

## Alabama Men's Hall of Fame

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Lesson Plans- Alabama History

Daniel Pratt

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Lesson Title: Alabama Men's Hall of Fame: Daniel Pratt

Curriculum Area: Social Studies

Estimated Time: 50 minutes

Grade Level: 4

### Standards

Alabama State Social Studies Standard recognizing Alabamians who have made significant contributions to society.

- Daniel Pratt

### Learning Objectives

Fourth grade, students will examine the life of Daniel Pratt and explain why his industrial accomplishments were important relative to Alabama history.

### Evaluation of Learning Objectives

While pretending to be Daniel Pratt near the end of his life, fourth grade students will write a letter to all fourth grade students in Alabama today, telling them about which accomplishment he is most proud of and why. The letters will be assessed for formative purposes using the attached rubric provided at the end of this lesson.

### Engagement

The teacher will ask the fourth grade students if anyone has family or friends who live in either Prattville, AL or Pratt City, AL. The teacher will also ask for a show of hands to see how

many students have visited Prattville or Pratt City. After students respond, the teacher will then ask if anyone knows a famous person for whom these two cities are named.

Next, the teacher will tell the class that Prattville and Pratt City were named for Daniel Pratt. The teacher will then briefly explain to the class that Daniel Pratt

To provide further engagement, the teacher will ask if anyone who knows their family history had ancestors who worked in cotton, coal, steel or some other type of industry. After giving students a chance to briefly respond, the teacher will tell the class that Daniel Pratt paved the way for industry in Alabama, and that if it was not for him, many of us may not be living here today.

### Learning Design

- I. Teaching
  - a. The teacher will access <http://www.spiderscribe.net/app/?7a1f87f8b7d51b6f2ecc5d38679a96a1> in addition, will have this online concept map on the overhead screen for students as a visual aid while the teacher is teaching the class about Daniel Pratt. Ask students to be thinking about how the pictures of cotton, wood, coal, and aluminum relate to Daniel Pratt's life.
  - b. The information below is from [http://www.pratthistory.com/daniel\\_pratt.htm#Ante-bellum](http://www.pratthistory.com/daniel_pratt.htm#Ante-bellum) Southern Industrialist. This website can be accessed for further information.
  - c. Daniel Pratt was born in the year 1799 and died in 1873. Although he made largely significant contributions to the state of Alabama, he was not born in Alabama. He was born in the state of New Hampshire.
  - d. Growing up, Pratt had five siblings. All of the children in his family were expected to work on their small family farm in New Hampshire in order to earn money for their family. Pratt spent much of his time working on the farm, and as a result, received a very limited education.
  - e. When he was sixteen, Daniel Pratt began his career as a carpenter when a family friend gave him the opportunity to be an apprentice. It was here that Pratt learned about the building trade. Daniel Pratt was a good carpenter because he was very ambitious and a hard worker.
  - f. After his mother died in 1817, Pratt moved to the South because it was known as a land of opportunity. After spending time in Georgia building houses for wealthy cotton growing families, he quickly became known as one of the leading carpenters in the south.
  - g. Pratt's father, who still lived in New Hampshire, was a very religious man. When his father heard that Daniel Pratt had acquired three slaves to help him

with his construction, he became very upset and wrote him a letter, to which Pratt replied. See excerpts below which provide insight into Daniel Pratt's life.

