



## 2026 Alabama History Institutes: Grades 7-12

### Early Alabama: Arts, Architecture, and Aspirations

Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion, Tuscaloosa  
June 2-4, 2026

Dawn Howard, Shelby County Schools  
Emily Rodgers, Jefferson County Schools

How can buildings, art, and everyday objects help us understand Alabama's earliest communities? Explore the rich history of the state from approximately 1700 to 1840 in this three-day professional development workshop designed for teachers of grades 7-12. From Early Native Americans to European colonial settlers, to families who migrated from other territories or states, these groups documented their lives and expressed their unique identities through architecture, the arts, and social and governmental structures. You will learn how these artifacts and structures reveal the ingenuity, resilience, and spirit of freedom that shaped Alabama's foundations. By studying early Alabama, teachers will also gain perspective on how the state fits into the broader tapestry of the nation's 250th anniversary, connecting local history to national developments. The workshop will offer strategies for bringing this history to life in the classroom and engaging students with meaningful, place-based learning.

You will leave this workshop with activities and resources aligned to the 2024 Social Studies Course of Study Standards. Please bring a personal, operable device, such as a laptop or Chromebook, as you will be required to use it for full participation.



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