

# 200 YEARS IN THE MAKING

## 7 Discover Louisiana: Geographic Regions



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**L**ouisiana's geographic regions and diverse environments affect where and how people live.

### ACTIVITY: LOUISIANA RIVERS

#### Overview

Students use research links and the Louisiana Waterways map on page ninety-five to label Louisiana rivers.

#### Consider

Louisiana has almost 5,000 miles of navigable rivers, bayous, creeks, and canals. How do Louisiana's waterways affect the way people live?

### LESSON: LOUISIANA'S GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS MAP

GLEs— Grade Eight: 2, 3,

#### Overview

Natural regions are defined and classified according to relief, soil, vegetation, and climate. Louisiana can be divided into three natural, or geographic, regions (and additional sub-regions). Students will explore Louisiana's geographic regions, using the student instructions sheet on page ninety-six and the map on page ninety-seven to record their information.

#### Student Project

Students will work with their team to explore life in one of Louisiana's geographic regions, preparing a presentation to share with their peers. Students will use the completed Geographic Regions map and chart and the Office of Tourism's Louisiana Destinations site, <http://www.louisianatravel.com/destinations>, to explore how Louisiana's geography affects life in their selected region.

# LOUISIANA WATERWAYS

## Student Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Louisiana has almost 5,000 miles of navigable rivers, bayous, creeks, and canals.

### Directions

Use the Internet sites below to locate the following waterways and label them on the map provided. Prepare a key, or legend, that identifies the symbols you use.

Louisiana Map Database: <http://geology.com/state-map/louisiana.shtml>

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

1. Mississippi River
2. Boeuf River
3. Red River
4. Ouachita River
5. Atchafalaya River
6. Sabine River
7. Pearl River
8. Toledo Bend
9. Lake Maurepas
10. Lake Pontchartrain
11. Lake Borgne

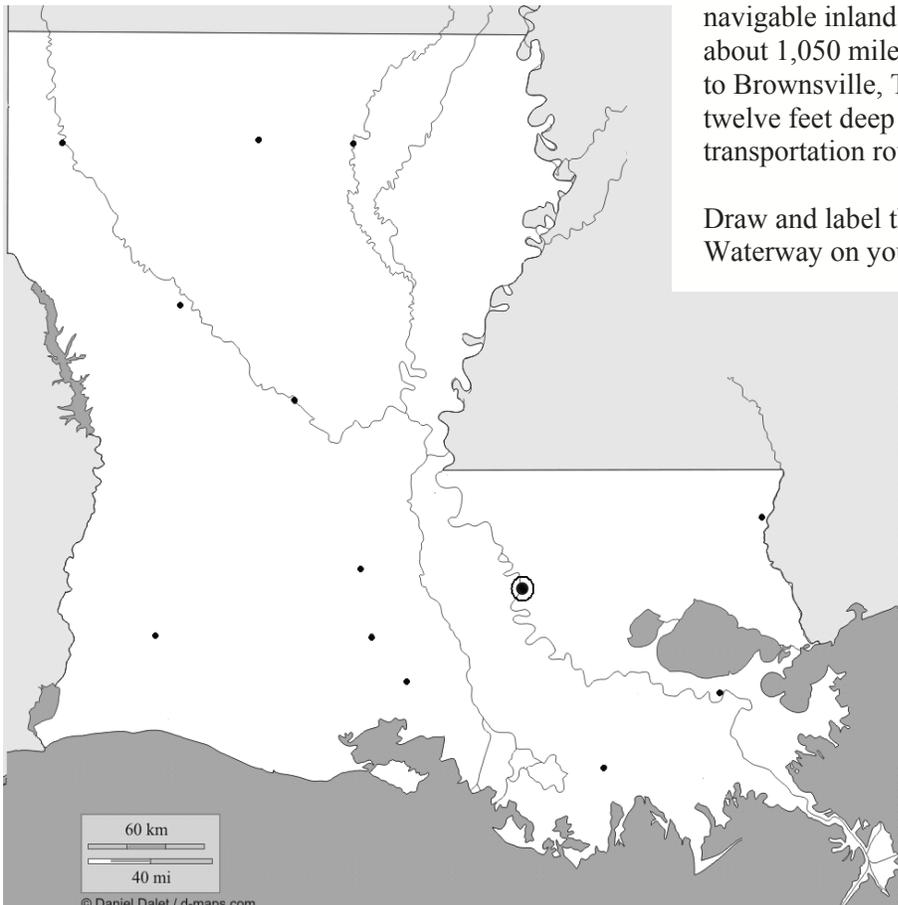
### MAP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Use the map database to add other rivers and waterways to your map.

### Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is a navigable inland waterway that stretches for about 1,050 miles from Carrabelle, Florida to Brownsville, Texas. The waterway is twelve feet deep and serves as an inland transportation route for barge traffic.

Draw and label the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway on your map.



### Map Legend

# LOUISIANA GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

## *Student Instruction Sheet*

### Student Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Louisiana can be divided into three geographic land areas.

1. The **East Gulf Coastal Plain** lies to the east of the Mississippi River north of Lake Pontchartrain. The land is low and consists of marshland near the river. The land rises slightly in the north to rolling hills.
2. The **Mississippi Alluvial Plain** stretches along the Mississippi River from Arkansas in the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south. Located along the river, this area is characterized by ridges of land and areas of lower elevation (hollows). The Mississippi Delta covers about 13,000 square miles (about twenty-five percent of Louisiana) and consists of silt deposited by the river. The Mississippi Delta is the most fertile area of Louisiana.
3. The **West Gulf Coastal Plain** lies west of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain. In the south, along the gulf, are barrier beaches. Behind the barrier beaches are marshes that extend about twenty miles north into the interior of Louisiana. To the north of the marshlands are the Louisiana Prairies, characterized by a gently rolling landscape. The land gradually rises in the north, toward Arkansas. The highest point in Louisiana, Driskill Mountain, is only about forty miles from the Arkansas state line.

### Internet Resources:

- Louisiana Map Database: <http://geology.com/state-map/louisiana.shtml>
- Google Maps: <http://maps.google.com/>
- Louisiana Folk Regions: [http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Maps/creole\\_maps\\_subregions.html](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Maps/creole_maps_subregions.html)

### Directions

1. Geographic Regions: Use the narrative located at the top of this page and the Louisiana Geographic Regions map, page ninety-seven, to locate Louisiana's three geographic regions. Use a different colored pencil to shade each region on the map. Provide a legend, or color code.
2. Locate each of the following on your map:
  - Mississippi River
  - Driskill Mountain
  - Gulf of Mexico
  - Arkansas
  - Lake Pontchartrain
3. Sub-regions: Use the Louisiana Folk Regions map ([http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Maps/creole\\_maps\\_subregions.html](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Maps/creole_maps_subregions.html)) to locate the major sub-regions of Louisiana. Label each sub-region on the map.
  - Hill Parishes
  - Delta Parishes
  - Terrace
  - Flatwoods
  - Prairies
  - Coastal Marsh
  - Red River Valley

# LOUISIANA GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS MAP

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

## Directions

Prepare a map indicating Louisiana's Geographic Regions. Develop a map legend that explains the symbols and colors you use.

## MAP LEGEND

