Alabama at War

Military service and home-front work across three wars

SS24.AS.12 "Explain the role of Alabamians in helping achieve victory in the Spanish American War, World War I, and World War II. 12a Summarize the legacy of Alabama-based military units, their performance, and their contributions to battle..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline examples of military service, including training and combat, and circle civilian work on the home front so you can explain how each supported the war effort.

Different Roles, Shared Effort

1. In 1898, the United States fought Spain in a war that reached Cuba and the Philippines. Alabamian Joseph Wheeler, a former Confederate general, commanded American cavalry in Cuba. His troops fought at Las Guasimas and joined the campaign that led to Spain's surrender at Santiago. Alabama also raised the First Alabama Volunteer Infantry. Its soldiers trained in camps in the United States but never fought overseas. Their service prepared troops for possible deployment, while Wheeler's command contributed directly to fighting. These different experiences show that Alabama's military role in the Spanish American War was not a single battlefield story.

2. During World War I, Alabama's 167th Infantry Regiment served in the 42nd "Rainbow" Division in France. In July 1918, the regiment attacked German positions at Croix Rouge Farm. Its costly advance helped push back German forces during the Second Battle of the Marne. The regiment's record became a lasting part of Alabama's military history, but the victory depended on many units working together. At home, Birmingham's iron and steel industries supplied materials for wartime needs, while Alabama farmers raised food for troops and civilians. Battlefield attacks and home-front production supported the same war effort in different ways.

3. World War II linked Alabama's skies, shipyards, and factories to battles far away. At Tuskegee, Black pilots and support crews trained in a segregated military. The Tuskegee Airmen later flew missions in Europe, including escorting bombers against enemy attacks. Their performance aided the air war and challenged claims that Black Americans could not serve as skilled military aviators. In Mobile, shipyard workers built vessels for the war, and workers at the Alabama Ordnance Works in Childersburg made explosives. Women and men joined these jobs, although segregation and discrimination limited opportunities. Aircraft crews fought abroad while Alabama workers supplied tools needed for victory.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Wheeler's role differ from the First Alabama Volunteer Infantry's role in the Spanish American War?

2. How did the 167th Infantry Regiment contribute to the fighting in World War I, and why does the passage caution against giving it all the credit?

3. How did the Tuskegee Airmen's wartime service have both a military impact and a broader impact?

4. Compare one way Alabama's home front supported World War I with one way it supported World War II.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum can display one Alabama military story and one home-front story from different wars. Write a five-sentence exhibit label that names each story, explains how each contributed to victory, and makes a claim about why they belong together.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama at War

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.AS.12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline examples of military service, including training and combat, and circle civilian work on the home front so you can explain how each supported the war effort. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Wheeler's role differ from the First Alabama Volunteer Infantry's role in the Spanish American War?	**Wheeler commanded cavalry that fought in Cuba. The First Alabama Volunteer Infantry trained for possible deployment but did not fight overseas.**
2	How did the 167th Infantry Regiment contribute to the fighting in World War I, and why does the passage caution against giving it all the credit?	**Its attack at Croix Rouge Farm helped push back German forces. The passage notes that many units worked together to achieve victory.**
3	How did the Tuskegee Airmen's wartime service have both a military impact and a broader impact?	**Their missions, including bomber escorts, aided the air war. Their performance challenged racist claims about Black Americans' ability to serve as military aviators.**
4	Compare one way Alabama's home front supported World War I with one way it supported World War II.	**In World War I, Birmingham industries supplied iron and steel for wartime needs. In World War II, Mobile shipyard workers built vessels for the war.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 167th Infantry Regiment and Mobile's shipbuilders belong in one exhibit because victory required both fighting and supplies. In World War I, the 167th attacked German positions at Croix Rouge Farm. Its advance helped push German forces back during the Second Battle of the Marne. In World War II, Mobile workers built ships for the war. These stories show that troops at the front and workers at home played different but connected roles in victory.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and exhibit choices. For the marking job, military training counts as military service, not civilian home-front work.