- i. "My slaves which you mention are not numerous. I have but three and it is not probable that I shall keep them long. I did not intend that you should know anything about that as I supposed that you would think that I was ruined eternally. But did you know my situation and the situation of the country I live in you would think differently. I assure you that to live in any country it is necessary to conform to the customs of the country in part. I have bought no man into bondage and I am in hopes I have rendered no man's situation more disagreeable than it was before, but on the contrary I am in hopes that I have bettered it."
  - ii. "I keep Bachelors Hall and live in a little log cabin which I built on the bank of the river a little below Macon. My family consists of four Negro men and myself. I almost live a hermit's life but could enjoy myself tolerably well were it not for the mosquitoes. I am now writing by a candle light and if you will believe me they buzz around me almost equal to a swarm of bees. I am obliged to have my bed covered with mosquito netting to keep them from me."
- h. During his time in Georgia, Daniel Pratt met and married Miss Ester Ticknor, a young woman from a prestigious family in Clinton, Georgia. At the time, Clinton was a booming town in the heart of cotton growing area of Georgia, and was home to Samuel Griswold's Gin Factory. After marrying Ester in Clinton, Pratt became friends with Sam Griswold over their shared commonality that they both considered themselves to be modern men. Griswold offered Pratt a job as manager of the Griswold Cotton Gin Factory, where Pratt gained invaluable experience in the business of manufacturing cotton gins. So much experience in fact, that eventually Pratt and Griswold became business partners.
- i. Pratt's keen business sense eventually led him to convince Griswold to open a branch of the cotton gin business in central Alabama. Griswold initially agreed but later changed his mind due to Indian uprisings taking place in Alabama. However, Daniel Pratt was determined and split ways with his business partner in order to carry out his plan.
  - j. Thus, Pratt purchased enough material for 50 cotton gins, which he brought with him to Alabama and quickly sold to farmers there.
  - k. Because of his carpentry background, Pratt was able to build a cotton gin factory in Alabama, in the town now known as Prattville, and produced an average of two hundred gins per year. Due to its popularity, Pratt quickly

realized that he needed to expand and built a new factory, which had the capacity to build 1,500 gins annually.

- l. Pratt's Gin Factory became the economic cornerstone for the town and turned Prattville into extraordinary industrial town. The factory became the largest gin factory in the world and Pratt commonly filled orders from other countries such as Russia, France, Cuba, and Mexico.
- m. The success of the factory began to finance other industries in the state of Alabama. The wood for the gin stands came from the surrounding countryside. Additionally, the iron for the gin castings came from a company in a nearby town, Shelby Iron Works. Pratt built his own gin casts from the iron that he ordered.
- n. As Pratt's profits grew, he gained the ability to open other factories to build parts that he needed for making the cotton gins. As mentioned, he made his own iron gin casts, and in 1847, he received orders for railroad axles, which were also made out of iron. Thus, Pratt's many contributions even include contributions to the railroad.
- o. Although the Gin Factory was likely the most important of Pratt's contributions, he owned, either in whole or in part, many other industries in Prattville including a door and blind factory, a horse mills factory, a blacksmith's shop, a wagon factory, a tin manufactory, and a flouring mill.
- p. The teacher will close the teaching portion by explaining that without the contributions of Daniel Pratt, Alabama may not be the industrialized state that we know today.

