

## Damn the Torpedoes—Full Speed Ahead!

Mobile Bay

**1** On August 5, 1864, U. S. Rear Admiral David Farragut led the Union attack on Mobile Bay. The Confederates protected the bay at Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines using mines, called torpedoes. When the lead ship struck a mine and sank, Farragut allegedly urged his men on with the cry of, “Damn the Torpedoes! Full Speed Ahead!”

## Alabama Beaches

Gulf Coast, Mobile and Baldwin counties

**2** Alabama’s sugar white beaches offer entertainment and relaxation for all the family.

## Grand Bay National Wildlife Reserve

Western Mobile County

**3** The Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge preserves several rich coastal habitats such as a tidal marsh, wetlands, and a pine savannah. It is home to endangered species such as the Gopher Tortoise.

## America’s First Mardi Gras

Mobile, Mobile County

**4** The first Mardi Gras celebration took place in the new settlement of Mobile in 1703. Later, Mobilians, led by Michael Krafft, organized the first mystic societies in the 1830s and the first official Mardi Gras parade in 1840.

## Iberville and Bienville Found Mobile, 1702

Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff, Mobile County

**5** Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d’Iberville, and his brother, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, led the French in exploring French settlements along the Gulf coast. In 1702 Bienville began construction of Fort Louis de la Mobile, the first European settlement in Alabama, on a bluff twenty-seven miles up the Mobile River from Mobile Bay. The Mobile settlement moved down the river to its permanent site in 1711.

## Attack on Fort Mims, 1813

Northern Baldwin County

**6** Red Stick Creek Indians attacked settlers, Mississippi militia, and mixed-blood Creeks who had sought refuge at a hastily built stockade at Samuel Mims’s farm. Hundreds of settlers and Creeks died that day. The attack caused the Americans to raise militia units to fight the Indians in the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814, which led to the crushing defeat of the Creek Nation.

## Surveying Ellicott’s Line, 1799

31st parallel

**7** Using a 67-foot-long surveyor’s chain, U.S. Surveyor General Andrew Ellicott led a team to survey and establish the U.S. southern boundary with Spanish West Florida. This line remains the boundary between Alabama and Florida, except in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

## Wiregrass

Southeastern Alabama

**8** The Wiregrass region of Alabama is named for a distinctive grass that grows in the sandy soil of the southern pine flatwoods.

## Salt Works

Clarke County

**17** Clarke County is home to salt deposits that have been important throughout history. As one of the main sources of salt for the Confederacy during the Civil War, the Clarke County salt works produced more than 600 bushels of salt each day. More than 5,000 men, mostly slaves, worked in the salt works from 1862 to 1865.

## Shipping Cotton to the World

Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers

**18** Alabama’s chief market commodity during the antebellum period was cotton. Steamboats transported cotton from the fields of the Black Belt to the port of Mobile for shipment to factories in the North and in Europe.

## Longleaf Pine, Alabama State Tree

Statewide, but mostly south Alabama

**19** *Pinus palustris*, the Southern Longleaf Pine, is Alabama’s official state tree. It has the largest pine cone of any pine tree in the eastern United States. It can grow to be 100 feet tall, and its wood is often used for poles or tapped for turpentine and resin. Can you find the longleaf pines growing on the Archives lawn?

## Hank Williams

Georgiana, Butler County

**20** Country music legend Hank Williams was born in 1923 in Mount Olive, near Georgiana. His songs, such as “I’m So Lonesome I Could Cry” and “Your Cheatin’ Heart,” are still popular today.

## Pioneer Life

Statewide

**21** Most early settlers in Alabama, especially in the Wiregrass and Hill Country, lived a simple, resourceful life. With their own hands they grew, hunted, made, or traded for everything they had. You can learn more about pioneer life at the Pioneer Museum of Alabama in Troy, Pike County.

## Home of George and Lurleen Wallace

Barbour County

**22** Four-time Alabama Governor George Wallace was born in Clilo in 1919. His first wife, Lurleen, served as Alabama’s first female governor. They lived in Clayton in the early years of their marriage.

## Alabama’s First Commercial Oil Well, 1944

Choctaw County

**23** The State of Alabama granted Hunt Oil Company a permit to drill the A. R. Jackson Well No. 1, near Gilbertown, in January 1944. When the company discovered oil in February, Alabama became an oil producing state.

## Gee’s Bend Quilters

Gee’s Bend or Boykin, Wilcox County

**24** People around the world recognize the African-American quilt makers from the Gee’s Bend area for their unique quilt artistry.

## Alabama Peanuts

Southeastern Alabama

**9** About one-half of all peanuts grown in the United States are grown in a 100-mile radius of Dothan. The nation’s largest peanut festival, the National Peanut Festival, takes place in Dothan each fall.

## Basilosaurus Cetoides Swam Here 35 Million Years Ago

South Alabama

**10** In the Cretaceous Era an ocean covered the southern half of the state. Remains of Alabama’s state fossil, *Basilosaurus cetoides*, an ancient whale, have been found in Clarke, Choctaw, Washington, and other counties.

## To Kill a Mockingbird

Monroeville, Monroe County

**11** Monroeville native Harper Lee won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961 for her world-famous novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

## Forest Products

Statewide, especially the Piney Woods of south Alabama

**12** Alabama has long been a major producer of forest products, from turpentine and logging to the pulp and paper industry.

