

# 200 YEARS IN THE MAKING

## 1 Extent of Louisiana

When Louisiana was admitted as a state in 1812, its political boundaries were far different from those of the expansive Louisiana Territory that was purchased by the United States just nine years earlier.

### Guiding Questions

1. Why were the political boundaries of the new state of Louisiana different from the boundaries of the Louisiana Territory?
2. Following the acquisition of statehood, which events and individuals helped define the boundaries of the young state?
3. How have location and physical features influenced both historical events in Louisiana and the development of the state?



## Colonial Boundaries

In 1682, René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle, took possession of the Mississippi River, its tributaries, and all the lands drained by the river for Louis XIV, king of France. The vast territory claimed by La Salle included the Mississippi River valley north to Canada and the Missouri River valley as far west as the Rockies. La Salle named this vast expanse "Louisiane" in honor of his king.

In the eighteenth century, French settlements began to define the boundaries

*Right:* The Iberville Stone, 1699  
Louisiana State Museum

**STUDENT ACTIVITY**  
Make your own "Iberville stone." See page ten for directions.



*Opposite Page:* Carte de la Louisiane et du Cours du Mississippi  
Guillaume Delisle  
1718  
Louisiana State Museum

Carte de la Louisiane is a "foundation map" that was widely copied by early eighteenth century cartographers.

### MAP INVESTIGATION

1. What is a "foundation map?"
2. Why is Delisle's map considered a foundation map?
3. What is different (and important!) about Delisle's first and second editions of this map?

Visit <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/3-4a.htm> for information about this map and answers to the three questions shown above.

of Louisiana. Pierre Le Moyne, sieur d'Iberville, established the first French settlement in Louisiana on the eastern shore of the Bay of Biloxi. Other settlements followed at the mouth of the Mississippi River and at New Orleans. Inland, strategic fortifications were located at Opelousas and Attakapas and along the Red River at Fort St. Jean Baptiste, present-day Natchitoches. With the exception of a few posts established along the northern sections of the Mississippi and its tributaries, most French settlements in colonial Louisiana were located inside the borders of the present state, primarily around New Orleans. The majority of the territory remained a wilderness.

## Boundary Changes

The Seven Years' War (also called the French and Indian War) effectively redrew European colonial boundaries in North America. In the face of significant British victories, France transferred Louisiana west of the Mississippi and the Isle of Orleans to Spain with the 1762 Treaty of Fontainebleau. A year later, the Treaty of Paris formally ended the war, placing Spanish Florida and French Louisiana east of the Mississippi River under British control. For administrative purposes, Britain divided her new Florida colony into East and West Florida. However, British rule along the Gulf Coast was short-lived.



Above: Governor Bernardo de Galvez  
Louisiana State Museum

#### STUDENT ACTIVITY

Read the surrender terms for the 1779 Battle of Baton Rouge. Access the desk reference at [www.crt.state.la.us/education](http://www.crt.state.la.us/education) for the URL.

During the American Revolution, Spanish troops led by Bernardo de Galvez, governor of Spanish Louisiana, seized British outposts at Baton Rouge in 1779 and later captured Mobile and Pensacola. In 1783, another Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolution and returned both East and West Florida to Spain. It also gave the young United States control of land located between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. These new boundaries extended Spain's empire in North America, but brought it directly into conflict with a new rival, the United States.

The retrocession of Louisiana from Spain to France in the 1800 Treaty of

San Ildefonso ultimately benefitted the United States. Although Napoleon Bonaparte envisioned a renewed French empire in North America, his troops could not suppress the rebellion of enslaved Africans in the sugar-producing colony of Saint-Domingue (modern-day Haiti). Without Saint-Domingue, there was no reason to hold Louisiana. Napoleon agreed to sell Louisiana to the Americans in 1803 for \$15 million.

#### United States Territory

On December 20, 1803, French colonial prefect Pierre Clément de Laussat transferred control of Louisiana to United States

### ART ACTIVITY: IBERVILLE STONE

GLEs— Grade Eight: 4, 71, 72; Grade Three: 48, 53, 54, 55

#### Overview

Encourage students to commemorate the bicentennial of Louisiana's statehood by exploring interesting Louisiana locations and discovering what makes Louisiana unique. Ask students to make their own Iberville Stone marker for one of their favorite Louisiana locations.

