

Discovery Boxes

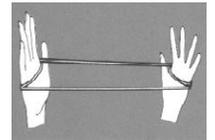
The Discovery Boxes at the Alabama Department of Archives and History are designed for parents or other guardians, mentors, and teachers of small classes to explore with young people. Some boxes feature information and objects relating to a specific subject. Other boxes allow children and adults to enjoy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

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!

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.



FOAM SHAPES

(6 months - 2 years)

This box contains foam shapes that will help children learn to identify and compare shapes.



AIRPLANES

(Ages 13 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.



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.



CLASSIC CHILDREN'S GAMES

(K and Up)

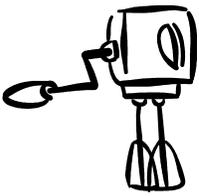
This box contains several traditional games, including jacks, marbles, jump ropes, and pick-up sticks, for children to play. Short histories and directions for these games are included.



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.



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.

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.



INVESTIGATING AN ARTIFACT (All Ages)

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.



MARKET BASKET (K 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.

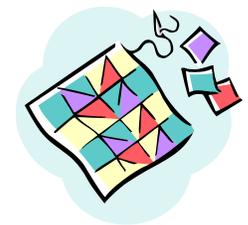


COUNTIES (4th grade and Up)

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

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.



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.

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.





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.

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'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.

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.



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.

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.



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.***



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.





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.

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.



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.



KOREAN WAR REMEMBERED

(6th 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 and up)

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

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.



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 Governor's Inaugurations and by playing an Inauguration Game.





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.

CAMERAS (K and Up)

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



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.

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.



Coming Soon: ARCHEAOLGY



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.*