

Louisiana's Living Map

Grades: 3rd-5th

Duration: 55 minutes

Program Description

Students will map-read by examining and interacting with a floor sized map. The students will learn to locate major geological features, places, bodies of water, and waterways in Louisiana. In addition, students will identify the geological features using the four cardinal points of the compass, identify local ecosystems and learn which important economic products are produced.

Louisiana GLE:

Social Studies

Grade 3

1. Describe characteristics and uses of various maps (e.g., physical, political, topographical, population) (G-1A-E1)
4. Use a compass rose and cardinal directions to locate and interpret a map of the community and Louisiana (G-1A-E2)
5. Locate major geographic features of Louisiana on a map (G-1A-E2)
9. Describe and compare the physical characteristics of various regions of Louisiana (G-1B-E1)
12. Use maps, charts, and pictures to describe how places in Louisiana are different (e.g., land use, vegetation, architecture) (G-1B-E4)
13. Identify examples of physical processes affecting Louisiana (e.g., coastal erosion, river changes) (G-1C-E1)
17. Identify and explain ways in which people in Louisiana modify the physical environment to meet basic needs and achieve certain purposes (e.g., clearing land for urban development) (G-1D-E1)
18. Explain how humans have adapted to the physical environment in Louisiana (G-1D-E2)
19. Identify natural resources in Louisiana and describe their uses and importance (G-1D-E4)
45. Use information in a map, table, or graph to describe the past (H-1A-E3)

Grade 4

1. Interpret different kinds of maps using a map key/legend, compass rose, cardinal and intermediate directions, and distance scale (G-1A-E1)
5. Draw, complete, and add features to a map (including such map elements as a title, compass rose, legend, and scale), based on given information (G-1A-E3)
6. Describe and compare the distinguishing characteristics of various land forms, bodies of water, climates, and forms of vegetation in the United States (G-1B-E1)
13. Explain and compare the cultural identities of various U.S. regions and how a region is influenced by past events and the heritage of its people (G-1C-E4)

Grade 5

3. Interpret a map, using a map key/legend and symbols, distance scale, compass rose, cardinal or intermediate directions, and latitude and longitude (G-1A-M2)

4. Locate major landforms and geographic features, places, and bodies of water/waterways on a map of the United States (G-1A-M2)

Key Terms:

agriculture: The science, art, or occupation concerned with cultivating land, raising crops, and feeding, breeding, and raising livestock; farming.

barrier islands: A long, relatively narrow island running parallel to the mainland, built up by the action of waves and currents and serving to protect the coast from erosion by surf and tidal surges.

Battle of New Orleans: Took place on [January 8, 1815](#), and was the final major battle of the [War of 1812](#). [American](#) forces, with General [Andrew Jackson](#) in command, defeated an invading [British Army](#) intent on seizing [New Orleans](#) and America's vast western lands. The [Treaty of Ghent](#) had been signed on [24 December 1814](#), but had not been ratified. News of the peace would not reach [New Orleans](#) until February.

Cajun: A member of a group of people with an enduring cultural tradition whose French Catholic ancestors established permanent communities in Louisiana and Maine after being expelled from Acadia in the late 18th century.

cardinal directions: The four **cardinal directions** or **cardinal points** are [north](#), [south](#), [east](#), and [west](#). Most commonly used for [geographic](#) orientation on [Earth](#), they may be calculated anywhere on a rotating [astronomical body](#).

compass rose: A symbol on a compass or map that is circular with graded points for the directions

constructive forces: processes that build geologic formations

courtyard: a court open to the sky, esp. one enclosed on all four sides; in New Orleans built to exclude the sun and create a draft of air to provide cooling in a tropical environment. It was planted with plants and incorporated decorative fan windows to enhance the cooling process.

creole: Originally descendants of early French and Spanish settlers in the New World. The term "**creole**" became very popular in the colony. It was used to apply to people and things native to the colony. The word comes from the Spanish "**criollo**...a child born in the colony". The term first applied to natives of the West Indies, Central and South America, and the Gulf States region, but eventually became synonymous with the race of people found in Louisiana.

cultural map: Characteristics of a civilization displayed on a representation of a geographic area

deciduous forest: In the cold season of temperate latitudes, a tree's water supply is restricted when the temperature falls below 0 °C. In order to lessen losses of water, deciduous trees shed their leaves until the spring brings more available moisture.

delta: A usually triangular alluvial deposit at the mouth of a river.

destructive forces: Geologic processes that destroy landforms

dog trot house: Cabin consisting of two single pens flanking a central passageway open at both ends, all beneath a common roof. A full length porch is typical, and rear shed roof rooms may be present.

ecosystem: A system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment.