#### Materials

Two cups of warm water, three cups of flour, bowl, large spoon, newspapers, flat box for form (students will shape their stone in this box), pencil

#### Directions

Spread newspaper on the work surface. Mix all ingredients and stir until smooth. Paste should be thick and smooth, but easy to stir. Add more flour or water as needed for the proper consistency. Pour the paste into the form, shaping it into a flat "stone." While the mixture is still wet, use a pencil to "carve" the stone. Carve either the name or initials of your group members as well as the name of the location and the date the stone was made.

Right: Carte Générale des États-Unis, 1829  
Louisiana State Museum

**DIGITAL MAP ACTIVITY**  
View this map in the LOUISiana Digital Library to examine the extent of the United States in 1829. Access the desk reference at [www.crt.state.la.us/education](http://www.crt.state.la.us/education) for the URL.



commissioners William C. C. Claiborne and General James Wilkinson. The acquisition of the new territory more than doubled the physical size of the United States. However, since the territory had never been surveyed or mapped thoroughly, the treaty did not outline the exact boundaries of Louisiana.

President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory; however, Jefferson also pursued a very broad vision of the territorial boundaries. This pursuit led the young nation into conflict with both Britain in the north and Spain in the southwest and southeast. Although the United States and Spain

acknowledged the middle of the Mississippi River as the legitimate eastern boundary of Louisiana to the 31° north latitude, the two countries disagreed over control of territory in West Florida and along the present-day border

between Louisiana and Texas.

**West Florida**

In early 1804, Congress passed the Mobile Act claiming control of West Florida to the Perdido River,



Right: Louisiana and West Florida as claimed by the United States  
Louisiana State Museum



Above: Border Bottle from Texas/  
Louisiana Border  
Louisiana State Museum

the current boundary between the states of Alabama and Florida. France had administered their earliest settlements in this area as part of Louisiana, and Spain had continued the practice following the American Revolution. However, this area had not been clearly specified when the treaties of San Ildefonso (1800) and Madrid

(1801) transferred Louisiana from Spain to France. Neither was it mentioned in the Louisiana Purchase Treaty of 1803.

Spanish authorities continued to occupy West Florida despite American claims. It was only in 1810, after the Anglo-American settlers in West Florida rebelled against Spanish rule and set up their own government, the West Florida Republic, that the United States moved to annex the area. Even then, American authority only extended to roughly the Pearl River. This reduced West Florida was included within the borders of the state of Louisiana in 1812. A series of armed confrontations and negotiations settled the remaining West Florida boundary issues. American forces seized Mobile in 1813, and the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty secured all of Spanish Florida for the United States.

### Neutral Strip

Spain and the United States disagreed concerning Louisiana's western border with Texas. Spanish officials maintained that the traditional Texas border had extended to the Arroyo Hondo, a dry gulch west of Natchitoches. The Arroyo had served as the eighteenth century dividing

line between the Spanish at Los Adaes and the French at Fort St. Jean Baptiste. However, the United States argued that Louisiana's border stretched at least to the Sabine River and possibly even to the Rio Grande.

Negotiations to resolve the western border dispute broke down when Spain and the United States severed diplomatic relations in 1805. Rumors circulated that both sides were gathering troops near the contested area. General Wilkinson managed to avert warfare and found a solution acceptable to both sides. The compromise that was reached with Spain established a "neutral strip" in the disputed area, with neither power presiding over it for over a decade. Finally, the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty placed the boundary between Texas and the United States along the Sabine River, where it remains today.

### Two Territories

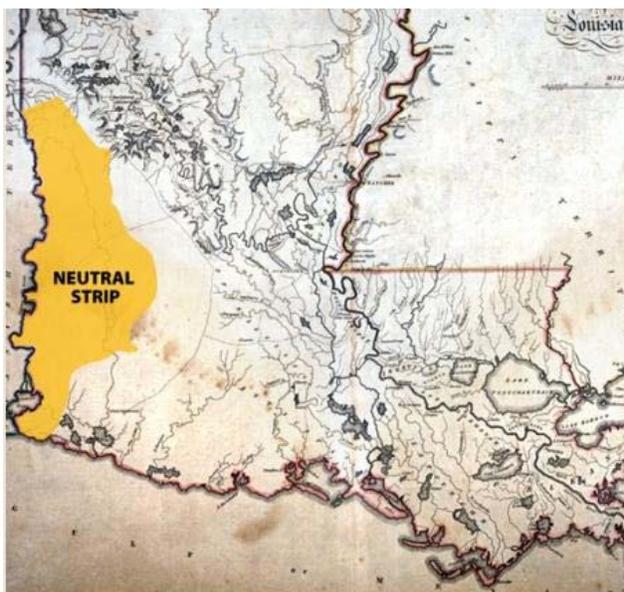
Following the transfer of Louisiana to the United States, Congress moved quickly to organize its new acquisition. In March 1804, the U.S. Congress passed legislation entitled "An Act Erecting Louisiana Into Two Territories, and Providing for the Temporary Government Thereof," which divided the

