Building a State

How five leaders helped early Alabama

SS24.4.10a "Identify contributions of Alabama's early political leaders, including William Wyatt Bibb, Thomas Bibb, Israel Pickens, William Rufus King, and John W. Walker."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline each leader's name and circle one nearby action or job that shows how that leader helped Alabama.

Alabama's First Leaders

1. In 1819, Alabama was becoming a state. Leaders had to set up a government that could make decisions for its people. William Wyatt Bibb, who had led the Alabama Territory, became the state's first governor. He helped guide the new state government through its first year. When he died in 1820, his brother Thomas Bibb took over as governor. Thomas helped keep the government running after that sudden change.

2. While governors led in Alabama, other leaders spoke for the state in Washington, D.C. John W. Walker led the meeting where delegates wrote Alabama's first state constitution. He then became one of Alabama's first two U.S. senators. The other was William Rufus King. King served in the Senate for many years and later became vice president of the United States. Their jobs gave the new state a voice in the national government.

3. In 1821, Israel Pickens became Alabama's third governor. He called for better roads and river travel so people and goods could move more easily across the state. These five leaders did different jobs. The Bibb brothers and Pickens served as governors within Alabama. Walker helped the state adopt its first constitution, and he and King represented Alabama in Congress. Their work helped Alabama's new government take shape.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did William Wyatt Bibb help Alabama's new government begin?

2. How did Thomas Bibb help Alabama after his brother died?

3. What change did Israel Pickens call for, and how would it help people?

4. What did John W. Walker do before becoming a senator? What other national job did William Rufus King later hold?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about two leaders who had different kinds of jobs. Tell what each leader did, then explain how their work helped Alabama's new government.

Building a State

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline each leader's name and circle one nearby action or job that shows how that leader helped Alabama. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did William Wyatt Bibb help Alabama's new government begin?	**He became Alabama's first governor and guided the new state government through its first year.**
2	How did Thomas Bibb help Alabama after his brother died?	**He took over as governor and kept the government running.**
3	What change did Israel Pickens call for, and how would it help people?	**He called for better roads and river travel to help people and goods move across the state.**
4	What did John W. Walker do before becoming a senator? What other national job did William Rufus King later hold?	**Walker led the meeting where delegates wrote Alabama's first state constitution. King later became vice president of the United States.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

John W. Walker led the meeting where delegates wrote Alabama's first state constitution. William Wyatt Bibb guided Alabama's new government as its first governor. Walker helped the state set its rules, and Bibb helped lead the government.

Accept accurate descriptions of each leader's contribution in the student's own words. For the museum label, look for two leaders with different kinds of jobs and an explanation that connects their work.