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## Fun Facts

**Amphibian:** Red Hills Salamander (*Phaeognathus hubrichti* Highton)

**Bird:** Yellowhammer (*Picus auratus*)

**Game Bird:** Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

**Freshwater Fish:** Largemouth or Black Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

**Saltwater Fish:** Fighting Tarpon (*Tarpon atlanticus*)

**Flower:** Camellia (*Camellia japonica*)

**Wildflower:** Oak-Leaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)

**Fossil:** Zeuglodon (*Basilosaurus cetoides*)

**Gem:** Star Blue Quartz (Silicon dioxide)

**Insect:** Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

**Mascot:** Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*)

**Mineral:** Hematite (Red Iron Ore)

**Motto:** "Audemas jura nostra defendere" (We Dare Defend Our Rights)

**Nickname:** No official nickname, though, Alabama is often referred to as "The Heart of Dixie." This has also appeared on state license plates since the 1950s.

**Nut:** Pecan

**Reptile:** Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle (*Pseudemys alabamensis*)

**Rock:** Marble

**Shell:** Scaphella Junonia Johnstoneae

**Song:** "Alabama" by Julia S. Tutwiler

**Tree:** Southern Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris* Miller)

**Statehood:** December 14, 1819; 22nd state admitted to the Union

**Population:** (2001 estimate) 4,464,356

**Area:** 52,423 square miles of land and water; 30th largest state

**Highest Point:** Cheaha Mountain; 2407 feet above sea level

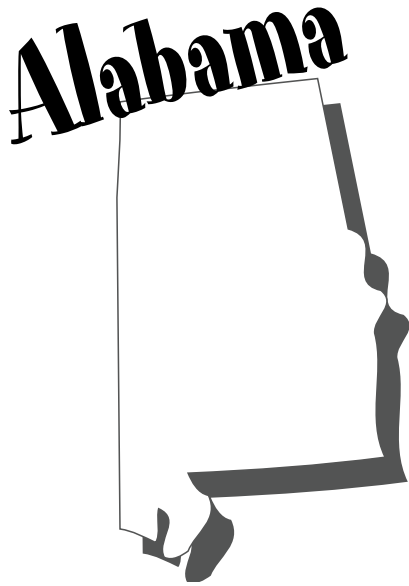
**Lowest Point:** Gulf of Mexico

**Capital:** Montgomery

**Largest City:** Birmingham

**Major Crops:** Poultry, eggs, hogs, cattle, nursery stock, milk, fruits, peanuts, cotton, corn

**Major Industry:** Paper, lumber and wood products, chemicals, rubber, plastics, automobile production, iron and steel production, coal production

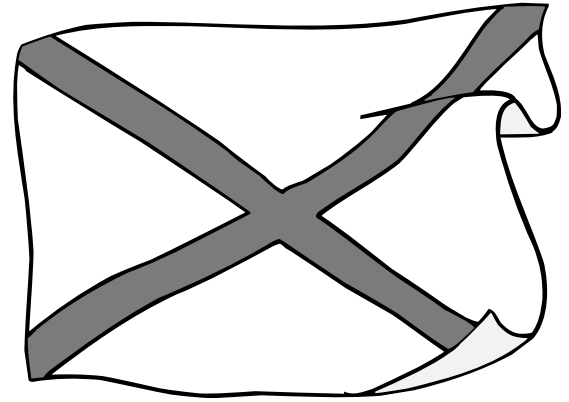


## Did You Know?

George Washington Carver, one of the greatest agricultural researchers and educators in America's history, became director of research at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Carver was invited by Booker T. Washington to lead the research effort at the Institute. Carver quickly became an advocate for lessening the South's dependence on crops such as cotton and tobacco that leached nutrients from the soil. Carver recommended that Southern farmers grow other crops that were native to the South such as sweet potatoes and peanuts. Through his research and experiments, more than 100 products from sweet potatoes and over 300 products from peanuts were developed. Carver worked exhaustively to teach better farming practices and became recognized worldwide for his progressive agricultural techniques that replenished the soil and stopped the destruction of native forests.

Alabama is one of the many states that has a name of Native American origin. The word Alabama is a Creek word that means "tribal town."