Purchase at 33° north latitude, establishing the Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana. The present state of Louisiana, minus the Florida parishes, made up the Territory of Orleans. In 1805, the District of Louisiana was organized as the Louisiana Territory; it was later renamed the Missouri Territory to avoid confusion with the recently admitted state of Louisiana.

On April 30, 1812, Congress admitted Louisiana to the Union as the eighteenth state. Louisiana was the first state carved out of the Louisiana Purchase and the first state located west of the Mississippi River. Exactly nine years had passed since the signing of the Louisiana Purchase.



*Below:* Map of Louisiana 1814, with Neutral Strip  
M. Carey  
Louisiana State Museum



## PRIMARY SOURCES

### Internet Resources

- The Louisiana Purchase Legislative Timeline, Library of Congress <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/louisiana2.html>
- Read “An Act Erecting Louisiana Into Two Territories, and Providing for the Temporary Government Thereof” <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llhb&fileName=022/llhb022.db&recNum=172>
- Louisiana Purchase Treaty, Avalon Project, Yale University [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/louis1.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/louis1.asp)
- Louisiana Purchase Treaty, American Originals, National Archives [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american\\_originals\\_iv/sections/louisiana\\_purchase\\_treaty.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals_iv/sections/louisiana_purchase_treaty.html)
- Adams-Onis Treaty, Avalon Project, Yale University [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/sp1819.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/sp1819.asp)



*Above:* Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site, 1716-1762

### STUDENT ACTIVITY

Compare and contrast lifestyles in the eighteenth century French fort St. Jean Baptiste with life in the Spanish mission and fort at Los Adaes. Learn more about Fort St. Jean Baptiste at [www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iftstjean.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iftstjean.aspx) and Los Adaes at <http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iLosadaes.aspx>.

## LESSON: LOUISIANA BOUNDARIES MAP

GLEs— Grade Eight: 2, 3, 5

### Overview

Students use historical and contemporary maps to compare and contrast the eighteenth and twenty-first century boundaries of Louisiana.

### Guiding Questions

1. Why were the political boundaries of the new state of Louisiana different from the boundaries of the Louisiana Territory?
2. Following the acquisition of statehood, which events and individuals helped define the boundaries of the young state?
3. How have location and physical features influenced historical events in Louisiana and the development of the state?

### Directions

1. To review longitude and latitude with your students, use the review activity on page seventeen.
2. Make and distribute copies of the Eighteenth Century Louisiana Boundaries and Louisiana Boundaries maps on pages fifteen and sixteen, one per student.
3. Ask students to use the provided map URLs (on page fifteen) to research the eighteenth century boundaries of Louisiana and the North American areas claimed by England, Spain, and France. Students can access the URLs at [www.crt.state.la.us/education](http://www.crt.state.la.us/education). Students should be able to explain that the 1803 boundaries of Louisiana were vague, leading to many different interpretations of the extent of the territory.
4. Ask students to complete the Louisiana Boundaries map, page sixteen, concerning the present boundaries of Louisiana. Students should be able to answer the three guiding questions shown above.

## ACTIVITY: THE FLAGS OF LOUISIANA

GLEs—Grade Eight: 76,81; Grade Four: 62; Grade Three: 15, 53, 55, 57; ELA Grade Eight: 9, 40, 41

### Overview

Students research the number of flags that have flown over Louisiana to gain an understanding of the events and global influences that have shaped Louisiana's history and culture.

