

11/2/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

Alabama

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Overview:

Each week, we have been testing your American know-how — state by state, from sea to shining sea. We only have four states left; so this week, let's explore **ALABAMA**, where the world's first electric trolley system was installed in 1886; where Wilbur and Orville Wright opened the world's first civilian flying school in 1910; and where the first 911 call was made in 1968.

Instructions:

1. Divide the players evenly into teams (or as closely as possible).
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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QUESTIONS

1. What is the capital of Alabama?
2. Four other cities in Alabama have populations greater than 100,000. Can you name two?
3. What four states and one major body of water border Alabama?
4. According to Wikipedia, Alabama has four nicknames. Can you come up with one?
5. In the 1500s, the Spanish were the first Europeans to reach Alabama, led by this explorer. (Hint: From 1928 to 1961, Chrysler had a line of automobiles named after this explorer, and its logo featured a stylized image of him.)
6. Although today Alabama has a diversified economy that is based on industries that include automotive, finance, manufacturing, aerospace, mineral extraction, and technology, prior to the Civil war, this one crop was the driving economic force in the creation of the state's economy.
7. In Alabama and other southern states, this was the name given to the body of laws passed after the Civil War that mandated racial segregation in nearly all public facilities.
8. In Montgomery in 1954, Rosa Parks' refusal to do this was a seminal event in the civil rights movement.
9. A national historic site and museum in this Alabama city is dedicated to the pioneering WWII pilots of the first African American air corps.
10. From 1932 to 1972, Tuskegee was the site of a now infamous unethical medical experiment which allowed the course of this deadly disease to go untreated in its subjects for research purposes.
11. After WWII, the Redstone Arsenal (a chemical munitions facility in Huntsville) was chosen as a site for rocket and missile development. Now nicknamed "Rocket City," Huntsville is also a favorite destination for thousands of school children every year. Why?

12. This 1994 comedy-drama film, starring Tom Hanks, depicts several decades in the life of the title character, a slow-witted and kindhearted man from Alabama who witnesses and unwittingly influences many defining historical events in the 20th century United States.

Famous Alabamians

13. The stunning achievement of this native of Oakville, Alabama – winning four gold medals in track and field at the 1936 Berlin Olympics – made him one of the best remembered athletes in Olympic history.
14. No Alabamians have ever been US president, but this former governor and noted segregationist tried for it in 1964, 1968, 1972, and 1976.
15. Born in Monroeville in 1926, this Alabamian wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
16. This Alabamian set her blockbuster book, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, in her home state.
17. Born in Mobile in 1934, this right fielder and legendary hitter played most of his career for the Milwaukee Braves (later, the Atlanta Braves).
18. This “Say Hey Kid” grew up in Westfield, Alabama and spent almost all of his illustrious career in center field for the New York (and later San Francisco) Giants.
19. Born in Sylacauga in 1930, this Alabamian was best known for playing Gomer Pyle in two 1960’s TV shows; he was somewhat less well known for his powerful singing voice.
20. Born in 1964 in a suburb of Birmingham, this actress played Monica Geller Bing in TV’s *Friends* for a decade.

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ANSWERS

1. Montgomery
2. Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Tuscaloosa
3. The states that border Alabama are Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi. The major body of water is the Gulf of Mexico.
4. The Yellowhammer State, The Heart of Dixie, Alabamy, and The Cotton State
5. Hernan de Soto
6. Cotton
7. Jim Crow
8. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery city bus.
9. Tuskegee
10. Syphilis. More than 200 people died as a direct result of this study. All of the victims were African American.
11. Huntsville is the site of the US Space Camp owned and operated by the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission's U.S. Space & Rocket Center
12. *Forrest Gump*

Famous Alabamians

13. Jesse Owens
14. George Wallace
15. Harper Lee
16. Fannie Flagg
17. Hank Aaron
18. Willie Mays
19. Jim Nabors
20. Courteney Cox