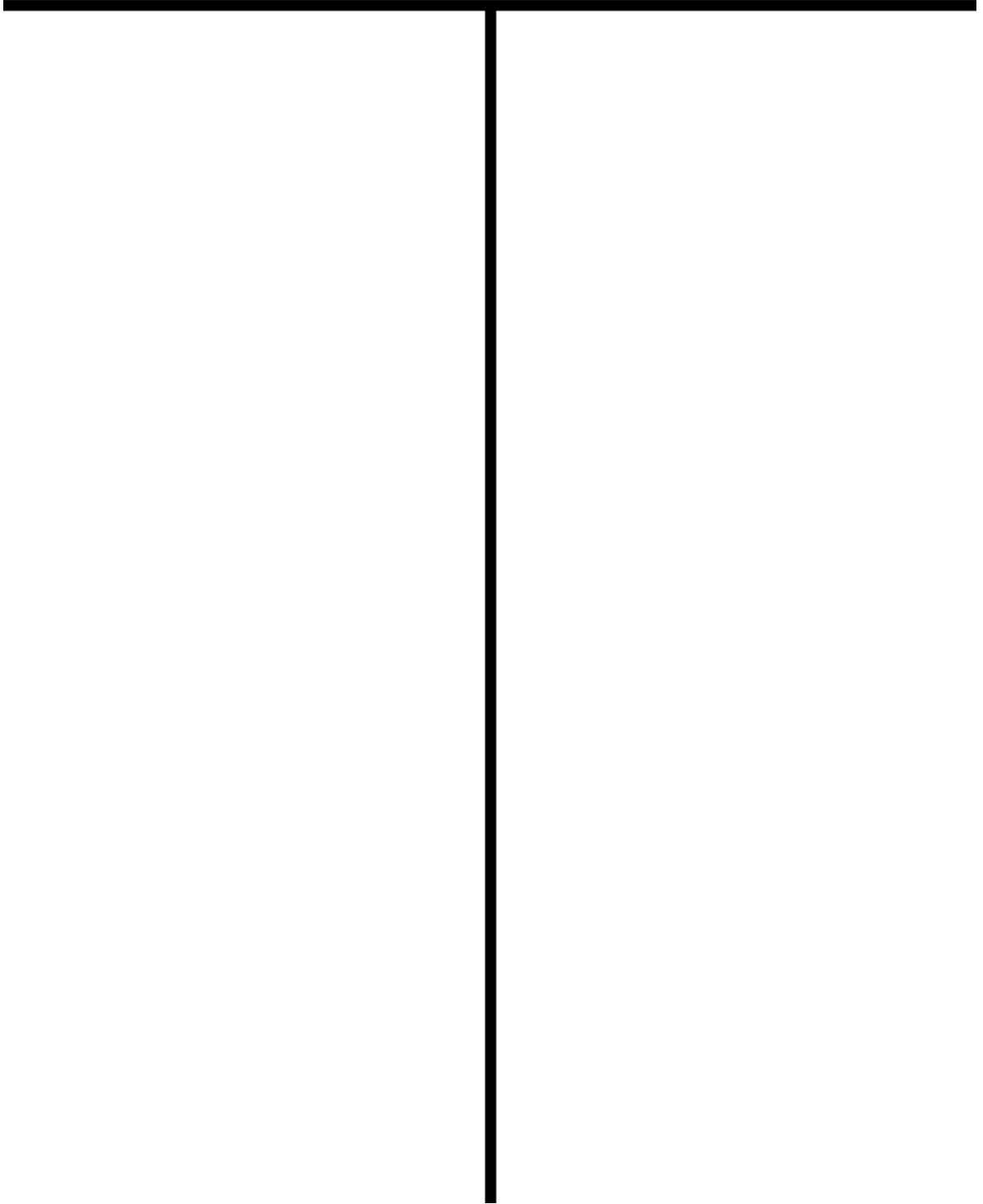
## II. Guided Practice

- a. The teacher should pass out the T-chart attached below to the students in the class. The two sides of the T-chart will say, "Who Daniel Pratt was" and "What Daniel Pratt gave." For the "who" side, students should list important facts about Daniel Pratt the person. On the "what he gave" side, students will list contributions that Daniel Pratt made to the state of Alabama.

Who Daniel Pratt is:

What Daniel Pratt  
gave:

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### III. Independent Practice

- a. The teacher will remind the students that Daniel Pratt liked to write letters and that the teacher read two excerpts to the class from letters that he wrote.
- b. The students will individually pretend that they are Daniel Pratt at the end of his life and will write a letter to fourth grade students in America today, telling them about which accomplishment he is most proud of and why.

### IV. Closure

- a. After students turn in their assignments, the teacher will ask the class for volunteers to briefly share which accomplishment they included in their letter from Daniel Pratt. Having a few students share which accomplishment they chose as the most important one, will recap the entire lesson and will allow the teacher to provide natural closure.

### Content and Resources

- Computer with internet access
- T-chart for every student in the class
- Chalkboard, dry-erase board, or overhead projector.

## Letter from Daniel Pratt

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	4 - Above Standards	3 - Meets Standards	2 - Approaching Standards	1 - Below Standards	Score
<b>Position Statement</b>	The position statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic.	The position statement provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic.	A position statement is present, but does not make the author's position clear.	There is no position statement.	
<b>Evidence and Examples</b>	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are presented that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are presented that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.	
<b>Accuracy</b>	All supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics were inaccurately reported.	