### Directions

1. Ask students to prepare a booklet or a set of flashcards (see page 65) that indicates the many flags that have flown over Louisiana.
2. Use the [Student Packet](#) provided by the Louisiana Secretary of State, [www.sos.louisiana.gov](http://www.sos.louisiana.gov), to identify the flags. Next, use the library and/or Internet to research the nationality and meaning of each flag.

# EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LOUISIANA BOUNDARIES MAP

Student Worksheet  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Directions

In 1803, the United States claimed the Louisiana Territory based on the traditional boundaries of Louisiana. Use the Delisle and Homanno historic maps (see the links below) to shade the North American areas claimed by France, England, and Spain during the eighteenth century.

- [http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/LHC&CISOPTR=24&CISOBX=1&REC=1](http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/LHC&CISOPTR=24&CISOBX=1&REC=1)
- [http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/LHC&CISOPTR=150&CISOBX=1&REC=12](http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/LHC&CISOPTR=150&CISOBX=1&REC=12)
- [http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/LHC&CISOPTR=113&CISOBX=1&REC=19](http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/LHC&CISOPTR=113&CISOBX=1&REC=19)

After reviewing the historical maps, what general statement(s) can you make concerning the eighteenth century boundaries of Louisiana?



## Map Legend

# LOUISIANA BOUNDARIES MAP

## Student Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Directions

Use Google Maps to locate the following borders of Louisiana. Label each border on the map below.

Research URL:

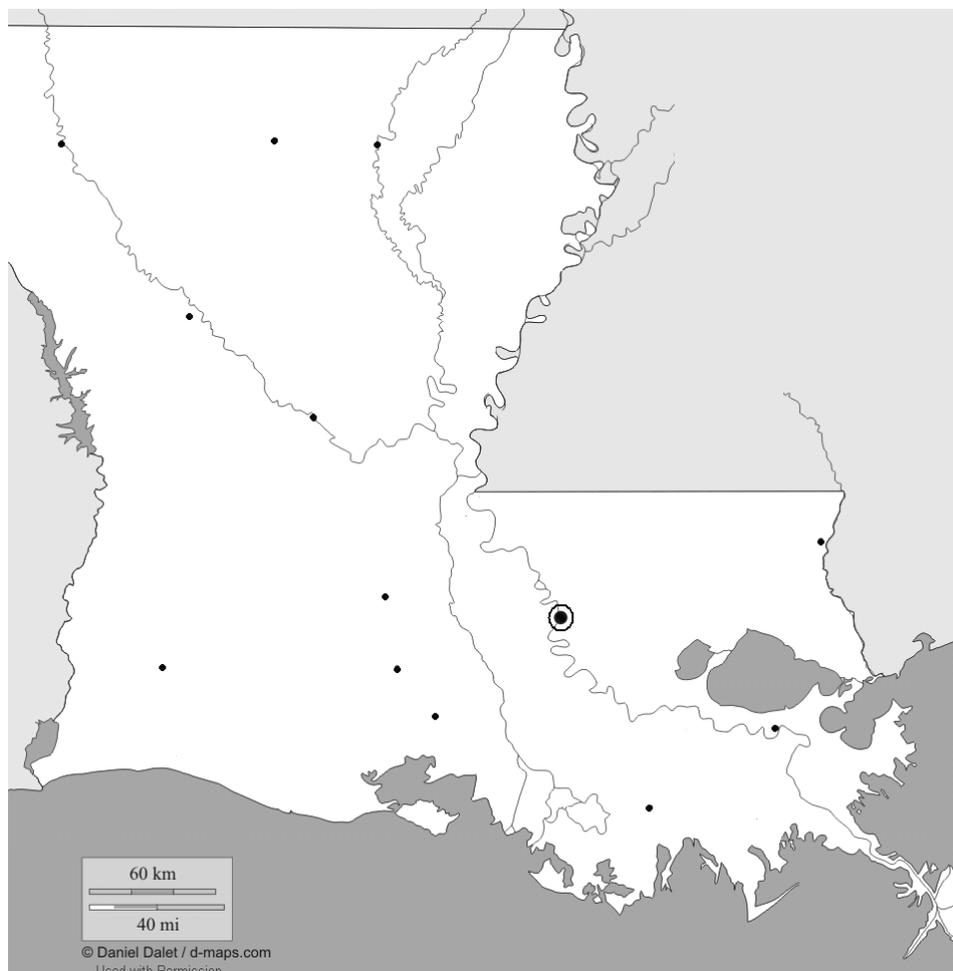
<http://maps.google.com/>

1. 31° N latitude
2. 33° N latitude
3. 94° W longitude
4. Mississippi River
5. Pearl River
6. Sabine River
7. Toledo Bend
8. Gulf of Mexico

The system of latitude and longitude is used to mark some of the political borders between states. Louisiana lies between 28° 55' N latitude and 33° N latitude and between 89° W longitude and 94° W longitude.

