

Chapter 15

Louisiana from 1972 to the Present: The Edwards Era and Beyond

Pages 400-427

Section 1

New Voters and Political Change in the Edwards Era

Pages 404-413

Section 2

Contemporary Governors

Pages 414-419

Section 3

Continuity and Change in Contemporary Louisiana

Pages 420-425

Chapter Review

Pages 426-427

Discussion

Write the name of the chapter, “Louisiana from 1972 to the Present: The Edwards Era and Beyond” on an overhead or Smart Board. Ask students: Can you identify major events in your lifetime that you anticipate reading about in this chapter?

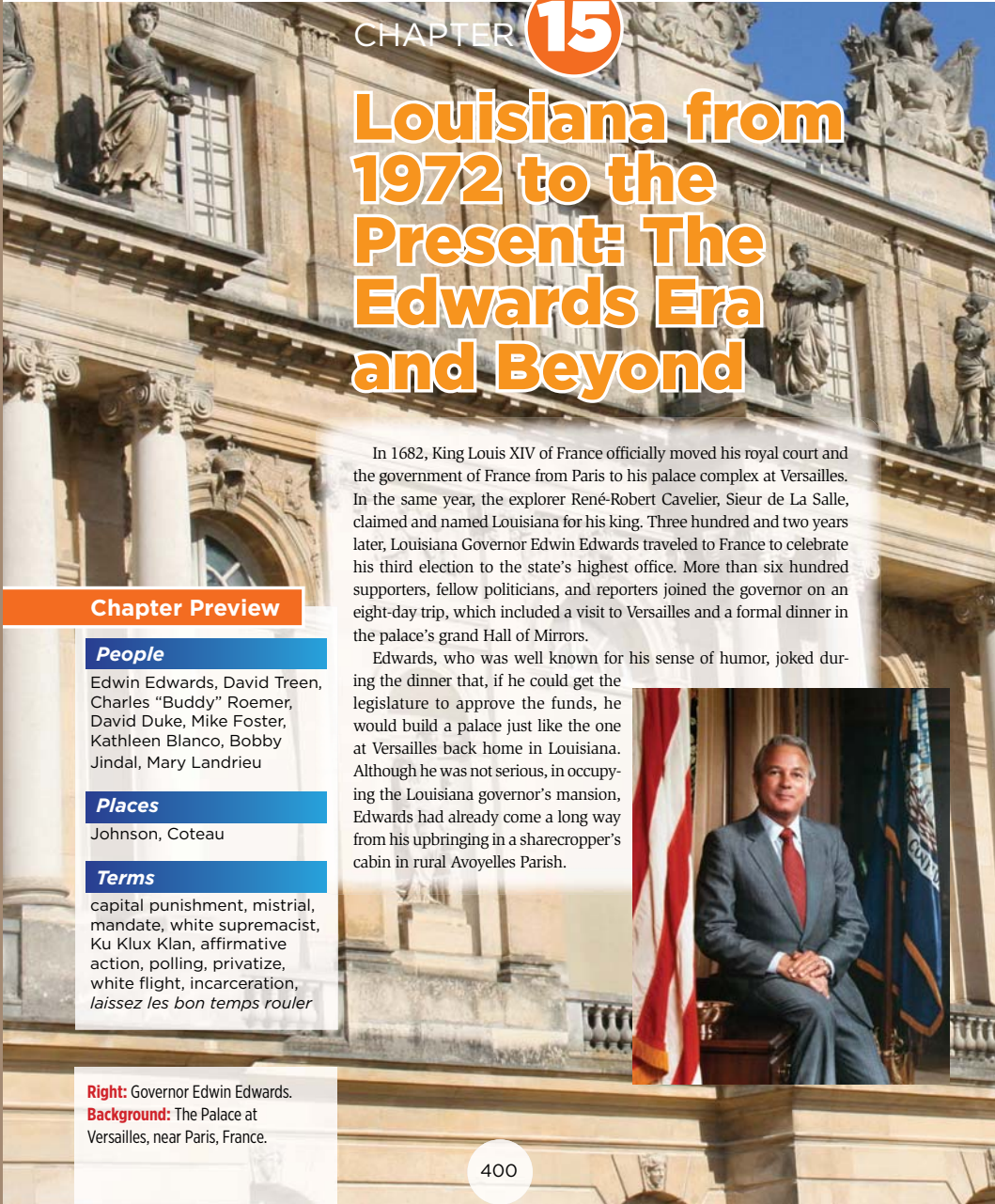
Using Reading Skills: Organizing Information

Instruct students to note every “first” discussed in this chapter.

