Alabama at War

Read and annotate Alabama's Civil War roles

SS24.US1.12b "Summarize the political, social, and economic role that Alabama played in the Civil War."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one political action, circle two social experiences, and write 1 and 2 beside two economic contributions or pressures to prepare a summary of Alabama's roles in the war.

A State Shapes the War

1. On January 11, 1861, Alabama voted to leave the United States after the election of Abraham Lincoln. Leaders who supported secession sought to protect slavery, which shaped the state's wealth and political power. Delegates from seceding states met in Montgomery, where they formed the Confederate government and chose Jefferson Davis as president. Montgomery served as the Confederacy's first capital until the capital moved to Richmond, Virginia, in 1861. Alabama's choices helped launch a new government built to preserve slavery.

2. War reached Alabama households through military service and forced labor. Tens of thousands of Alabama men served in Confederate forces, while enslaved people were compelled to grow food, build defenses, and work in industries that supplied the war. Some Alabamians, especially in parts of the north, opposed secession; some aided Union forces. Enslaved people resisted slavery and sought freedom when Union troops approached. These divided loyalties and struggles over freedom shaped daily life far from major battlefields.

3. Alabama's farms and workshops helped supply Confederate armies. Cotton remained valuable, but the war increased demand for food, iron, and weapons. Foundries in Selma produced military supplies, and Mobile's port linked Alabama to trade beyond its borders. Union blockades restricted shipping, making goods harder to obtain. In 1864, Union forces captured Mobile Bay, although the city remained under Confederate control until 1865. Union troops captured Selma in April 1865, damaging its factories and weakening Confederate supply lines.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Montgomery give Alabama a political role beyond its own borders?

2. Summarize two contrasting social experiences in wartime Alabama.

3. How did Alabama help supply Confederate armies while facing economic pressure?

4. How did Union victories reduce Alabama's economic role near the war's end?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label titled "Alabama and the Civil War." Summarize one political, one social, and one economic role, then explain how two of those roles were connected.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama at War

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.12b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one political action, circle two social experiences, and write 1 and 2 beside two economic contributions or pressures to prepare a summary of Alabama's roles in the war. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Montgomery give Alabama a political role beyond its own borders?	**Delegates formed the Confederate government in Montgomery, which became its first capital.**
2	Summarize two contrasting social experiences in wartime Alabama.	**Many men served in Confederate forces, while some Alabamians opposed secession or aided Union forces. Also accept forced labor and resistance among enslaved people.**
3	How did Alabama help supply Confederate armies while facing economic pressure?	**Its farms and Selma foundries supplied food and military goods, while Union blockades restricted shipping.**
4	How did Union victories reduce Alabama's economic role near the war's end?	**Union forces captured Mobile Bay and later damaged Selma's factories, weakening trade and Confederate supply lines.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Alabama and the Civil War
Alabama helped form the Confederate government in Montgomery to protect slavery. Enslaved Alabamians were forced to labor for the war, while others resisted and sought freedom. Farms and Selma foundries supplied Confederate forces, even as Union blockades disrupted trade. Forced labor helped produce supplies for the government that defended slavery.

Accept other passage-supported examples of political, social, and economic roles. The museum label should make a clear connection between two roles, not just list facts.