

2025 Alabama History Institutes: Grades 4-12

Where It Happened: The Power of Place in History Instruction

Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, Auburn
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Simone Thomas, Montgomery Public Schools Shineka Smith, Macon County Schools

Students find connections to history when they can experience and relate to it. Place-based instruction provides a tangible way for students to explore the past, especially in their own hometown. During this three-day workshop, you will learn how to create both in-person and virtual place-based learning opportunities.

Using Auburn and Tuskegee as examples, you will learn ways to engage in immersive experiences, examine primary sources, and work with local historians to understand the essential role of physical location to studying past events.

These practices will help you establish similar projects in your community and at your school. You will walk away with a better understanding of place-based instruction when teaching our state's history that will foster enthusiasm for learning and increase your students' critical thinking skills. You will need to bring your own operable device, such as a laptop or Chromebook, as you will be required to use it for full participation.

Questions?
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