**Flag:** The present design of the flag of Alabama, a crimson cross of St. Andrew on a field of white, was adopted by the Alabama Legislature on February 16, 1895. The act requires that the bars on the flag be not less than six inches wide and that they must extend diagonally across the flag from side to side.



**Seal:** The circular state seal shows a map of the state of Alabama and its major rivers, along with the states that border Alabama—Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. The words Alabama and Great Seal appear in the outer circle of the state seal.



## Celebrating History with Official Quilts

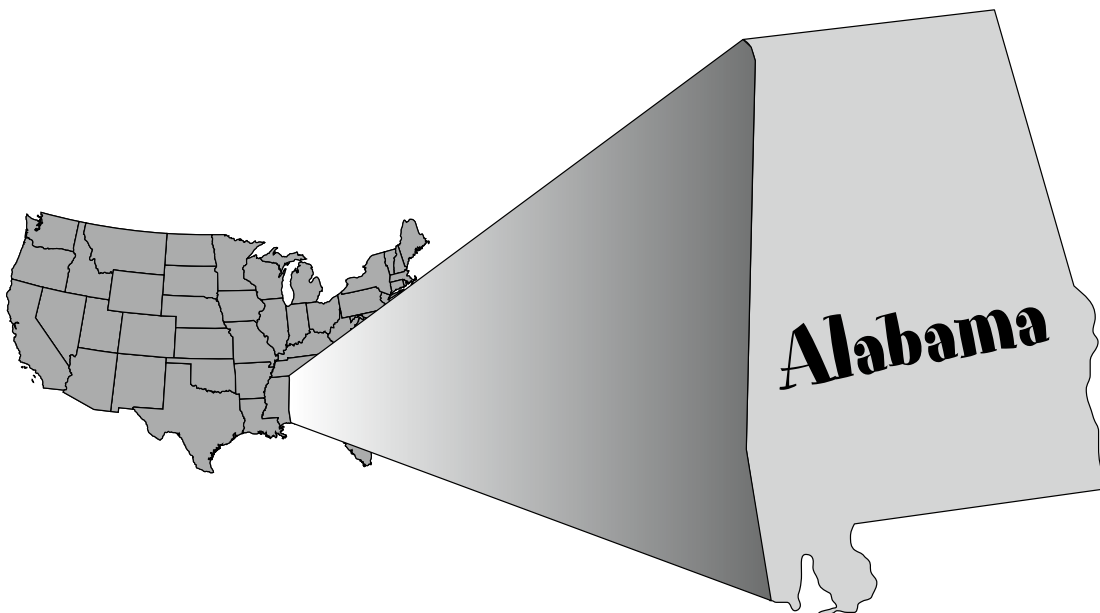
On December 1, 1965, a slight African American woman named Rosa Parks, boarded a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The “established” rule in the old American south demanded that African Americans must surrender their seats to any white passengers and move to the back of the bus. When it came time for Mrs. Parks to surrender her seat, she would not! She did not argue with the bus driver but she did not move either. The police were called in and she was arrested.

At the same time, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was the pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, called a meeting with other African American leaders. Together they began a movement of peace but protested against Mrs. Parks’ arrest. Within five days, African American residents boycotted all the buses of Montgomery. The boycott continued for an entire year and caused great financial hardship for the city and state. Supporting the boycott was a hardship for the African Americans, too, but they would not give up. In the meantime, the

Federal Supreme Court declared that Alabama state segregation laws were illegal. Not only was the boycott successful but the Civil Rights Movement had begun!

To honor Alabama’s history and community, on March 11, 1997, the Pine Burr Quilt was designated the state’s official quilt. The design was created by the Freedom Quilting Bee, which was organized during the Civil Rights Movement in 1966. This African American women’s organization has received national attention for their quilt designs, which date back 140 years. The originators of the Freedom Quilting Bee maintain their African American culture and history by re-creating the life, customs and artifacts of their ancestors. The Pine Burr Quilt represents vision, community and tradition. Its pattern involves hundreds of colored swatches meticulously sewn together. It is a celebration of ancestors who lived, loved and suffered through the time of slavery and up to the Civil Rights Movement.