Using Geography Skills: Political Geography

Project a map of Louisiana's parishes on a screen or Smart Board, such as the one found at this website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laliving/lamap.jpg. Ask students to locate Avoyelles Parish.

T400



CHAPTER 15

Louisiana from 1972 to the Present: The Edwards Era and Beyond

In 1682, King Louis XIV of France officially moved his royal court and the government of France from Paris to his palace complex at Versailles. In the same year, the explorer René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, claimed and named Louisiana for his king. Three hundred and two years later, Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards traveled to France to celebrate his third election to the state's highest office. More than six hundred supporters, fellow politicians, and reporters joined the governor on an eight-day trip, which included a visit to Versailles and a formal dinner in the palace's grand Hall of Mirrors.

Edwards, who was well known for his sense of humor, joked during the dinner that, if he could get the legislature to approve the funds, he would build a palace just like the one at Versailles back home in Louisiana. Although he was not serious, in occupying the Louisiana governor's mansion, Edwards had already come a long way from his upbringing in a sharecropper's cabin in rural Avoyelles Parish.

Chapter Preview

People
Edwin Edwards, David Treen, Charles “Buddy” Roemer, David Duke, Mike Foster, Kathleen Blanco, Bobby Jindal, Mary Landrieu

Places
Johnson, Coteau

Terms
capital punishment, mistrial, mandate, white supremacist, Ku Klux Klan, affirmative action, polling, privatize, white flight, incarceration, *laissez les bon temps rouler*

Right: Governor Edwin Edwards.
Background: The Palace at Versailles, near Paris, France.

400

Notes

In Other Words

gondola—a vehicle that hangs from a cable and is used for carrying passengers

module—an independently operable unit that is a part of the total structure of a space vehicle

Engagement

Ask students to make an acrostic by identifying words they associate with the Twin Towers. For example:

TERRORISM
WORLD TRADE CENTER
INFERNO
NEW YORK CITY
TRAGEDY
OSAMA BIN LADEN
WAR ON TERROR
EXTREMISM
REMEMBRANCE
SORROW

Conducting Research

Have students go online (the NASA website would be a good start) and find out the latest information about space exploration by the United States and other countries. What have been the highlights of space exploration in the past year?

Using the Internet

The website http://content.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1636836_1721987,00.html has an interesting slide show of the history of the cell phone. Even this website is out of date, as cell phone technology changes so quickly!

Signs of the Times



Architecture

The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City were the world's tallest buildings when they were completed in 1972 and 1973. Their destruction in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, shocked the world.

Entertainment

In 1984, 100 years after the World Cotton Centennial, New Orleans hosted another World's Fair. Called the Louisiana World Exposition, it had a theme of "The World of Rivers—Fresh Waters as a Source of Life." Its prime attraction was a gondola ride that crossed the Mississippi River 200 feet in the air. The fair's mascot was a comical pelican named Seemore D. Fair. Unfortunately, attendance problems caused the exposition to lose money, and it went bankrupt during its six-month run.

Exploration

NASA's space shuttle program began with the launch of *Columbia* in 1981 and ended with the last flight of *Atlantis* in 2011.

America's exploration of Mars began with the landing of a *Viking* module in 1976. The first two Mars Exploration Rovers, *Spirit* and *Opportunity*, landed on the planet in 2004. A larger, more advanced Rover named *Curiosity* landed on Mars in 2012.

The *Cassini* spacecraft, launched by NASA in 1997, reached Saturn in 2004 and began sending back amazing pictures of the ringed planet and its moons. The *Juno* spacecraft, launched in 2011, will reach Jupiter in 2016.

Inventions

Personal computers were introduced in the 1970s and soon became essential devices in many households. Cellular telephones, when introduced in the 1970s, were large and bulky.

Today's smaller, sleeker smart phones have many more functions than those early computers and cellular phones combined. The way we read books and other materials changed in 2007 when the first Kindle e-reader was launched.

Literature

Ernest J. Gaines set most of his stories in Pointe Coupee Parish, where he was born into a sharecropper's family. *A Lesson before Dying* won the 1993 National Book Critics Circle Award. That novel, along with *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Gathering of Old Men*, have been made into TV movies.

