## April 30, 1812 Louisiana Becomes a State

Louisiana is located where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico. This area has been important throughout the history of the country. it is connected with much of the country through water routes, and its outlet into the Gulf of Mexico gives it access to much of the rest of the world. The Mississippi River became the main inland water way of the United States. Louisiana's location has been both an important part of its economy and a detrimental part. The state has had the opportunity since the early days of settlement to be a shipping and shipbuilding area. Traders and fur trappers traveled the Mississippi River to bring their goods to the area for shipping. Steamboats and paddleboats traveled the river with cargo and passengers. However, the coastal location and the flooding of the rivers have also caused much destruction throughout the history of the area, leaving those in Louisiana with the need to rebuild time and time again. In addition, getting across the rivers that cut through the state has been a problem until recent times. Still, Louisiana continues to grow and rebound from each setback, showing the determination of the people who live there. Many famous people are from Louisiana, including Bill Russell, Karl Malone, Terry Bradshaw, Madam C.J. Walker, P.G.T Beauregard, Michael DeBakey, Paul Charles Morphy, and Van Cliburn.

Look at the map of Louisiana below. Label the capital of Louisiana. Locate the cities of New Orleans, Shreveport, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Kenner, Bossier City, Metairie, Marrero, Laplace, Cameron, Empire-Venice, and Intracoastal City, and label them on the map. Now label Driskill Mountain. Also, locate the Mississippi River, Atchafalaya River, Black River, Calcasieu River, Ouachita River, Pearl River, Red River, Sabine River, and Lake Pontchartrain, and label them. Lastly, label the states or bodies of water that border Louisiana. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Louisiana history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



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# Timeline of Louisiana History

	1541
<u>-</u>	1714
	1718
<u>-</u>	1762
	1794
<u>-</u>	1803
	1812
<u>-</u>	1815
	1829
<u>-</u>	1861
	1862
<u>-</u>	1868
	1877
	1891
	1901
	1916
	1963
	2004
-	2005
	2007
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- 1. Louisiana's first newspaper, printed in French, is based in New Orleans
- 2. Oil is discovered near Jennings and White Castle
- 3. The Battle of New Orleans, part of the War of 1812, is fought
- 4. President Rutherford B. Hayes ends Reconstruction in Louisiana
- 5. The first permanent settlement in Louisiana is established
- 6. Louisiana's first woman governor is elected
- 7. Union troops capture New Orleans during the Civil War
- 8. The first person of Asian Indian ancestry is elected governor of a state in the United States
- 9. The Treaty of Fontainebleau secretly gives much French territory to Spain
- 10. The Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet opens
- 11. Louisiana secedes from the Union to join the Confederacy
- 12. The Louisiana Purchase transfers territories to the United States
- 13. The Monroe natural gas field opens
- 14. Hernando de Soto leads a search for gold in the Mississippi Valley area of Louisiana
- 15. Louisiana's Civil War Museum, the oldest museum in the state that has been in constant operation, is founded
- 16. Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast
- 17. Louisiana becomes the eighteenth state in the Union
- 18. Louisiana is readmitted to the Union
- Construction of New Orleans begins
- 20. The Pontchartrain Railroad begins operating between New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain

## Research Prompt #1

The area of Nova Scotia in Canada was settled in the 1600s by the French and became the province of Acadia. Soon after its settlement, it became a British possession. As war became inevitable between France and England in 1755, the British demanded that the Acadians swear allegiance to the King of England. The Acadians refused, and there was a great exile of French out of the area. Many people think that the Acadians moved directly to Louisiana, but it was not that smooth or quick. Research what happened during the exile of the Acadians and how they ended up in Louisiana. Write about your findings.
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# Research Prompt #2

In 1984, Louisiana held a World Exposition. Research the exposition. What new innovations were introduced at the Expo? Was it successful in bringing people in to see all that was being presented? How was the area used after the Exposition closed? Write about your findings.		

## Research Prompt #3

In 1812, the first steamboat to navigate the Mississippi River, "The New Orleans," arrived at New Orleans from Pittsburgh after a three-month journey. Research this trip and write about the perils that were faced by those on the trip. (Note: As a start, you may want to research the <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> article "Eyewitness 1811: From Pittsburgh to New Orleans by steamboat," dated March 8, 2009.)
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# Timeline of Louisiana History Answer Key

Hernando de Soto leads a search for gold in the Mississippi Valley area of Louisiana	1541	
	1714	The first permanent settlement in Louisiana is established
Construction of New Orleans begins	1718	_
	1762	The Treaty of Fontainebleau secretly gives much French territory to Spain
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	1868	Louisiana is readmitted to the Union
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	2007	The first person of Asian Indian ancestry is elected governor of a state in the United States
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