This institute will expose teachers to the life of Alabama’s first people and the forces that removed them from the land. Teachers will learn about Alabama’s geology and geography, discovering the forces that shaped how Native Americans lived. Teachers will learn games to demonstrate Native Americans’ trading economy and hands-on activities with maps and timelines to teach the early history of the state. Equally important, teachers will take trips to Trail of Tears sites: Manitou Cave, Wills Creek Cemetery, the Fort Payne Depot Museum, and an early Alabama cabin. Guest speakers will show teachers the role of archeology in discovering Alabama history and the importance of the Trail of Tears. Teachers will leave this institute with strategies to fit what they learned to Social Studies standards and with the confidence to celebrate Alabama’s 200 years of statehood in their classrooms.