



2026 Alabama History Institutes: Grades K-4

Shaped by the Land: Alabama's First Peoples and Their Lifeways

Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery
June 3-5, 2026

Samantha Dutton, Jefferson County Schools
Danielle Hutcheson, Madison County Schools

Explore the history and lifeways of Alabama's first peoples through primary sources, including oral histories, letters, treaties, and maps. People have lived in the land now called Alabama for more than 14,000 years. Over generations, they passed down knowledge of the land, technology, art, and foodways that allowed Native societies to thrive across the Southeast. This three-day workshop will use geography, archaeology, and history to understand how the land shaped Native American identities and lifeways. It will also examine the cultural interactions between Native Americans, Europeans, and enslaved Africans from the deerskin trade through Removal. Hands-on learning and presentations from guest speakers will allow you to return to your classrooms with both knowledge and activities to share with your students.

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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