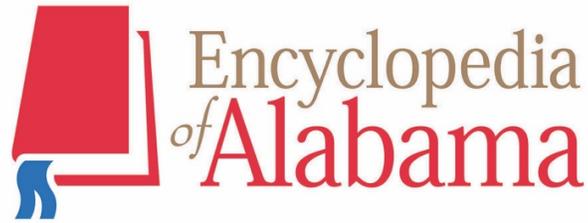


# National History Day 2020 Alabama Topics

Annual Theme: “Breaking Barriers in History”

Curated by



Many of the topics listed here are topics related to special prizes that are offered at Alabama History Day and National History Day. Use the Special Awards Key below to distinguish between these topics. For more information on these special awards visit the following websites:

<https://www.alabamahumanities.org/programs/alabamahistoryday/student/>;

<https://www.nhd.org/special-prizes>.

## Special Awards Key

- Alabama Multicultural History
- Interstate Character Council Award
- Samuel Eichold II Special Prize in Medical History
- Special Prize in Sports History
- African-American History
- ◇ Captain Ken Coskey Naval History
- Civil War History
- History of the Federal Government
- History of Agriculture and Rural Life
- Lee Allen History of Baseball
- ⊗ Native American History
- U.S. Marine Corps History
- ♂ Women’s History
- ◆ World War I History
- ◆◆ World War II History
- ★ History of Physical Science & Technology
- American Labor History

## Alabamians Who Broke Barriers in History

### [Henry “Hank” Aaron](#) ■■■■

Broke Babe Ruth's record of 714 home runs with a career total of 755 and holds the records for most runs batted in and most extra base hits.

### [African American Union Troops](#) ■■■

Successfully integrated the United States Army during the American Civil War, itself a barrier to freedom for black people in America.

### [Mary Lee Cagle](#) ■ ♂

The central figure in a large circle of southern female holiness preachers and a co-founder of the Church of the Nazarene.

**Abbie Noel Campbell** ■ ■ ♂ ◆

Served in World War II as a captain in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and was the executive officer of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

**Thomas Monroe Campbell** ■ ■ ■ ★

Pioneer in the fields of agricultural education and extension work.

**George Washington Carver** ■ ■ ■ ★

Overcame numerous obstacles to achieve a graduate education and gain international fame as an educator, inventor, and scientist.

**Maria Fearing** ■ ■ ♂

Defied the odds of being a former enslaved woman and went on to be a profound advocate for education and the Presbyterian faith in Congo and Alabama.

**William Crawford Gorgas** ■ ■

Was a pioneer in the field of public health and tropical medicine, eradicating yellow fever in Panama.

**Gustav (Jerry) Hasford** ■ ○

Survived the Vietnam War to go on and become an author of three novels, one of which, *The Short Timers*, was adapted into the acclaimed film *Full Metal Jacket*.

**Ellen Dorrit Hoffleit** ■ ♂ ★

Overcame gender barriers in the field of astronomy.

**James Horton, Jr.** ■

Known for his courageous decision to set aside the verdict and death sentence of Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro Boys.

**Percy Lavon Julian** ■ ■ ★

Organic chemist who overcame racial barriers in science.

**John LeFlore** ■ ■

A community and civil rights leader whose 50-year activist career included lobbying for the desegregation of Mobile's schools and government.

**Adella Hunt Logan** ■ ■ ♂

Suffragist who advocated for women's reproductive rights.

**William March** ■ ◆ ○

A decorated combat veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who survived World War I and went on to be a successful businessman and an influential author of numerous novels and short stories.

**Fran McKee** ■ ♂ ✧

The first woman unrestricted line officer in American history to achieve the rank of rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

### [Jessie Owens](#) ■■■

Track and field star whose 4x gold medal appearance at the 1936 Olympic Games in Nazi Berlin, Germany served as encouragement and inspiration for the African American struggle for equality.

### [Albert Patterson](#) ■ (Profiles in Courage essay contest, 1st place: \$10,000; deadline Jan. 17, 2020)

Fought corruption in Phenix City, Ala and served in Alabama senate from 1947 to 1951.

### [Sequoyah](#) ■✂

Invented the written version of the Cherokee spoken language which enabled the Cherokee people to record their traditions, establish a newspaper, and other developments.

### [Eugene B. Sledge](#) ■◆◆○

Veteran who survived World War II and became renowned for his graphic portrayal of combat in the Pacific theatre in his novel *With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa*.

### [Gen. Holland “Howlin’ Mad” Smith](#) ○◆◆◆

Broke barriers in traditional military tactics.

### [George “Mule” Suttles](#) ■■■■

Former member of the Birmingham Black Barons and is regarded as the probable all-time home run leader for the Negro League.

### [Margaret Murray Washington](#) ■■♂

Co-founder of National Association of Colored Women

### [Rosa Young](#) ■■♂

The “mother of Black Lutheranism in central Alabama,” advocated for education for rural children.

## **Breaking Barriers to Education in Alabama**

### [Jeanes Supervisors](#) ■■♂

A group of African American teachers who worked in southern rural schools and communities in the United States between 1908 and 1968.

### [Rosenwald Schools](#) ■■

A group of education institutions established in the South for African Americans in the first half of the 20th century.

### [Lincoln School](#) ■■

One of the first institutions established for the education of African Americans after the Civil War.

### [Freedmen’s Bureau](#) ■■■■

“Federal agency” that provided relief and education services for emancipated blacks and refugees in Alabama and other former Confederate states, but did not absolve labor problems for the group.

### [HBCUs in Alabama](#) ■■

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in Alabama and other states were established after the Civil War to provide educational opportunities to thousands of newly freed slaves and later to skirt segregation policies prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

### [Montgomery Industrial School for Girls](#) ■■♂

A private K-8 school for African American girls with the goal to produce teachers who would go on to inspire others. Rosa Parks is among its former students.

### [Public Education During the Civil War and Reconstruction Era](#)

Wartime and Reconstruction era Alabama saw challenges in providing public education services, from obtaining school materials to maintaining teaching staff.

### [Public Education in Alabama After Desegregation](#) ■■

Public education in Alabama remained segregated even after segregation of public education was declared unconstitutional in the 1954 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (347 U.S. 483).

### [Lee v. Macon County Board of Education](#) ■■

A pivotal civil rights case that sought the integration of the all-white Tuskegee High School in Macon County, Alabama.

## **Miscellaneous Alabama Topics in “Breaking Barriers in History”**

### [General Textile Strike of 1934](#) ■■

Helped launch a national strike of textile workers.

### [Wright Brothers Flight School in Alabama](#)

The first civilian flying school in America.

### [Convict Lease System](#)

A form of prison labor that profited Alabama state and county governments between 1875 and 1928.