Make a bold statement during African American month by creating a wall hanging based on the official quilt of Alabama, the Pine Burr Quilt.



## Notable Natives

- Henry Louis (Hank) Aaron (1934- ), baseball player, Mobile
- Ralph Abernathy (1926-1990), civil rights activist, Linden
- Courtney Cox Arquette (1964- ), actress, Birmingham
- Tallulah Bankhead (1903-1968), actress, Huntsville
- Alva Ertskkin Belmont (1853-1933), feminist, reformer, Mobile
- Hugo LaFayette Black (1886-1971), U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Harlan
- Nat “King” Cole (Nathaniel Adams Coles) (1919-1965), singer, Montgomery
- Zelda Fitzgerald (1900-1947), writer, Montgomery
- William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920), military doctor, Mobile
- Mia Hamm (1972- ), soccer player, Selma
- W.C. Handy (1873-1958), musician, composer, Florence
- Emmylou Harris (1947- ), country singer, Birmingham
- Kate Jackson (1948- ), actress, Birmingham
- Dean Jones (1931- ), actor, Morgan City
- Helen Keller (1880-1968), author, educator, Tuscomb
- Coretta Scott King (1927-2006), civil rights leader, Marion
- Harper Lee (1926- ), Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, Monroeville
- Carl Lewis (1961- ), Olympic gold-medal athlete, Birmingham
- Joe Louis (1914-1981), world champion boxer, Lexington
- Willie Mays (1931- ), baseball player, Fairfield
- Jim Nabors (1930- ), actor, singer, Sylacauga
- Jesse Owens (1913-1980), Olympic gold-medal runner, Danville
- Rosa Parks (1913-2005), civil rights activist, Tuskegee
- Lionel Richie (1949- ), singer, Tuskegee
- Hank Williams (1923-1953), country singer, Mount Olive

# History Quilts

## Materials

- \* card stock
- \* 30" x 56" white cotton fabric
- \* fabric squares that color coordinate
- \* 26" x 26" medium cotton batting
- \* 8—6" curtain rings
- \* curtain pole 34" long
- \* pencil
- \* scissors
- \* fabric glue
- \* straight pins
- \* needles and thread
- \* basting to match

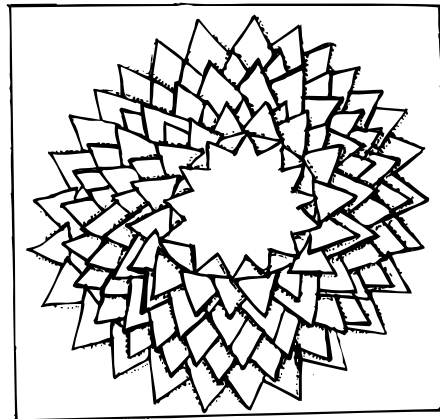


Figure 1

## Instructions

1. Trace around the triangle template on page 9 on card stock to make a sturdy pattern. Enlarge if necessary. The smaller the triangle the more material is required to complete the interior design of the quilt. (Figure 1)
2. Trace the triangle on various pieces of color fabric and cut them out. Make at least 30 fabric triangles.
3. Lay out the triangle shape in a design on a large piece of white fabric. Glue the design on the white cotton. (Figure 2)
4. Lift the quilt up and slip cotton batting underneath the shape. Pin it down making sure that the batting is centered. (Figure 3)

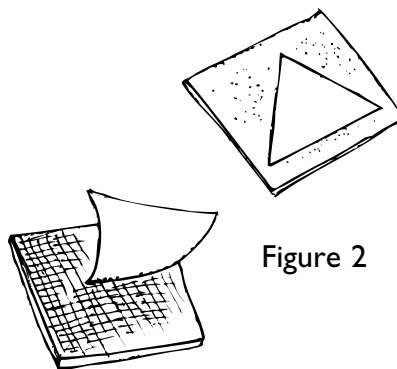


Figure 2

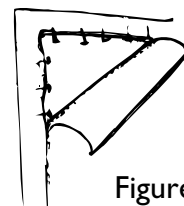


Figure 3