



2020 Alabama History Institutes: Grades K-2

Learning About Alabama in Early Elementary Classrooms

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June 15, 2020

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Often when Alabama history is talked about among teachers, it is immediately assumed that students hear about Alabama history for the first time in 4th grade. This doesn't have to be true! The primary goal of this institute is to reestablish the importance of K-2 social studies standards while also discovering how early elementary teachers can seamlessly integrate Alabama specific history into what we are already teaching. This one-day institute will focus on two areas: the Creek Indians and maps. Part of the day will include different ways to integrate the lives of Creek Indians into the ever popular "Thanksgiving Unit". Through this thematic approach to instruction, students develop an appreciation for their community, state, and nation while broadening their perspectives regarding the lives of others. Part of the day will include ways to integrate literature and map skills. The use of various genres of literature and hands-on activities that address curriculum strands allow students to experience social studies in real and meaningful ways. Students in Grades K-2 are intrinsically creative and imaginative. They willingly want to learn about each other and explore the world around them...as early elementary teachers let's help the students to quench their wondrous thirst.

