

Discovery Boxes

The Discovery Boxes at the Alabama Department of Archives and History are designed for parents or other guardians, mentors, and teachers of small classes to explore with young people during their visit to the Archives. Some boxes feature information and objects relating to a specific subject. Other boxes allow children and adults to enjoy traditional games and pastimes. The objective is to better acquaint young people with the subject matter through exploration, analysis, and play at the Archives.

The following list will help you decide which one(s) you want to explore during your visit to the Hands-On Gallery at the Archives. Please keep in mind that this list provides a brief summary of each box. Visit the Archives and explore the boxes to learn more!

AIRPLANES

(6th grade and up)

This box contains pictures, models, and information of airplanes from 1920 to the Gulf War. Students will learn how aircraft have changed over time.



ALABAMA'S FIRST LADIES

(4th grade and up)

This box introduces students to the First Ladies of Alabama, as well as the Governors, through a study of pictures and articles.

ALABAMA STATEHOOD

(6th grade and up)

Students will learn how Alabama became a state through numerous historical documents, including the 1819 constitution, Alabama Territory map, articles, and more!



ALABAMA SYMBOLS

(All Ages)

Children will be introduced to some of Alabama's state symbols. Activities include hands-on Pine Burr quilt activity, coloring sheets, and stuffed animal replicas.

ARCHAEOLOGY

(2nd grade and up)

Children will learn about the basic concepts of archaeology such as excavation, classifying artifacts, and making hypotheses. Children can analyze modern "artifacts" as well as exploring the primary sources of one of Alabama's pioneer archaeological societies.



ART STAMPING

(3rd grade and up)

This box provides students with a short history of rubber stamping and supplies needed to practice the historic art of rubber stamping.

CAMERAS

(All Ages)

Students will learn about the changes in camera technology by looking at different types of cameras and accompanying advertisements and publications.



CEMETERIES

(3rd grade and up)

Children will explore cemeteries as treasure chests of historical information by making a headstone rubbing activity and reading about gravestone tales and burials.



CLASSIC CHILDREN'S GAMES

(K and up)

This box contains several traditional games, including jacks, marbles, jump ropes, and pick-up sticks, for children to play. Short histories and directions for these games are included.



COTTON ...From Fields to Fabric

(K and up)

Students will learn how cotton was picked, cleaned, and made ready for spinning. Students can card and hand spin cotton using real cotton, card combs, and spindles.



COUNTIES

(4th grade and up)

Students will learn all about Alabama's 67 counties through numerous publications, maps, and information sheets.



FASHION

(K and up)

Students will see how fashion has changed through history by observing numerous pictures, magazines, and paper dolls of fashionable clothing from the late 1800s to the present.



HORACE'S BRIO TRAINS

(All Ages)

Students will learn about railroads by constructing an imaginary railroad environment using wooden trains, tracks, and accessories.



INAUGURATION

(4th and up)

Students will learn about inauguration in the capitol city by investigating newspaper articles from different Governors' Inaugurations and by playing an Inauguration Game.



INDIAN POTTERY

(K and up)

This box shows how Native Americans made designs on pottery. Children will observe various designs and have the opportunity to make their own designs using clay.



IRONS

(K and up)



Students will experience what it was like to perform this crucial step of laundering clothes years ago. Advertisements and actual irons will help students understand how difficult some jobs were without modern conveniences.

INVESTIGATING AN ARTIFACT

(2nd grade and up)

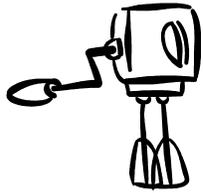
This box will allow students to examine unusual objects to find out their identity and use. Students will learn about historical objects that we no longer use or need. Historical backgrounds of the items are included.



KITCHEN TOOLS

(All Ages)

This box contains kitchen tools of yesteryear along with descriptions of their use. Students can examine kitchen items not often found in today's kitchens.



KOREAN WAR REMEMBERED

(6th grade and up)

Students will gain an understanding of what the Korean War soldier encountered during this war. This box includes publications, special commemorative awards, and similar memorabilia.



KOREAN WAR SOLDIERS ATTIRE

(6th grade and up)

Students will learn about a Korean War soldier's clothes and weather conditions by looking and trying on actual parts of a Korean War uniform.



LACE

(6th grade and up)

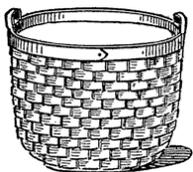
Children will discover the art of lace making. Several types of lace are shown, as well as an explanation on the tools used to make them.



MARKET BASKET

(1st grade and up)

This box helps students understand how the trip to the grocery store has changed over time. Basket, bags, advertisements, and replicas of food are included.



OLYMPIC BOX

(3rd grade and up)

Students will learn about many of Alabama's famous Olympic athletes. The box includes a list of Alabama medalists. It also contains magazines, articles, photographs, and quizzes relating to the history of the Olympics and the 1996 Summer Olympics.



PAPER GAMES

(All Ages)

This box continues the popular 19th century (1800s) tradition of playing games and creating stories out of paper. Activities include making Story Cards, Thaumatrope, Paper Dolls, and more.

PHOTOGRAPH ACTIVITIES

(3rd grade and up)

This box contains copies of historic photographs and activities which will help children understand lifestyle, fashion, technology, and environmental changes over time.



PROJECTILE POINTS

(1st grade & up)

Students will learn the different types of arrowheads and spear points made by Native Americans by observing actual points and completing accompanying activity.

QUILTS

(All Ages)

This box allows students to see and feel actual quilts and quilt squares; learn pattern names and folklore associated with quilts; and observe color, designs and materials used to make quilts.



STRETCH YOUR THINKING

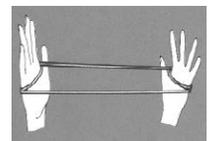
(K and up)

This box introduces the student to stretchers, which were common household items that helped keep a laundered object properly shaped. Student will learn about this lost household activity and how technology changes our lifestyles.

STRING GAMES

(3rd grade and up)

The string games box introduces students to traditional string games. Full instructions and historical background of the games are provided.



V-MAIL

(3rd grade and up)

The V-Mail box explains a war-time form of communication. Children can look at actual V-mail letters and even try writing a V-Mail of their own.

WAR GAME CARDS

(4th grade and up)

This box contains quiz cards and map games which teach about the Civil War and World War II.



WHAT ARE THE PARTS?

(K and up)

Students will identify different types and parts (*shards*) of Indian pottery. Children can make parts of Native American pottery using clay.



WRITING

(K & up)

Students will learn the history of penmanship and its historical importance. Children can look at different examples of writing by looking at historic letters. Students can also try their own penmanship through calligraphy writing.

* This discovery box has been moved to the Senate desk. Open the lid of the Senate desk in the Hands-On Gallery to discover this box.*



WWII FRONT LINES

(6th grade and up)

Students will learn about WWII front lines by exploring information on D-Day, U-boats, and Alabamians who served in the military (including Medal of Honor recipients). Also provided are easy-to-understand lists of Allied and Axis countries.



WWII HOME FRONT

(6th grade and up)

This box provides an idea of what life was like on the Alabama *home front* during World War II. Ration stamps, war bonds sales, war industries and women workers are all discussed. Students will understand how different it was to live in the United States during wartime.



ALABAMA MAP AND VELCRO ACTIVITY BOARD

(All Ages)

On one side of the board, students can mark their hometown on an Alabama map with a sticker and complete a distance/mileage activity. On the reverse side, children can Velcro Alabama icons to their appropriate location on a felt map of Alabama.

* The activity board is free standing in the Hands-On Gallery and is not contained in a box.*