Louisianians of all ages were caught up in the Harry Potter novels by British writer J. K. Rowling when they began publication in 1997. The final book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was published in 2007.

Military Actions

The Vietnam War, which had involved American troops for many years, ended in 1975. In "Operation Desert Storm" (1991), a U.S.-led coalition defeated Iraqi forces that had invaded the country of Kuwait. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the U.S. launched "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan. The U.S. invaded Iraq in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" in 2003.

Music

In 1996, Jazz at Lincoln Center, co-founded by Wynton Marsalis, was installed as a permanent part of Lincoln Center in New York City, of equal status with the center's classical music and ballet divisions. Wynton, an award-winning jazz and classical trumpeter, was born into a talented New Orleans musical family. Father Ellis is a pianist, and brother Branford is a well-known jazz saxophonist. Brothers Jason and Delfayo are also gifted musicians.

402

Notes

Section 1

New Voters and Political Change in the Edwards Era

INTRODUCE

Outline

- A. A New Constitution
- B. Edwin Edwards as Governor, 1972-1980
- C. The Open Primary
- D. David Treen as Governor, 1980-1984
- E. The Return of Edwin Edwards
- F. Edwin Edwards as Governor, 1984-1988
- G. The Roemer Revolution
- H. The 1991 Election
- I. Governor Edwards's Fourth Term
- J. The End of an Era

Materials

Textbook, pages 404-413
 Student Workbook
 Teacher Tech DVD
 Lesson Plan
 Guided Reading, 15-1
 mystatehistory.com
 Online Textbook

Bellringer

In the 1971 Democratic Primary, Edwin Edwards finished first in a field of seventeen candidates. In the runoff, Edwards narrowly defeated J. Bennett Johnston Jr. 584,262 to 579,774. Have students determine the margin of Edwards's victory. ($584,262 - 579,774 = 4,488$ votes or less than $1/2$ of 1 percent)

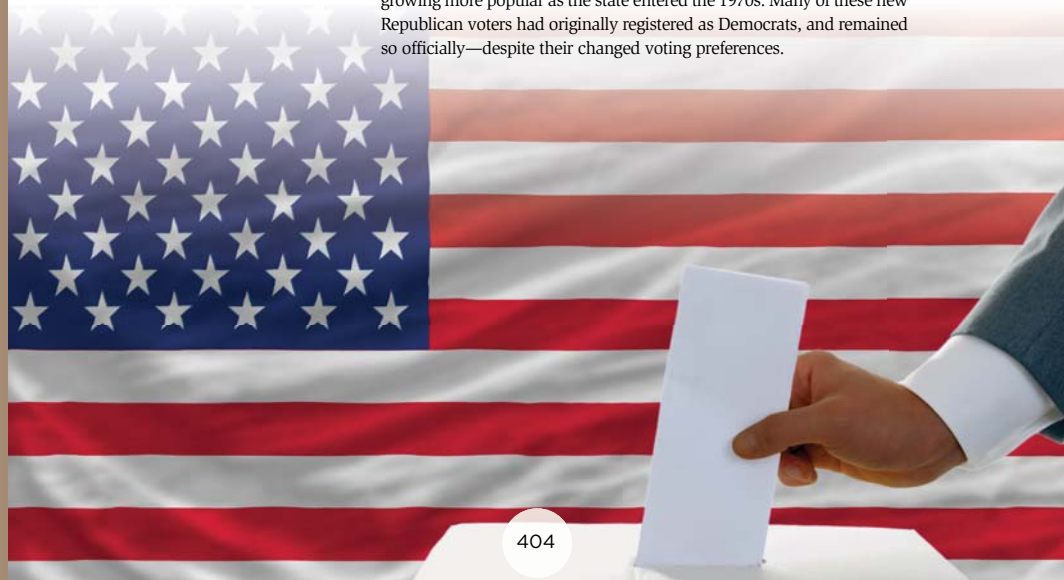
Section 1

New Voters and Political Change in the Edwards Era

As you read, look for

- ▶ accomplishments and controversies of Edwin Edwards's four terms as governor;
- ▶ approval of a new state constitution in 1974 and the shrinking of state government;
- ▶ the rise of the Republican Party in Louisiana;
- ▶ terms: capital punishment, mistrial, mandate, white supremacist, Ku Klux Klan, affirmative action.

