# Built to Last

Trace how Black institutions in Alabama began and changed.

**SS24.AS.14a** "Trace the history of Black institutions in Alabama from their establishment during Reconstruction to the present."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each founding date, circle later dates, and number the changes each institution made over time. Use your marks to trace each institution from its beginning to today.

### Schools and a Church Across Generations

1 After the Civil War, formerly enslaved Alabamians built institutions they could lead and rely on. In 1867, during Reconstruction, nine formerly enslaved men founded Lincoln Normal School in Marion to prepare teachers. The school faced limited funding and racial discrimination, but it kept teaching. In 1887, it moved to Montgomery and later became Alabama State University. Today, the university prepares students for many careers, not only teaching. Its changing name and programs show how an institution created for one urgent need adapted over time.

2 In Birmingham, Black residents organized Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in 1873, also during Reconstruction. As the city grew, its congregation built a new church building, completed in 1911. By the 1960s, the church was a meeting place for civil rights organizers. In 1963, a racist bombing killed four girls there. The congregation continued to worship, and the church remains active today. Its history shows both the danger Black institutions faced and the support they gave their communities.

3 Soon after Reconstruction ended, Alabama lawmakers authorized a school for Black students in Tuskegee in 1881. Booker T. Washington became its first leader. The school began with teacher training and grew into Tuskegee University, with programs in fields such as science and engineering. These three institutions took different paths: one teacher school expanded, a church remained a community gathering place, and another teacher school broadened its courses. All three continue to serve people in Alabama, linking choices made more than a century ago to opportunities today.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Trace Lincoln Normal School from its founding to its work today. What changed?

2. How did Sixteenth Street Baptist Church's role in the community continue from 1873 through 1963 to today?

3. How did the Tuskegee school change between 1881 and today?

4. How do the founding dates of Alabama State and Tuskegee place them on different sides of Reconstruction?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label tracing Alabama State University and Sixteenth Street Baptist Church from their beginnings to today. Include at least three dates, then explain one similarity and one difference in how they served their communities.

**ANSWER KEY** # Built to Last



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each founding date, circle later dates, and number the changes each institution made over time. Use your marks to trace each institution from its beginning to today. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Trace Lincoln Normal School from its founding to its work today. What changed? | **Founded in Marion in 1867 to prepare teachers, it moved to Montgomery in 1887 and became Alabama State University, which now prepares students for many careers.** |
| 2 | How did Sixteenth Street Baptist Church's role in the community continue from 1873 through 1963 to today? | **Organized in 1873, the church became a civil rights meeting place by the 1960s. Its congregation continued after the 1963 bombing, and the church remains active today.** |
| 3 | How did the Tuskegee school change between 1881 and today? | **It began in 1881 with teacher training for Black students and grew into Tuskegee University, which offers programs including science and engineering.** |
| 4 | How do the founding dates of Alabama State and Tuskegee place them on different sides of Reconstruction? | **Alabama State began as Lincoln Normal School in 1867, during Reconstruction. The Tuskegee school began in 1881, after Reconstruction ended.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Alabama State University and Sixteenth Street Baptist Church began as Black-led institutions during Reconstruction. In 1867, formerly enslaved men founded a teacher school in Marion; in 1887, it moved to Montgomery and later expanded into a university with many career programs. Birmingham residents organized the church in 1873. By 1963, it supported civil rights meetings despite deadly racist violence. Both still serve their communities, but the university broadened its courses while the church continued as a place of worship and gathering.

Accept labels that use at least three accurate dates and trace both institutions to the present. The similarity and difference should be supported by details from the passage.