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Alabama

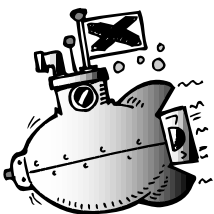
Nickname: Yellowhammer State • State Bird: Yellowhammer • Capital: Montgomery

■ The world's largest cake was baked in honor of Fort Payne's 100th birthday in 1989. Shaped like the state of Alabama, this monster cake weighed 128,238.5 pounds.



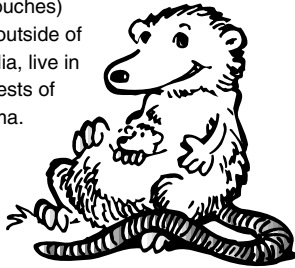
■ Alabama was named for the Alibamu Indians whose name meant "thicket clearers" or "vegetation gatherers."

■ During the Civil War, soldiers from Alabama wore bright yellow patches on their uniforms. People said they looked like yellowhammer woodpeckers. That's how Alabama got the nickname, the Yellowhammer State.



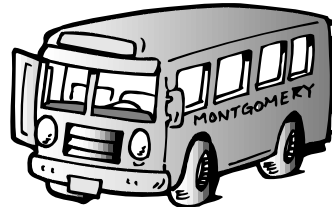
■ The first Confederate submarine, the *Huntley* was built in Mobile during the Civil War.

■ Opossums, the only marsupials (animals with pouches) found outside of Australia, live in the forests of Alabama.



■ Russel Cave in northeastern Alabama was home to prehistoric people over 9,000 years ago.

■ In 1961, an Alabama farmer dug up a whale's skeleton 75 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. Fossils of sea turtles and other marine animals have also been found in Alabama, far from the nearest water.

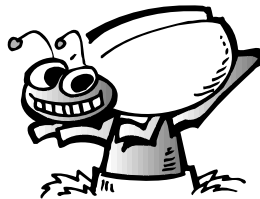


Montgomery

■ Montgomery became the birthplace of the Civil Rights movement in 1955 when police arrested Rosa Parks for sitting in the "whites only" section of a city bus. Dr. Martin Luther King led protests against her arrest. A year later the Supreme Court decided that segregated buses were not legal.

■ Did you know that Alabama is also known as the Heart of Dixie?

■ The only monument to an insect pest is in Enterprise, Alabama. On top of a fancy pedestal, a statue of a woman holds a giant boll weevil in her arms. The inscription reads: "In profound appreciation of the boll weevil and what it has done as the herald of prosperity." After weevils destroyed most of Alabama's cotton crop in the early 1900s, farmers learned to plant other crops.



Enterprise

Dothan



■ Before Montgomery became the capital of Alabama in 1846, the state had four other capitals: St. Stephens, Huntsville, Cahaba and Tuscaloosa.

■ The tarpon is Alabama's state saltwater fish. Marble is the state rock and the camellia is the state flower.

■ Each year a contest is held in Dothan, Alabama, for the best peanut recipe.

■ Residents of Mobile claim that the first Mardi Gras festival in North America was held in their city in 1703.

■ The world's largest helicopter collection can be found at the United States Army Aviation Museum in Fort Rucker, Alabama.



Mobile

Hooray for Peanuts!

A former slave, this man became famous for making over 300 new products from peanuts including ink, soap and shaving cream. Through his efforts, peanuts became a major crop in Alabama.

59 50 2 33 51 23 15 54 21 28 19 3 5 34 12 58 37 29 45 49 16 9

To find the answer, fill in the blanks below. Write the letter that corresponds with the number below each blank.

- Where was the first capital of the Confederate States of America located?

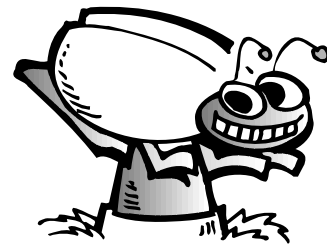
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- Name the insects that destroyed most of Alabama’s cotton crop in the early 1800s.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

- What nickname for Alabama came from a type of woodpecker?

The 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 State



- The word *Alabama* means:

“34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48” or

“49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67”

Challenge Questions

- Describe some of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s accomplishments as a Civil Rights leader in Alabama.
- How did the 1783 Treaty of Paris affect the area that later became Alabama?

Just for Fun

What did the Alabama scientist get when he crossed a turkey with an octopus?

Alabama Bingo

To the Teacher: The master game sheet, rules and game suggestions are on pages 179 and 180.

Statements for Alabama Bingo

- One of Alabama's nicknames is **the Heart of Dixie**.
- The capital of Alabama is **Montgomery**.
- **George Washington Carver** became famous for making more than 300 new products from peanuts.
- The **Gulf of Mexico** is south of Alabama.
- **Dolphins** swim in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Georgia** is east of Alabama.
- The **yellowhammer** is Alabama's state bird.
- **Mississippi** is west of Alabama.
- **Alligators** can be found in Alabama's swamps and bayous.
- **Tennessee** is north of Alabama.
- Steel and iron are made in **Birmingham**.
- **Opossums** live in the forests of Alabama.
- Alabama's state fish is the **largemouth bass**.
- Alabama was named for the **Alibamus**.
- The **Cherokee** lived in Alabama when white settlers first arrived.
- The first Europeans in Alabama were **Spanish explorers**.
- **Hank Aaron** was a famous baseball player from Alabama.
- **Rosa Parks** was arrested in 1955 for sitting in the "whites only" section of a bus in Montgomery.
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** led African Americans to fight for Civil Rights in Alabama.
- In 1956 the Supreme Court declared that **segregation** was not legal.
- Alabama was one of the states to secede from the Union during the **Civil War**.
 - **Peanuts** are an important crop in Alabama.
 - **Jesse Owens** won four gold medals in track at the 1936 Olympics.
 - The **boll weevil** is an insect that destroyed much of Alabama's cotton crop.

