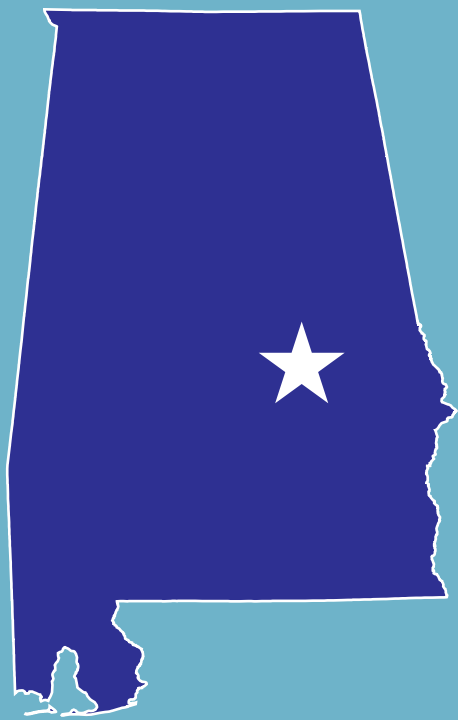


Sweet Home Alabama

State Motto: *Audemus jura nostra defendere* (We dare defend our rights)



Nickname: **The yellowhammer state**

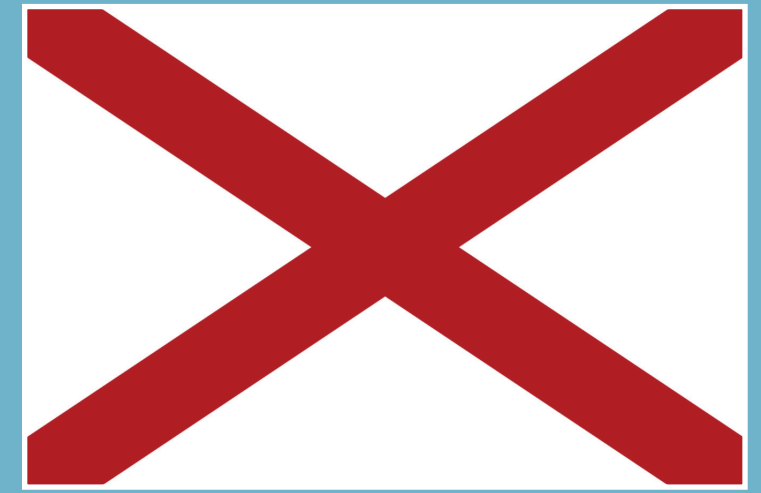
Capital: **Montgomery**

State postal code: **AL**

U.S. Representatives: **7**

Organized as territory: **March 3, 1817**

Entered Union: **Dec. 14, 1819**



State Flag

A few of Alabama's State Symbols



Flower:
Camellia



Bird:
Yellowhammer



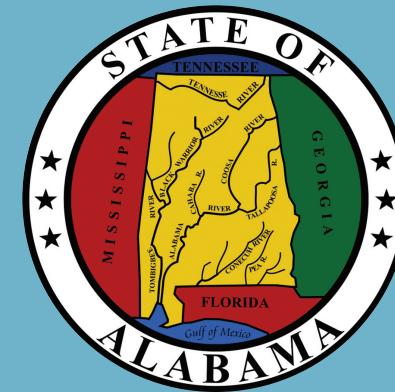
Tree:
So. Longleaf Pine



Rock:
Marble



Gemstone:
Star Blue Quartz



State Seal



State Quarter

Historic Dates

- 1519** Spanish explorers believed to reach Mobile Bay.
- 1540** The territory was visited in 1540 by the explorer Hernando de Soto.
- 1702** The first permanent European settlement in Alabama was founded by the French at Fort Louis de la Mobile.
- 1886** The world's first Electric Trolley System was introduced in Montgomery.
- 1861** During the Civil War, Alabama was the fourth state to secede from the Union.
- 1864** At the Battle of Mobile Bay Admiral David Farragut issued his famous command, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead."
- 1902** Dr. Luther Leonidas Hill performed the first open heart surgery in the Western Hemisphere by suturing a stab wound in a young boy's heart.
- 1931** The Birmingham Airport opened, at the time a flight from Birmingham to Los Angeles took 19 hours.
- 1955** Civil-rights bus boycott in Montgomery was a historic moment in the fight for civil-rights.
- 1965** The "Freedom March" was held from Selma to Montgomery.
- 2005** Hurricane Katrina caused major flooding and destruction along the coast of Alabama; flood waters reached 11 ft. in Mobile.

Odd Laws in Alabama

- It is illegal to drive blindfolded.
- Dominoes may not be played on Sunday.
- You may not drive barefooted.
- Putting salt on a railroad track may be punishable by death.
- You may not have an ice cream cone in your back pocket at any time.
- Men may not spit in front of the opposite sex.



Did you know?



Alabama introduced the Mardi Gras to the western world. Alabama workers built the first rocket to put humans on the moon.

The Alabama Department of Archives is the oldest state-funded archival agency in the nation. Alabama resident Sequoyah devised the phonetic, written alphabet of the Cherokee language. The American military used a group of Cherokee troops as the first "Code Talkers" in September 1918.