Amazing Alabama

written and illustrated by Laura Murray

Founded February 6, 1818, Lauderdale County sits on the banks of the Tennessee River and was home to W. C. Handy, the "father of the blues." The University of North Alabama in Florence invites you to see its sibling African lions, Leo III and Una. Also in Florence, the Rosenbaum House is the state's only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home. Trowbridge Creamery, open since 1918, has everything from hot dogs and homemade chili to delicious cold treats — their orange pineapple ice cream is on the list of "100 Things to Eat in Alabama Before You Die."
Founded December 13, 1819, Jefferson County has long been known for its role in industrialization. The Sloss Furnaces produced iron for over 100 years. A 56-foot statue of Vulcan, the god of fire and blacksmithing, looks down over Birmingham, the county seat, from atop Red Mountain. Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church was the site of a bombing that killed 4 African American girls in 1963. The state-of-the-art Children’s Hospital is ranked among the world’s best. The town of Vestavia Hills hosts an annual Dogwood Festival, and its Sibyl Temple is a lovely spot for weddings and other events.
Crenshaw County, founded November 24, 1866, is probably best known for its output of forest products. But did you know that it's also the home of the World's Largest Peanut Boil? On Labor Day weekend of 2016, some 26 tons of peanuts were sold! The county courthouse in Luverne was built in 1955 and is a good example of mid-century architecture.
A Coloring Book Journey Through Our 159 Counties

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Created in 1801, Clarke County is home to several unique attractions. The Tree That Owns Itself is on a cobbledstone street and has a fund set aside for its perpetual care. The nation’s only double-barrel cannon (never fired) is located at City Hall. The Morton Building housed African American professional offices and a theater for much of its history. The Georgia Theater is an iconic live music venue in downtown Athens. The University of Georgia’s arches welcome visitors to the first state-chartered university in the United States. The Taylor Grady House is a historic home that is open for tours and as an event space.
Established in 1853, Fulton County is home to the State Capitol. Our 39th president’s official archives are housed at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. The Atlanta History Center is a museum and historical research center in the Buckhead district. People often pose with the statue of Willy B at Zoo Atlanta in Grant Park. Close by is Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. preached. Atlanta’s Georgia Tech is an engineering-focused university. The Varsity is the world’s largest drive-in, and the beautiful Fox Theater is a performing arts venue that opened in 1929.
Ware County was formed in 1824. The Waycross Journal-Herald building is a unique example of modern architecture in downtown Waycross. The majority of the lower part of Ware County is swampland and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge protects the animals there. The Ritz Theatre in Waycross opened in 1913 and today is used as a community theater. Clinch County, created in 1850, is known as having some of the best honey in the South. The unique taste comes from bees who collect swamp pollen. Antioch Methodist Church is one of the most historic rural churches in south Georgia.