

Alabama Digital Learning

Virtual Field Trips, April 2026



The Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) invites you to participate in our popular monthly Virtual Field Trips. Alabama has been a trailblazer using technology for the purpose of advancing education. Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS), Alabama Learning Exchange (ALEX), Alabama Technology in Motion (ATiM), and e-Learning for Educators are all strong tools used for the advancement of digital learning, in addition to the expansive ways technology is used in the classroom.

We will continue to use ZOOM as our delivery format. To use ZOOM: Create a free account and download the ZOOM app to your computer; or go to zoom.us and click on “Join a Meeting”. Check with your technology coordinator to see what options you might have to display the conference on a TV or big screen. You may need a stand-alone mic if your computer does not have one. If you’d like to do any testing or have questions you may contact Alabama Super Computer Help Desk at 1-800-338-8320.

Below is a listing of events we have to date. This document may be found at <https://bit.ly/ALVFTApr26> or all of the schedules from February 2021 forward may be found at <https://bit.ly/ALVFTHome>. You may sign up for the current month’s Virtual Field Trips at <http://bit.ly/ALVFTsignupMar26>.

Alabama Digital Learning Virtual Field Trips, April 2026

Sign up to attend at <https://bit.ly/ALVFTsignupApr26>

Visit our site at <https://bit.ly/ALVFTHome>

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Date	Time	Session Name
4/2/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Let's Explore Your Eyes and How They Work
4/2/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	A Journey Into the Life of Helen Keller
4/9/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Careers in the NFL
4/9/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Movement and Motion
4/14/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Beachcombing
4/14/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Beachcombing
4/15/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama
4/15/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama 2nd Edition
4/16/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Movement and Motion
4/16/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Careers in the NFL
4/21/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	A History of Play in Alabama
4/21/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	A History of Play in Alabama
4/28/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	A History of Play in Alabama
4/28/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	A History of Play in Alabama
4/29/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	A Journey Into the Life of Helen Keller

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4/29/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama

Please leave your classroom cameras on if possible. Presenters very much appreciate seeing the students they are presenting to.

A Journey Into the Life of Helen Keller

Keller Johnson-Thompson, Vice President of the Helen Keller Foundation

April 2, 10:15-11:15 AM

April 29, 9:00-10:00 AM

Grades K-5

Keller Johnson Thompson, great grand niece of Helen Keller and Vice President of the Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education, takes students on a marvelous journey into the amazing life of Helen Keller, America's First Lady of Courage. From her early days in Tuscomb, Alabama to her travels around the world, Helen Keller not only lived a wonderful and full life despite being deaf and blind, but she also inspired others to make a positive difference in the world around them. Through this journey, it is hoped that students not only learn many new things about Helen Keller, but more importantly, it is hoped that students will see and understand the need to have good values and character, as Helen Keller did.

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Amazing African Americans from Alabama

Keller Johnson-Thompson, Vice President of the Helen Keller Foundation

April 15, 9:00-10:00 AM

April 29, 10:15-11:15 AM

Grades 2-5

There have been many African Americans from Alabama that have defined history as well as those people that have been successful in their respective fields. On this field trip, we will look at the lives of those African Americans from Alabama that have inspired us to become better people.

Amazing African Americans from Alabama, 2nd Edition

Keller Johnson-Thompson, Vice President of the Helen Keller Foundation

April 15, 10:15-11:15

AM

Grades 2-5

Alabama has many wonderful African Americans from our state that have influenced history. In this 2nd Edition of African Americans from Alabama that you should know, we will take an in depth look at more of these exciting and passionate people that helped shape the history of our state in sports, the Civil Rights Movement, Politics and much more. Come along and explore African Americans that you should know!!!

Careers in the NFL

Jerry Csaki, Senior Director of Education and Leadership, Pro Football Hall of Fame

April 9, 9:00-10:00 AM

April 16, 10:15-11:15 AM

Grades 5-12

This program examines the importance of education and the hundreds of careers available in and around the National Football League. A 10-minute career video, which examines a wide variety of careers with the San Francisco 49ers organization, is shown during this session. The 50-minute program, which is designed to be highly interactive, is supplemented by a lesson aligned with Common Core/National Standards of Education and is recommended for Grades 5-12.

Classroom Activity: <https://alvft.link/nflcareers>

Let's Explore Your Eyes and How They Work

Keller Johnson-Thompson, Vice President of the Helen Keller Foundation

April 2, 9:00-10:00 AM

Grades 1-6

Of all our senses, vision is perhaps the most important. This virtual field trip takes you into the world of vision as we explore our eyes and how they work, first aid for eye injuries, and vision problems that may occur. We will also explore the eyes of different animals, such as seeing who has the best sight and the worst sight and why.

A History of Play in Alabama

Jake Smith, Education Curator, Alabama Department of Archives & History

April 21, 9:00-10:00 AM

April 21, 10:15-11:15 AM

April 28, 9:00-10:00 AM

April 28, 10:15-11:15

AM

Grades K-6

Before Fortnite, Roblox, and Minecraft, children managed to entertain themselves. But how? In this virtual field trip, students will use historical thinking strategies to investigate and analyze toys from our state's past. This will be an interactive session that will have students asking questions like:

- How did children use this artifact?
- What does this artifact tell us about the people who played with it?
- Does this artifact remind us of anything we play with today?

Standards:

- SS24.K.11 Identify a primary source.
 - SS24.K.11A Compare daily life in homes, schools, and communities of the past and present using primary sources.
 - SS24.2.12 Describe historical events and celebrations within the state and nation using primary and secondary sources.
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Movement and Motion

Jerry Csaki, Senior Director of Education and Leadership, Pro Football Hall of Fame

April 9, 10:15-11:15 AM

April 16, 9:00-10:00 AM

Grades 5-12

This program examines the relationship of science and the game of professional football. Straight line movement, zig-zags, circular motion, back & forth, pushing & pulling - all movements that influence the sport. This 50-minute program, which is designed to be highly interactive, is supplemented by a lesson aligned with Common Core/National Standards of Education and is recommended for Grades 1-5.

Supplemental Materials:

- [Classroom Activity](#)
 - [Supplemental Video](#)
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Beachcombing

Discovery Hall Programs Educator

April 14, 9:00-10:00 AM

April 14, 10:15-11:15 AM

The 9 am presentation will be geared towards younger students (K-5) while the 10:15 am presentation will be more suitable for students in middle and high school.

Are you ready for summer? Maybe you are even headed to the beach for a vacation this summer. As you walk along the beach, what will you find? What do the things found during beachcombing tell us about life on sandy beaches? What do they tell us about human impacts on our ocean? Join us for a virtual walk along the sandy shores of Dauphin Island and explore the habitats, animals, adaptations, and perhaps even treasure found on Alabama's shores.

Suitable audience: The program **Beachcombing** is appropriate for all grades. It addresses the following life science disciplinary core ideas: LS1) From molecules to organisms: structures and processes; LS2) Ecosystems: Interactions, energy and dynamics, and LS4) Biological evolution: Unity and diversity.

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