One of the boundaries between Mississippi and Louisiana is the thirty-first parallel north (31° N latitude). The boundary between Arkansas and Louisiana is the thirty-third parallel north (33° N latitude), and the ninety-fourth meridian west (94° W longitude) separates Louisiana and Texas. Several waterways also form portions of Louisiana's

boundaries. The Mississippi River forms the upper boundary between Louisiana and Mississippi, the Pearl River forms the lower boundary, and the Gulf of Mexico marks Louisiana's southern boundary. The Sabine River and Toledo Bend Reservoir mark the boundary between Louisiana and Texas.



### Map Skills

Use Google Maps to find the answers to these questions:

1. What natural feature forms the longest border of Louisiana?
2. Which other states share approximately the same latitude as Louisiana?
3. Which is the only state whose borders are both north and south of Louisiana?

# LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE REVIEW SHEET

## Student Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction

Lines of latitude and longitude are used to identify where a specific location can be found on the earth's surface. They are also used to mark political boundaries between some states. The interactive student worksheet is available at [www.crt.state.la.us/education](http://www.crt.state.la.us/education).

### Absolute and Relative Locations

Geographers identify a location in either absolute or relative terms. Absolute location refers to a specific spot on the planet's surface. For example, Louisiana's State Capitol is at 900 North Third Street in Baton Rouge. Relative location explains where a place is in relation to another place or other places. For example, the Louisiana State Capitol is located between Capitol Lake and Capitol Park. If you tell someone the street address of your home, you have said the absolute location of your home. If you say your home is located across the street from the park, you have given the relative location of your home.

### Longitude and Latitude

Geographers use a grid system of lines called latitude (horizontal lines) and longitude (vertical lines) to show the absolute location of a specific place. Lines of latitude (called parallels) measure a location's distance north or south of the equator. Lines of longitude (called meridians) measure how far east or west a location is from the prime meridian (in Greenwich, England). On the earth's surface, there are approximately sixty-nine miles between each degree of longitude or latitude (divide the earth's circumference, approximately 25,000 miles, by 360 degrees to get slightly more than sixty-nine miles). However, as you move north or south of the equator, the distance between the lines of longitude gets shorter until the lines actually meet at the poles. At forty-five degrees north or south of the equator, one degree of longitude equals about forty-nine miles.

To locate a specific point between lines of longitude or latitude, geographers divide degrees of longitude and latitude into minutes (') and seconds ("). There are sixty minutes in each degree and sixty seconds in each minute. Seconds are also divided into smaller units.

### Louisiana's Absolute Location

Louisiana's absolute location is between 28° 55' N and 33° N and between 89° W and 94° W, which means that Louisiana stretches from twenty-eight degrees fifty-five minutes north latitude (the southernmost boundary) to thirty-three degrees north latitude (the northernmost boundary) and from eighty-nine degrees west longitude (easternmost boundary) to ninety-four degrees west longitude (westernmost boundary).

### Activity: Louisiana Boundaries

1. Use Google Maps, <http://maps.google.com/>, to find the lines of latitude and longitude that mark all or part of the boundaries between Louisiana and Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, and Louisiana and Arkansas. Draw those lines on the map provided. Label the lines of latitude and longitude and the states they divide.
2. Use Google Maps to find the other lines of latitude and longitude that mark Louisiana's absolute location. Draw and label those lines on the map.
3. Can you describe Louisiana's relative location in terms of the states and water boundaries that surround the state?



### Resources

- Longitude and Latitude Finder: [http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/latitude\\_and\\_longitude\\_finder.htm](http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/latitude_and_longitude_finder.htm)
- Louisiana Cities List: <http://citylatitudelongitude.com/LA/index.htm>
- Download Google Earth, <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>, to "fly" to destinations in Louisiana and to view lines of latitude and longitude

# LESSON: INFLUENTIAL FIGURES TRADING CARDS

GLEs– Grade Eight: 65, 66, 72, 73;  
Grade Three: 53; ELA Grade Eight:  
9, 40, 41

## Overview

Students develop trading cards that illustrate and identify influential figures in Louisiana’s colonial history. This activity can be used to identify significant figures from any historical period.

