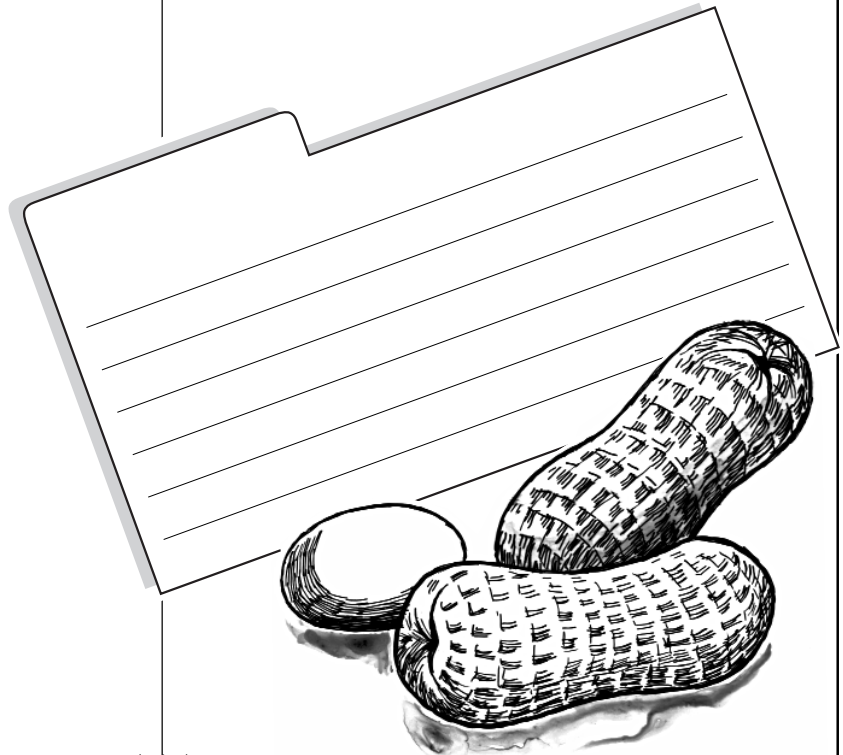
Neighbors: Georgia, Tennessee,
Mississippi and Florida

Major crops: Peanuts, cotton,
soybeans, hay, corn, wheat,
potatoes, pecans,
cottonseed and catfish

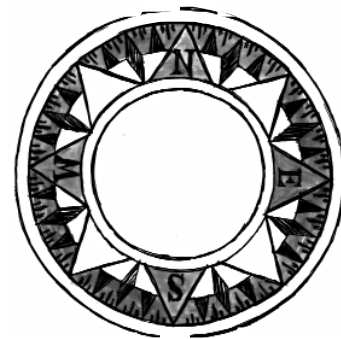
Please Pass the Peanuts

George Washington Carver, an African American scientist, became famous for making more than 300 new products from peanuts including ink, soap and shaving cream. Through his efforts, peanuts became a major crop in Alabama. Each year a contest is held in Dothan, Alabama, for the best peanut recipe.

Think of a recipe you could make using peanuts in some form. It could be a soup, an appetizer, a dessert or a main dish. Name your new recipe and explain how to make it.



Name _____



Alabama is bordered by four other states. What are they?

_____, _____,
_____ and _____

Write their approximate locations on the map above.

The Gulf of Mexico is south of Alabama. Color it blue.

Write the names of these major Alabama cities in the correct places on the map: Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Mobile and Huntsville.

Use the compass to answer these questions. Which direction would you go to get from Alabama . . .

to Tennessee? _____

to Florida? _____

to Georgia? _____

to Mississippi? _____

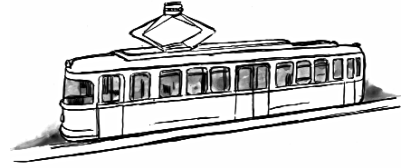


Did You Know?

- Alabama was named for the Alibamu Indians. The word means “thicket clearers” or “vegetation gatherers.”
- In Enterprise, Alabama, a monument was built to honor an insect—the boll weevil. This beetle damaged so much of Alabama’s cotton crop that farmers were forced to find other crops to plant.
- People first settled in Alabama about 11,000 years ago. When European explorers arrived, they found the Cherokee, Choctaw and Creeks living in villages. These Native Americans built log homes, grew corn, squash, beans and tobacco. They hunted and fished for food.
- The city of Tuscaloosa was named for Tuskalusa, a Mobilian Indian chief.
- The first Europeans in Alabama were Spanish explorers in the early 1500s. The French established a permanent settlement on Mobile Bay in 1701. Most of Alabama was ceded to England at the end of the French and Indian War in 1763. The Spanish continued to claim the area around Mobile Bay as part of Spanish Florida until 1813.
- Southern leaders met in Montgomery in 1861 where they formed the Confederate States of America. Nicknamed the “Cradle of the Confederacy,” Montgomery became the Confederate capital for a short time until it was moved to Richmond, Virginia.



- “Railroad Bill,” (Morris Slater) an Alabama train robber in the late 1800s became known as the Black Robin Hood because he gave food and other stolen items to the poor.



- The first electric streetcars in the South ran in Montgomery in 1886. People called it the Lightning Route.
- Joe Louis, born in Lafayette, held the heavy-weight boxing title from 1937 to 1949, longer than any other fighter.
- Jesse Owens, born in Oakville, won four gold medals in track at the 1936 Olympics.
- Montgomery became the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement in 1955 when Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting in the “whites only” section of a city bus. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led protests against her arrest. A year later the Supreme Court decided that segregated buses were not legal.
- The famous University of Alabama football coach “Bear” Bryant got his nickname because he entered a bear-wrestling contest as a youth.
- The city of Birmingham is famous for making steel and iron. A 55-foot statue called “Vulcan, the Iron Man” stands atop Red Mountain. This is the largest cast iron statue in the world. Vulcan was the Roman god of fire, the blacksmith who had his forge under a mountain.
- Famous Alabamians include Hank Aaron, Tallulah Bankhead, “Bear” Bryant, George Washington Carver, Nat King Cole, Bo Jackson, Helen Keller, Harper Lee, Joe Louis, Willie Mays, Jesse Owens, Rosa Parks, Leroy “Satchel” Paige, Lionel Ritchie, Hank Williams, Booker T. Washington and Dinah Washington.
- Find out more about someone from Alabama who was important in the Civil War or the Civil Rights Movement. Write a short report.