



2026 Alabama History Institutes: Grades 1-12

Discovering Huntsville's Powerful Place in Alabama History

Constitution Hall Village, Huntsville
June 9-11, 2026

Megan Smith-Keenum, Muscle Shoals City Schools

Lindsey Sizemore, Lawrence County Schools

Carrie Barske-Crawford, University of North Alabama

Join us in Huntsville and experience the power of place as the city becomes both case study and classroom, offering teachers hands-on opportunities to connect students to Alabama's history. This workshop will explore how "place" shapes broad shifts in American history, from the Indigenous landscape at Big Spring and Huntsville's role as Alabama's first capital to the Tennessee River's early economic networks, Redstone Arsenal, and the city's transformation during the Space Race. Using a variety of primary sources, you will practice building and testing historical claims while learning to identify silences in the historical record. Guided by local historians, archivists, and preservationists, you will learn how to integrate sites, sources, and community knowledge into meaningful classroom lessons.

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.

Questions?

Marlena Cameron, ADAH Education Curator
(334) 353-9155 or
marlena.cameron@archives.alabama.gov

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