## Directions

1. Ask students to work in pairs and select from the Influential Figures list an individual for whom they will create a trading card.
2. Ask students to write their notes as if they are that person, or are quoting that person, in reference to the causes, effects, or impact of a historical event that occurred in Louisiana during that person’s lifetime.
3. Have each pair of students present their trading cards to the class.

The trading card should include

- A picture of the individual
- Contributions made by the individual
- How this individual influenced or changed the course of Louisiana’s history

## Influential Figures: Louisiana Exploration and Colonization

1. Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle
2. Henri de Tonti
3. Pierre le Moyne, sieur d’Iberville
4. Jean Baptiste le Moyne, sieur de Bienville
5. Antoine Crozat
6. Louis Juchereau de St. Denis
7. Antoine de Lamothe, sieur de Cadillac
8. John Law
9. Jean-Jacques-Blaise d’Abbadie
10. Antonio de Ulloa
11. Charles Philippe Aubry
12. Alejandro O’Reilly
13. Luis de Unzaga Amezaga
14. Bernardo de Galvez
15. Esteban Rodriguez Miro
16. Francois-Louis Hector, Baron de Carondelet et Noyelles
17. Don Andre Almonester y Roxas
18. Etienne de Bore

## TRADING CARD TEMPLATE

### Trading Card Front

A rectangular box representing the front of a trading card. It features a dashed border. Inside the box, the text "TITLE HERE" is centered at the top, and "Picture Here" is centered below it.

### Trading Card Back

A rectangular box representing the back of a trading card. It is empty except for the text "Information Here" centered within the box.

## ACTIVITY: LOS ADAES

GLEs—Grade Eight: 2, 6, 8, 64, 70; Grade Three: 47, 51; ELA Grade Eight: 9, 40, 41

### Overview

Built on the edge of the Spanish empire, Los Adaes served as the capital of the Province of Texas for forty-one years. Los Adaes was a place of rare cooperation among the Spanish, the French, and the Caddo Indians. Los Adaes is a state historic site operated by the Office of State Parks within the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.

### Directions

1. Los Adaes Interactive. Explore the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's Los Adaes interactive to learn about life in an eighteenth century Spanish colonial outpost, <http://www.crt.state.la.us/siteexplorer/>.
2. Los Adaes Satellite Imagery. Use Google Maps, <http://maps.google.com/>, to view a satellite image of the Los Adaes site. Enter the GPS coordinates in the search blank. View the satellite image. Zoom in to see the terrain, and zoom out to locate related historical sites.
  - Los Adaes Coordinates: N31.7084996, W93.2932262
  - Zoom out to locate the Sabine River, Natchitoches, and the Red River
  - 3. Extension: Visit the French Fort St. Jean Baptiste at the following coordinates: N31.752328, W93.088124.



## ACTIVITY: EXPLORING THE LOUISIANA TERRITORY

GLEs— Grade Eight: 2, 3, 4, 6, 65, 70, 71, 73; Grade Three: 5, 47; ELA Grade Eight: 9, 40, 41

### Overview

In order to claim its new territory with authority, the United States first had to explore and then populate it. Students will develop a map and chart showing three major early nineteenth century explorations of the Louisiana Territory.

### Internet Resources

- Jefferson's letter to Lewis: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jefferson/168.html>
- Investigate the Corps of Discovery: <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>; [www.lewisandclarktrail.com/](http://www.lewisandclarktrail.com/)
- Pike-The Real Pathfinder: <http://zebulonpike.org/>
- Freeman-Custis Expedition: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/F/FR019.html>

### Directions

1. Ask students to develop a map and chart that indicate the routes taken by nineteenth century explorers, the areas they claimed, and the importance of their explorations. Explorers: Peter Custis, William Clark, Thomas Freeman, Meriwether Lewis, Zebulon Pike
2. Read President Jefferson's 1803 letter to Meriwether Lewis regarding the Corps of Discovery. What were Jefferson's instructions regarding supplies for the journey, the mission of the journey, and Native Americans?