

# Alabama Digital Learning

## Virtual Field Trips, February 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](https://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 <http://bit.ly/ALVFTJan26> 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/ALVFTsignupJan26>

Date	Time	Session Name
2/3/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	The History of the Back College Football Hall of Fame and Historically Black Colleges and Universities
2/3/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	African American Trailblazers
2/4/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama
2/4/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Let's Explore Your Eyes and How They Work
2/5/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	A Journey Into the Life of Helen Keller
2/5/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama 2nd Edition
2/11/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Mollusc Mayhem
2/11/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Mollusc Mayhem
2/12/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama
2/12/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama 2nd Edition
2/17/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	African American Trailblazers
2/17/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	The History of the Back College Football Hall of Fame and Historically Black Colleges and Universities
2/18/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	The History of Alabama's HBCU Marching Bands
2/18/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	The History of Alabama's HBCU Marching Bands
2/24/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	The History of Alabama's HBCU Marching Bands
2/24/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	The History of Alabama's HBCU Marching Bands
2/25/2026	9:00-10:00 AM	Amazing African Americans from Alabama
2/25/2026	10:15-11:15 AM	A Journey Into the Life of Helen Keller

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

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**A Journey Into the Life of Helen Keller**

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

February 5, 9:00-10:00 AM

February 25, 10:15-11:15 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 Tuscumbia, 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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### **African American Trailblazers**

**Jack Preusser, Youth, Education and Leadership Coordinator, Pro Football Hall of Fame**

February 3, 10:15-11:15 AM

February 17, 9:00-10:00 AM

Grades 5-12

This program examines the contributions of African American pioneers in pro football, beginning in 1904 with the signing of Charles Follis to modern day players and coaches. 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.

Supplemental Materials:

- [Classroom activity](#)

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### **Amazing African Americans from Alabama**

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

February 4, 9:00-10:00 AM

February 12, 9:00-10:00 AM

February 25, 9:00-10:00 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.

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### **Amazing African Americans from Alabama, 2nd Edition**

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

February 5, 10:15-11:15 AM

February 12, 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!!!

## **The History of Alabama's HBCU Marching Bands**

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

February 18, 9:00-10:00 AM

February 18, 10:15-11:15 AM

February 24, 9:00-10:00 AM

February 24, 10:15-11:15 AM

Grades 6-12

The Marching Crimson Pipers. The Marching Maroon and White. The Mighty Marching Hornets. These names ring across the state of Alabama and through our history. Stop by to learn more about the history, practice, and cultural values of the Black Marching Band tradition. Students will learn about:

- The development of brass band music
- The military influence on marching bands
- Some of the important people in the history of black marching band practice
- The values that are highlighted through marching bands

Standards:

- SS10.6.4 Identify cultural and economic developments in the United States from 1900 through the 1930s.
- SS10.6.4.1 Describing the impact of various writers, musicians, and artists on American culture during the Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age
- SS10.6.9.3 Recognizing the impact of music genres and artists on United States' culture since World War II

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## **Let's Explore Your Eyes and How they Work**

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

February 4, 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.

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### **Mollusc Mayhem**

**Rachel McDonald, Discovery Hall Programs Educator**

February 11, 9:00-10:00 AM

February 11, 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.*

*Octopuses, snails, clams, and squids – oh my! Molluscs make up the largest phylum of marine invertebrates and include everything from our giant squid to teeny tiny snails. With a variety of adaptations from shells for protection, to a tooth for drilling, and even up to 200 eyes to detect predation, these creatures are a ‘foot’ above the rest! Join us to discover what features these soft-bodied organisms have in common, how they differ, and answer the all-important question of ‘can I eat them? But viewers beware! These soft, squishy, and sometimes mucus-y organisms may just dig, crawl, and propel their way into your mouths – I mean – hearts!*

*Suitable audience: The program Mollusc Mayhem 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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Alabama Digital Learning Virtual Field Trips, February 2026

Sign up to attend at <https://bit.ly/ALVFTsignupFeb26>

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

This document is always available at <http://bit.ly/ALVFTFeb26>

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## **The History of the Black College Football Hall of Fame and Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

**Jack Preusser, Youth, Education and Leadership Coordinator, Pro Football Hall of Fame**

February 3, 9:00-10:00 AM

February 17, 10:15-11:15 AM

Grades 5-12

This program will overview the historical significance of the Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) on and off the field. Students will learn about the history of the BCFHOF and its founders James “Shack” Harris and Doug Williams. Students will also learn about the history of HBCU’s and members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame who attended these universities. 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.

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