By the time Governor John McKeithen's second term ended, the state had begun a period of political realignment. Edwin Edwards was able to attract many of the state's newly registered African American voters. Combining that with his appeal among Acadian voters, he won his first election to the governor's office with 57 percent of the vote. David Treen, the Republican challenger, lost but did manage to attract more than 40 percent of the votes cast. This suggested that the Republican Party was growing more popular as the state entered the 1970s. Many of these new Republican voters had originally registered as Democrats, and remained so officially—despite their changed voting preferences.



404

Social Studies Standard 1—Historical Thinking Skills

Students use information and concepts to analyze, interpret, and draw conclusions from historical events.

8.1.1 Produce clear and coherent writing for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences by:

- Conducting historical research
- Evaluating a broad variety of primary and secondary sources
- Determining the meaning of words and phrases from historical texts
- Recognizing varied points of view within historical context

8.1.2 Construct and interpret a timeline of key events in Louisiana history and describe how they connect to United States and world events

A New Constitution

Edwin Edwards came into office pledging to reform the way the state did business. One of his highest priorities was to propose a new state constitution. Nearly everyone agreed that the Constitution of 1921 had many problems, not the least of which were the 536 amendments that had been added in its fifty-year history. By the early 1970s, voters had become disgusted by the many complex amendments they were regularly asked to consider. They began to feel that the amendments generally favored narrow special interests rather than the state's people. Many voters began to vote "No" to all the amendments on the ballot. In 1970, for example, voters rejected all fifty-three amendments that were offered for their consideration.

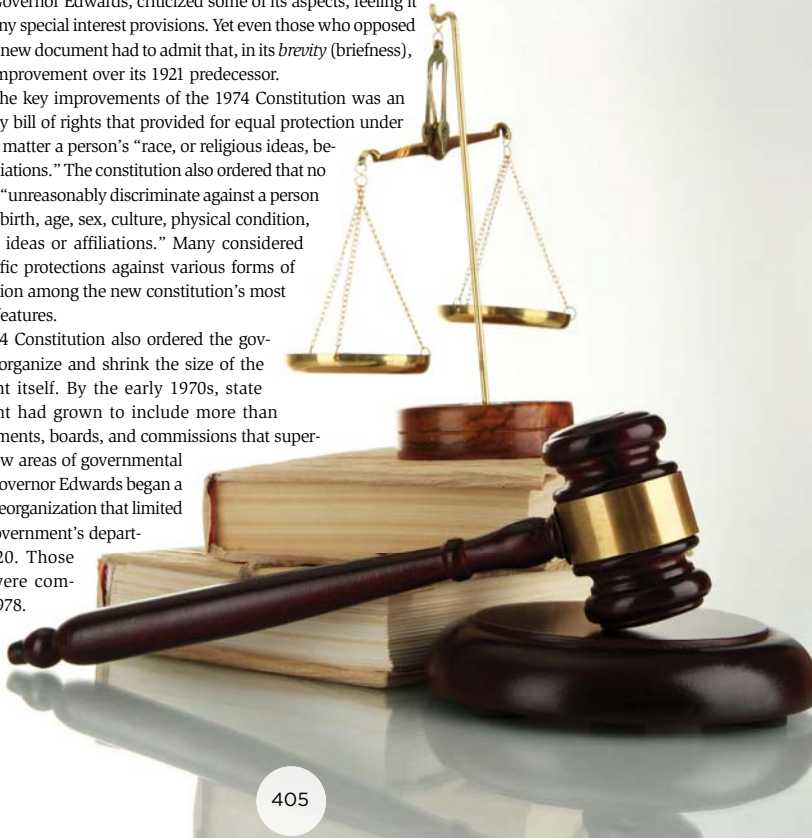
Recognizing the public's desire for reform, Edwards called for a constitutional convention. Its mix of elected and appointed delegates gathered in Baton Rouge for a convention that continued for most of 1973. When the new constitution went to the voters for approval in 1974, it passed by a large margin. Even the strongest supporters of the new constitution, including Governor Edwards, criticized some of its aspects, feeling it had too many special interest provisions. Yet even those who opposed parts of the new document had to admit that, in its *brevity* (briefness), it was an improvement over its 1921 predecessor.

