Chapter 1
The Geography of Alabama
Lesson 1: Locating Alabama
Locating Alabama

- Alabama is in the Northern and Western Hemispheres of the Earth. A **hemisphere** is half of the globe.
Locating Alabama

- Alabama is located in the continent of North America. A **continent** is a large area of land on Earth.
Locating Alabama

- Alabama is located in the country of the United States.
Locating Alabama

- The United States has areas that share common characteristics called regions. We live in the Southeast region.
Alabama has many different types of land and waterways called **physical features**. A **landform** is a type of land and is a physical feature. A **waterway** is a river, canal, or other water that boats travel.

Cheaha Mountain is the highest point in Alabama.

Gulf Shores is the Gulf of Mexico.
What physical features, landforms, and waterways do you see in the following videos around Alabama?

Alabama’s Climate

- A region’s **climate** is the type of weather it has year after year. Alabama does not have the same type of climate as Alaska. Alabama has mild to warm winters and a hot summer.

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/clim
Lesson 2: Alabama’s Physical Features
Alabama’s Landforms

The Appalachian Mountains are in the northeast corner.

The Piedmont is an area of high land with hills and valleys. It is below the Appalachian Mountains.

The fall line is the area where rivers form waterfalls because of a drop in elevation.

The Coastal Plain is the low flat land along the Gulf Coast.

A delta is a triangle shaped area of land at the mouth of a river.

Wetlands are areas that are always soaked with water.
Delta
Wetlands
Alabama’s rivers are part of larger river systems. A **tributary** is a stream or river that flows into a larger river. Alabama’s Tennessee River is a tributary of the Ohio River.
Lesson 3: Alabama’s Human Features
Alabama’s Human Features

- Alabama has been changed by building human features. **Human features** are things built or made by humans.
What Human Features Do You See?
Alabama’s Largest Cities

- Huntsville
- Birmingham
- Montgomery
- Mobile
Alabama’s Counties

• A **county** is the largest unit of local government. You live in Shelby County.
Alabama Tourist Attractions

- Gulf Shores
- Space and Rocket Center
- Birmingham Zoo
Famous Alabamians in Chapter 1

Mae Jemison was the first African American woman in space.

Helen Keller traveled the world as a public speaker for the blind and deaf. She grew up in Tuscumbia.
Famous Alabamians in Chapter 1

W.C. Handy is know as the “Father of the Blues.” He was born in Florence.

Listen to his music:
http://www.last.fm/music/W.C.+Handy
Going Places in Alabama

Interstate highways are major transportation routes. They connect Alabama to other states.
Going Places in Alabama

People also travel over bridges and on the waterways.