Alabama's Divided Decision

Read and trace Alabama's role in forming the Confederacy

SS24.4.13d "Summarize Alabama's role in the formation of the Confederate States of America, including the pivotal events that took place in Montgomery and the division over secession in the northern part of the state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the January 11 vote, February 4 meeting, February 8 constitution, and February 18 oath. Number only those four underlined events 1 to 4 in time order, and circle one sentence showing opposition in northern Alabama.

From Alabama to Montgomery

1 In early 1861, Alabama faced a hard choice. Southern leaders wanted to leave the United States because they feared losing the power to keep slavery. Many people in northern Alabama opposed leaving the Union. Some wanted Alabama to wait and work with other states instead. At a state meeting in January, delegates argued over secession, the act of leaving the Union.

2 On January 11, 1861, Alabama's delegates voted to secede, 61 to 39. Many delegates from northern Alabama voted against leaving, but they did not win. Alabama then invited delegates from other states that had left the Union to meet in Montgomery, the state capital. The meeting would help them build a new government. The disagreement in northern Alabama did not disappear after the vote.

3 On February 4, 1861, delegates from six states that had seceded gathered in Montgomery. They included Alabama. On February 8, they adopted a temporary constitution for the Confederate States of America. The next day, they chose Jefferson Davis as its president. On February 18, Davis took the oath of office at Alabama's state capitol. Montgomery was the Confederacy's first capital, although its government later moved to Richmond, Virginia.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the January vote show both Alabama's choice and the division within the state?

2. After seceding, how did Alabama help bring delegates together to form a new government?

3. Which two decisions in Montgomery helped form the Confederate government?

4. What happened on February 18 that showed Montgomery's importance to the new government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining Alabama's part in forming the Confederacy. Include the January decision and northern Alabama's disagreement, then describe at least two events in Montgomery in time order.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama's Divided Decision

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.13d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the January 11 vote, February 4 meeting, February 8 constitution, and February 18 oath. Number only those four underlined events 1 to 4 in time order, and circle one sentence showing opposition in northern Alabama. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the January vote show both Alabama's choice and the division within the state?	**Alabama voted to leave the Union, 61 to 39, but many delegates from northern Alabama voted against leaving.**
2	After seceding, how did Alabama help bring delegates together to form a new government?	**Alabama invited delegates from other states that had left the Union to meet in Montgomery.**
3	Which two decisions in Montgomery helped form the Confederate government?	**The delegates adopted a temporary constitution on February 8 and chose Jefferson Davis as president the next day.**
4	What happened on February 18 that showed Montgomery's importance to the new government?	**Jefferson Davis took the oath of office at Alabama's state capitol in Montgomery, the Confederacy's first capital.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many people in northern Alabama opposed leaving the Union, but Alabama's delegates voted to secede on January 11, 1861. Alabama invited delegates from other states that had left the Union to meet in Montgomery on February 4. There, the delegates adopted a temporary constitution for the Confederate States of America on February 8. They chose Jefferson Davis as president the next day, and he took the oath of office at Alabama's state capitol on February 18.

Accept summaries that distinguish Alabama's vote to secede from northern Alabama's opposition. For the museum label, check that the Montgomery events appear in chronological order.