ecosystem map: A representation of a geographic area that identifies the location of systems created by the interaction of a organisms with their environment

evergreen forest: An evergreen forest is a [forest](#) consisting entirely or mainly of [evergreens](#), trees that retain green foliage all year round.

geologic map: A representation of a geographic area that identifies the location of land forms and other geological formations found in that area

habitat: The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs: *a marine habitat.*

humbug: Something intended to delude or deceive: the quality of falseness or deception.

jazz: Music originating in New Orleans around the beginning of the 20th century and subsequently developing through various increasingly complex styles, generally marked by intricate, propulsive rhythms, polyphonic ensemble playing, improvisatory, virtuosic solos, and melodic freedom.

latitude: The angular distance north or south from the equator of a point on the earth's surface, measured on the meridian of the point.

levee: An embankment designed to prevent the flooding of a river.

longitude: Angular distance east or west on the earth's surface, measured by the angle contained between the meridian of a particular place and some prime meridian, as that of Greenwich, England, and expressed either in degrees or by some corresponding difference in time.

marsh: An area of soft, wet, low-lying land, characterized by grassy vegetation and often forming a transition zone between water and land.

natural resources: The natural wealth of a country, consisting of land, forests, mineral deposits, water, etc.

plantation: A large estate or farm on which crops are raised, often by resident workers.

port: A town or city that is accessible to or providing accommodations for water transportation

Poverty Point: A prehistoric archeological site dating between 1650 – 700 BCE in northeastern [Louisiana](#), 15.5 miles (24.9 km) from the current [Mississippi River](#) on the edge of Macon Ridge by the village of [Epps](#). The site is named after the plantation on which was discovered in 1873, when it was believed to be a natural formation. It was not discovered to be man-made until the 1950s, when aerial photographs revealed the complexity and complete pattern of the earthwork.

prairie: An extensive, level or slightly undulating, mostly treeless tract of land, characterized by a highly fertile soil and originally covered with coarse grasses.

road map: A representation of a geographic area that identifies the major automobile transportation routes.

soybeans: A southeast Asian annual leguminous plant (*Glycine max*), widely cultivated for forage and soil improvement and for its nutritious seeds.

wetland: Any land which is intermittently or periodically waterlogged. This includes [salt marshes](#), tidal [estuaries](#), marshes, and bogs. Wetlands are rapidly disappearing habitats.

Connections to Permanent Exhibits:

These exhibits are found in the Red River Gallery.

Map of Louisiana: Put the puzzle together. Where do you live? What river is close to you?

A Different View and 3-D Map: Interpret images from above – stereo pictures, satellite images, infrared color-coded, radar images, or thermal scans.

These exhibits are found in the Planet Earth Cluster....*Our Amazing Home* section on first floor in the space center.

Earth Computer Stations: Look at a variety of satellite images of the earth.

Time Calculator: What time zone is Cairo in? What time is it now in Brisbane, Australia?

Geochron: Name a country where it is dark right now? What is the solar analema?

Digital Earth: Can you find Sci-Port on Google Earth? Can you find your school? Can you find your house?

Earth Mazes (Puzzles): Put each of these puzzles together. Can you identify these pictures?

Web Resources:

Crops and Livestock **LSU Ag Center**
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/

Lots of information here about Louisiana's natural resources as it pertains to agriculture, aquaculture, and livestock.

Environment and Natural Resources **LSU Ag Center**
<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/environment/>

A great source of wildlife, forestry, and conservation resources

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Education Program
Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program
<http://educators.btnep.org/>

Tons of educational resources on coastal wetlands...habitat, wildlife, plant life, problems, and solutions

Pre-Visit Activities

Louisiana A Unit Study-www.Louisiana101.com

This website has a number of ideas to introduce your students to Louisiana geography, the states unique characteristics, and give your students a historical perspective of the early inhabitants and settlers of Louisiana.

The lessons are found at the following link:

http://www.louisiana101.com/ideas_english_louisiana_study.html

Post-Visit Activities

Vieux Carré: A Creole Neighborhood in New Orleans-Teaching With Historic Places National Park System

This lesson is based on the National Register of Historic Places registration file, "Vieux Carré Historic District," and other source materials about the Vieux Carré. It was written by Byron Fortier, a former Park Ranger at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. It has 5 objectives.

- 1) To describe the boundaries of colonial Louisiana and list the succession of colonial governments that controlled the area.
- 2) To explain the political and strategic significance of New Orleans in colonial and American history
- 3) To describe the origins and evolution of Creole culture in South Louisiana
- 4) To explain how European concepts of style were modified to fit local conditions, producing a distinctive architectural legacy, and how those styles changed as the area became increasingly "Americanized" physically and culturally
- 5) To identify physical evidence of various cultural influences in their own community.

The lesson is found at the following link:

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/20vieux/20vieux.htm>