## Rattlesnake Rodeo

Opp, Covington County

**13** In 1959, the Opp Jaycees organized the first Rattlesnake Rodeo. Held annually every year since 1964, the event attracts thousands to Opp in early April to enjoy musical performances and a karaoke and songwriter’s contest, to select beauty pageant winners, to browse arts and crafts, and to visit displays of rattlesnakes.

## Boll Weevil Monument

Enterprise, Coffee County

**14** The Boll Weevil is a beetle that destroys cotton buds and bolls. After it entered Alabama in 1910, it devastated the cotton crop, and farmers in the Wiregrass turned to peanut farming, which actually proved more profitable. The citizens of Enterprise dedicated the Boll Weevil Monument in 1919 in mock appreciation of the Boll Weevil which compelled farmers to diversify their crops.

## Fort Rucker: Home of Army Aviation

Dale County

**15** The U.S. Army established Camp Rucker during World War II and consolidated all army aviation flight training at Fort Rucker in 1973. Today, Fort Rucker is home to the U.S. Army Aviation Center and the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

## St. Stephens, U.S. Flag First Raised in Alabama, 1799

Washington County

**16** On May 5, 1799, U.S. Army Lieutenant John McClary took possession of Fort St. San Estaban from the Spanish government under the terms of the Treaty of San Lorenzo (1795). McClary raised the U.S. flag for the first time on soil that would eventually belong to Alabama.

## Sharecropping

Statewide

**25** Many poor Alabama farmers, both white and black, became caught in a system of economic dependency following the Civil War. Without money to purchase land, they agreed to live on land owned by another farmer and pay him with a share of the crop produced. The system was common across the state well into the twentieth century.

## Bird Dog Field Trial Monument

Union Springs, Bullock County

**26** Since the 1920s, people of Bullock County have held bird dog competitions to gauge a hunting dog’s ability to locate and point out quail. In 1996, the town of Union Springs erected a statue of an English Pointer as a monument to the Bird Dog Field Trial Hall of Fame.

## Lake Eufaula

Barbour and Russell counties

**27** Located on the Chattahoochee River, Lake Eufaula (also known as the Walter S. George Reservoir) is often referred to as the “Big Bass Capital of the World.”

## State Song

Livingston, Sumter County

**28** Julia Tutwiler wrote the words to Alabama’s state song, “Alabama.” She also served as the first president of Livingston State Normal School (now the University of West Alabama). Tutwiler was a pioneer social reformer as well as an educator, championing education for women and prison reform.

## Black Belt Plantations

South Alabama Black Belt

**29** Alabama’s Black Belt region was named for its dark, fertile soil, well adapted to growing cotton. Before the Civil War, large cotton plantations, supported by slave labor, provided some planters with great wealth, allowing them to build lavish homes, some in the Greek Revival style.

## Rooster Bridge

Demopolis, Marengo County

**30** Rooster Bridge was partially financed by a public auction of roosters donated by famous personalities of the day. Opened in 1925, the bridge spanned the Tombigbee River near Demopolis. Although demolished in 1980, we also know its replacement as Rooster Bridge.

## Vine and Olive Colony: Alabamians Welcome French Refugees, 1817

Demopolis, Marengo County

**31** Demopolis was founded in 1817 by exiled French supporters of Napoleon Bonaparte. The colonists attempted unsuccessfully to grow grapes and olives.

## Catfish Farming

Statewide, especially western Black Belt counties

**32** Alabama is the nation’s second largest producer of catfish, the state’s 8th largest cash agricultural crop.



# A Guide to the Images on the Bronze Map on the Lawn of the Alabama Department of Archives and History

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## King Cotton

Statewide, especially the Black Belt and Tennessee Valley

**33** Because cotton was Alabama’s major cash crop from the antebellum period until well into the twentieth century, Alabama became known as the Cotton State.

## Cahaba, First State Capital, 1820

Cahaba, Dallas County

**34** Alabama’s first constitution made Cahaba the temporary seat of government for the new state of Alabama, and the legislature began meeting in the new statehouse, or capitol building, in November 1820.

## 1965 Voting Rights March

Selma to Montgomery—Dallas, Lowndes and Montgomery counties

**35** The events of Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965—when law enforcement officials attacked peaceful civil rights marchers on the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma—and the successful Selma to Montgomery march two weeks later, led to the passage of the federal 1965 Voting Rights Act.

## Daniel Pratt’s Cotton Gin Factory

Prattville, Autauga County

**36** A pioneer industrialist, Daniel Pratt established a cotton gin factory in 1838 that became one of the world’s largest suppliers of cotton gins.

## Wright Brothers’ First Flying School, 1910

Montgomery, Montgomery County

**37** Wilbur and Orville Wright came to Alabama to establish the first pilot training school. Although the school was short-lived, several aviation records were set and the first night flight in history was made here. The site of this school is now part of Maxwell Air Force Base.

## Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955-1956

Montgomery, Montgomery County

**38** Many regard the bus boycott as the beginning of the modern Civil Rights Movement. The boycott was sparked by Rosa Parks’s refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery city bus on December 1, 1955. African Americans refused to ride the city buses for more than a year, until the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of the city buses in December 1956.

## First Capital of the Confederacy, 1861

Montgomery, Montgomery County

**39** Montgomery served as the first capital of the Confederate States of America. President Jefferson Davis was inaugurated on the portico of the state capitol on February 18, 1861. Three months later Confederate officials moved the capital to Richmond, Virginia.