One of the key improvements of the 1974 Constitution was an introductory bill of rights that provided for equal protection under the law, no matter a person's "race, or religious ideas, beliefs, or affiliations." The constitution also ordered that no law should "unreasonably discriminate against a person because of birth, age, sex, culture, physical condition, or political ideas or affiliations." Many considered these specific protections against various forms of discrimination among the new constitution's most important features.

The 1974 Constitution also ordered the governor to reorganize and shrink the size of the government itself. By the early 1970s, state government had grown to include more than 260 departments, boards, and commissions that supervised narrow areas of governmental function. Governor Edwards began a process of reorganization that limited the state government's departments to 20. Those changes were completed in 1978.

Lagniappe

By the time it was replaced in 1974, the Louisiana Constitution of 1921, with its 536 amendments, had grown to nearly 1,000,000 words. By contrast, the U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, still has fewer than 8,000 words, including its 27 amendments.



405

Did You Know?

The convention that drafted the 1974 Louisiana State Constitution was composed of 144 delegates—122 elected by the voters and 22 appointed by Governor Edwards. The delegates included 10 women and 12 African Americans.

Engagement

Invite students to guess how many times the 1974 Louisiana State Constitution has been amended. (*175 amendments at last count*)

Discussion

Share with your students Article I, Section 1, of the 1974 Louisiana State Constitution, which reads as follows:

All government, of right, originates with the people, is founded on their will alone, and is instituted to protect the rights of the individual and for the good of the whole. Its only legitimate ends are to secure justice for all, preserve peace, protect the rights, and promote the happiness and general welfare of the people. The rights enumerated in this Article are inalienable by the state and shall be preserved inviolate by the state.

Ask students: According to this section, what is the purpose of government? Where does the government get its power?

Social Studies Standard 2—Key Events, Ideas and People

Students analyze how the contributions of key events, ideas, and people influenced the development of modern Louisiana.

8.2.9 Describe the Civil Rights movement in Louisiana and analyze how it changed the course of Louisiana history

Higher Level Thinking

Share with your students the average price per barrel of oil during Edwin Edwards first two terms as governor:

Annual Average Domestic Crude Oil Price (per barrel)

1972	\$ 3.60
1973	\$ 4.75
1974	\$ 9.35
1975	\$12.21
1976	\$13.10
1977	\$14.40
1978	\$14.95
1979	\$25.10
1980	\$37.42

Ask students: How much had the average annual price of domestic crude oil increased from the beginning of Edwards's first term to the end of his second term? (\$33.82) How would the increase in oil prices impact Louisiana's tax revenue?

Discussion

Eugene Schlossberger, a professor at Louisiana State University, once observed: "Politics plays the role in Louisiana that TV wrestling does in the rest of the nation. It is fixed. It is flamboyant. It is surreal. It is our spectator sport." Ask students: Do Edwin Edwards's first two terms as governor support or refute this quotation? If true, how does this description of Louisiana politics undermine democratic government?

Discussion

Ask students: What is the role of state government? Can an expanding state budget lead to political corruption as in the case of Edwin Edwards?

Edwin Edwards as Governor, 1972-1980



Edwin Edwards had other accomplishments besides the new constitution and governmental reorganization. On the economic front, he lowered taxes for individuals and did away with the state property tax entirely. To make up for those revenues, he raised taxes on corporations as well as on oil and gas. He also changed the way the state calculated its severance tax on crude oil. Previously, the severance tax had been calculated on the basis of how much oil was removed from the ground. This was known as *volume-based* taxation.

Edwards gained approval for a 12.5 percent severance tax that was *value-based*. As oil prices rose, so would the amount of severance tax the state was able to collect. In the era when oil prices were already high and rising, this seemed like a good plan. Throughout the 1970s, the state profited greatly from this change.

In fact, Edwards's first two terms were very good periods for the state economically. The popular governor used the abundant funds in the state treasury to expand social programs and improve health care, education, and transportation. With so much money coming into the treasury, Edwards could expand services without raising taxes on individuals. In his first term, the state budget exceeded \$1 billion for the first time. By the time his second term ended in early 1980, the annual budget had grown to \$4 billion.

