**MARCH 3, 1817**
Alabama Territory Created

As the population grew in the western half of the Mississippi Territory, a group of Congressmen petitioned to form a new territory. Congress considered a proposal to divide the territory into two parts. The southern part was already populated with a mixture of white settlers and Native Americans. The northern part was sparsely populated with only a few whites. Congress created Alabama as a separate territory, and the territory was named after the state of Alabama.

**JANUARY 19, 1818**
Territorial Legislature Meets in St. Stephens

The territorial legislature met for the first time for organizing the new territory. It established a capital to serve the population. The capital was named Montgomery, after the capital of the state of Alabama. The legislature established a territorial government and created a state constitution. The legislature also elected a governor and two senators to the United States Senate. The territory was divided into two districts: the northern district, which served as the permanent seat of government, and the southern district, which was later divided into two more districts.

**AUGUST 2, 1819**
Constitution of 1819 Signed in Huntsville

While awaiting federal approval of the constitution, Alabama’s territorial legislature met and approved a constitution to serve as a state constitution. The constitution was then submitted to Congress for approval. Congress approved the constitution and Alabama was admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819.

**DECEMBER 14, 1819**
Alabama Becomes the 22nd State

On December 14, 1819, Alabama was admitted to the Union as the 22nd state. The state’s capital was moved to Montgomery, and the territory was divided into two districts: the northern district, which served as the permanent seat of government, and the southern district, which was later divided into two more districts.

**WHOSE VOICE MATTERED?**

The 1819 constitution was written by the Alabama territorial legislature. While the constitution made strides towards equality, it also included provisions that were later deemed unconstitutional. The constitution did not grant women the right to vote, and it also allowed for a slave trade. These provisions were later overturned by subsequent constitutions.

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