

Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Presentations, Quick Notes & Internet Activities

Teacher Notes and Answer Keys

Chapter 1: Louisiana's Geography

Summary:

In this lesson, students will explore websites to learn the location of their state and community using absolute and relative location. Students will also gather information related to the climate of Louisiana.

Duration: 45-90 minutes

Notes:

- Check to see that all students have access to the correct website.
- Don't rush the exploration of the maps on this site. Give students an opportunity to explore the information about their area.
- For item 5, the website may display your school's latitude and longitude in decimal form and in degrees, minutes, seconds. This will give you the opportunity to discuss that coordinates can be shown using the decimal system (DEC) or in the traditional degrees, minutes, seconds format (DMS). The school shown in the example is located at latitude is $34^{\circ}40'2''$ N and longitude $93^{\circ}44'45''$ W.
- The graphs selected for the Climate section are good practice for students. They require students to study them a bit in order to understand what the graphs show. If necessary, you may want to examine one as a group and discuss its principal parts in detail. The black line, for instance, is the mean (e.g. mean temperature). The red lines show the record maximum and the blue lines show the record minimum. Make sure students notice that there is a link at the bottom with data about the daily percent chance of sun and precipitation.
- Extension Question for Climate section: Explain that a national bike race company wants to have a race in Louisiana. They want to choose a location and time of year that would have the best chance of a temperature above 60° , not too hot, and little chance of rain. Using the weather stations' data, have students write a proposal to have the company choose an area near one of the weather stations and suggest a month that best matches the company's needs.

Answer Key:

1. Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas
2. Sample: Louisiana is west of Mississippi and south of Arkansas. It is east of Texas.
3. Answers vary but should include another location and your county's location relative to it.
4. Answers will be specific to your school's location. (SAMPLE: Webster, Bienville, Red River, Caddo)

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5. Answers will vary depending on your school's location. (SAMPLE: Bossier parish is west of Webster and Bienville parishes, north of Red River, and east of Caddo.)

6.

<i>Cultural Feature</i>	<i>Latitude (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds)</i>	<i>Longitude (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds)</i>
answers will be specific to your school's location	answers will be specific to your school's location	answers will be specific to your school's location
answers will vary	answers will vary	answers will vary
answers will vary	answers will vary	answers will vary
answers will vary	answers will vary	answers will vary

7. Answers will vary. An example would be: *Absolute location is needed if you are landing a plane. You don't want to just be close to the runway, you need to be right on it! Or, one might use relative location for giving a friend directions to a meeting place in town; an Army soldier firing a missile would be better served to use absolute location in order to hit the target.*

8.

	<i>Weather Station Nearest My House: (list station)</i>	<i>Another Louisiana Weather Station: (list station)</i>
	answers will be specific to your school's location	answers will be specific to your school's location
<i>Maximum Temperature (°F)</i>	answers will vary	answers will vary
<i>Minimum Temperature (°F)</i>	answers will vary	answers will vary
<i>Average Snowfall (in.)</i>	answers will vary	answers will vary
<i>Average Rainfall (in.)</i>	answers will vary	answers will vary
<i>Usual Coldest Month</i>	answers will vary	answers will vary
<i>Usual Warmest Month</i>	answers will vary	answers will vary

Finished Early? This section allows student exploration of the maps. Encourage students to consider when one map would be appropriate to use as opposed to another. Written responses should include an explanation of student's thinking.