Alabama at War

Read how people and places in Alabama supported World War II.

SS24.5.10 "Describe how Alabamians contributed to the war effort during World War II. 10a Explain Alabama's contributions to military production during World War II. 10b Locate military installations in Alabama during World War II on a map..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways Alabamians supplied the military, circle the names of military sites and prisoner-of-war camp towns, and put a star beside one sentence about new work for women or Black Alabamians.

Work Across Alabama

1. Imagine a ship leaving Mobile with supplies for soldiers overseas. During World War II, Alabama workers built ships in Mobile shipyards. Birmingham steel mills made steel that could be used for war equipment. Near Huntsville, Redstone Arsenal made chemical munitions, weapons filled with chemicals. Brookley Field in Mobile repaired military planes. These jobs supported troops even when workers were far from the fighting.

2. Military sites dotted Alabama. Redstone Arsenal stood near Huntsville in the north, and Fort McClellan stood near Anniston in the northeast. Camp Rucker, now Fort Novosel, was near Ozark in the southeast. Craig Army Air Base was near Selma in central Alabama. Brookley Field was in Mobile on the coast, while Tuskegee Army Air Field was near Tuskegee in the east. Prisoner-of-war camps held captured enemy soldiers at western Aliceville and eastern Opelika.

3. War jobs opened doors, but not equally. Many Alabama women took paid jobs building ships and doing other work once reserved mainly for men. Black Alabamians gained some defense jobs and military roles, though segregation and unfair hiring still limited their choices. At Tuskegee Army Air Field, Black pilots trained for combat with support from ground crews. Their service challenged the false idea that Black Americans could not fly military planes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did work in Mobile shipyards and Birmingham steel mills help the war effort?

2. Which military site would you place near Selma in central Alabama, and which would you place near Ozark in the southeast?

3. Where would you place two prisoner-of-war camps on an Alabama map? Name the towns and their parts of the state.

4. How did wartime work change for women and Black Alabamians, and what limit remained for Black Alabamians?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about Alabama's World War II war effort. Connect one production job to the troops, name one military site and where it was, and explain one new opportunity or barrier for women or Black Alabamians.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama at War

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways Alabamians supplied the military, circle the names of military sites and prisoner-of-war camp towns, and put a star beside one sentence about new work for women or Black Alabamians. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did work in Mobile shipyards and Birmingham steel mills help the war effort?	**Mobile workers built ships to carry supplies, and Birmingham mills made steel for war equipment.**
2	Which military site would you place near Selma in central Alabama, and which would you place near Ozark in the southeast?	**Craig Army Air Base was near Selma. Camp Rucker, now Fort Novosel, was near Ozark.**
3	Where would you place two prisoner-of-war camps on an Alabama map? Name the towns and their parts of the state.	**Place one at Aliceville in western Alabama and one at Opelika in eastern Alabama.**
4	How did wartime work change for women and Black Alabamians, and what limit remained for Black Alabamians?	**Women took jobs such as shipbuilding. Black Alabamians gained some defense jobs and military roles, but segregation and unfair hiring still limited their choices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Steel made in Birmingham helped supply equipment for troops. Redstone Arsenal, near Huntsville in northern Alabama, made chemical munitions. Black Alabamians found some new defense jobs, but unfair hiring still shut them out of many others.

Accept other accurate production jobs, site locations, and employment changes stated in the passage. The museum label should contain exactly three sentences and address all three parts of the prompt.