

## 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.



# Timeline of Louisiana History

---

1541

---

1714

---

1718

---

1762

---

1794

---

1803

---

1812

---

1815

---

1829

---

1861

---

1862

---

1868

---

1877

---

1891

---

1901

---

1916

---

1963

---

2004

---

2005

---

2007

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
19. Construction of New Orleans begins
20. The Pontchartrain Railroad begins operating between New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain







# 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
Louisiana's first newspaper, printed in French, is based in New Orleans	1794	
	1803	The Louisiana Purchase transfers territories to the United States
Louisiana becomes the eighteenth state in the Union	1812	
	1815	The Battle of New Orleans, part of the War of 1812, is fought
The Pontchartrain Railroad begins operating between New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain	1829	
	1861	Louisiana secedes from the Union to join the Confederacy
Union troops capture New Orleans during the Civil War	1862	
	1868	Louisiana is readmitted to the Union
President Rutherford B. Hayes ends Reconstruction in Louisiana	1877	
	1891	Louisiana's Civil War Museum, the oldest museum in the state that has been in constant operation, is founded
Oil is discovered near Jennings and White Castle	1901	
	1916	The Monroe natural gas field opens
The Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet opens	1963	
	2004	Louisiana's first woman governor is elected
Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast	2005	
	2007	The first person of Asian Indian ancestry is elected governor of a state in the United States