There is no question that Governor Edwards accomplished significant things for the state. But concerns were also emerging about the governor's personal finances and the way state business had been conducted. There was an allegation that Edwards had allowed his wife to receive a large cash gift from a Korean lobbyist while Edwards was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Other critics complained that the governor used his influence to help close friends and associates get state contracts under very favorable terms. At the end of his first two terms, two of his closest political associates were charged with crimes and served time in prison. No formal charges were filed against Edwards. Although the 1974 Constitution prevented him from seeking a third consecutive term, it did not prohibit him from running again in the future.



Although there is no state property tax, individual parishes continue to collect property taxes based on the value of a person's home.

Above: Today there are more than four thousand offshore oil rigs off the coast of Louisiana.

406

Higher Level Thinking

Ask students: How many billion dollars did the State of Louisiana spend in its 2013-2014 fiscal year? (*in excess of \$25 billion*) How many times larger is the state budget now than during Edwin Edwards's first term as governor? (*25 times larger*) By the end of Edwards's second term? (*6 times larger*)

Engagement

As a class, have students draft an ethical code of conduct for the class and/or for Louisiana's state government. A guide for this activity can be found at this website: www.ethicsweb.ca/codes/coe3.htm.

Gambling also presented opportunities for corrupt activity. Gaming in the form of land-based casinos became legal during Edwards's final term. Edwards pushed hard and won approval in 1992 for the construction of a land-based casino to be built in New Orleans. In the years that followed, federal investigators charged that Edwards had accepted cash payments from people and companies who believed he would help them secure the contracts to build casinos in New Orleans, Shreveport, and Lake Charles.



The End of an Era

Edwards left office for the last time in 1996. Five years later, he was tried on twenty-six federal charges related to accusations of using his office and influence improperly to help friends, associates, and those who paid him bribes to gain state contracts and casino licenses. This time, Edwards was convicted on seventeen of those counts. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, and served eight years before being released in 2011 at the age of 83.

In the end, his legacy was a mixed one, both for himself and for the people of Louisiana. Edwards had risen from a childhood of poverty to become a much beloved governor who did many good things for the people of the state. Despite his conviction for corruption, Edwards was still drawing large audiences of admirers in the years immediately after his release from prison. He also continued to proclaim his innocence and to defend his legacy as the state's most elected and, for many people, most beloved political figure of the twentieth century.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: **mandate**, **white supremacist**, **affirmative action**.
2. Why was it commonly agreed that the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 needed to be replaced?
3. How many terms did Edwin Edwards serve as governor? How was he able to serve that many times when the "term limits" are two terms?

Above: Governor Edwards won approval in 1992 for the construction of a land-based casino in New Orleans. Harrah's New Orleans opened in 1999 on Canal Street near the Mississippi River.

Notes

Did You Know?

The federal prosecutor's star witness in the case against Edwin Edwards was Edward J. DeBartolo Jr., the former owner of the San Francisco 49ers, who testified that he paid a \$400,000 bribe to Edwards in return for a riverboat casino license in New Orleans.

ASSESS

Answers to "Reviewing the Section"

1. A **mandate** is authorization or approval given to an elected official by the voters. A **white supremacist** is a person who believes that the white race is better than all other races and should control all other races. **Affirmative action** is the practice of improving the educational and job opportunities for members of groups that have been discriminated against in the past.

2. The Constitution of 1921 had many problems, not the least of which were the 536 amendments that had been added over fifty years. By the early 1970s, voters were tired of the many complex amendments they were regularly asked to consider. They felt that the amendments generally favored narrow special interests rather than the people of the state at large. A new constitution would help to "clean up" that situation.

3. Edwin Edwards served four terms as governor. He served two consecutive terms from 1972 to 1980. He was not allowed to run for a third term at that time because of term limits. But after he had sat out one election, he again became eligible to run, and he became governor for a third time in 1984. He ran for a fourth term that would have begun in 1988, but he dropped out of the race after the primary. He later ran successfully for a fourth term and served from 1992 to 1996.

Section 2

Contemporary Governors

INTRODUCE

Outline

- A. Mike Foster as Governor, 1996-2004
- B. Kathleen Blanco as Governor, 2004-2008
- C. Bobby Jindal as Governor, 2008-

Materials

Textbook, pages 414-419

Student Workbook

Teacher Tech DVD

Lesson Plan

Guided Reading, 15-2

mystatehistory.com

Online Textbook

Bellringer

Ask students: Should future Louisiana governors be limited to a maximum of two (four-year) terms as governor?

Discussion

Ask students: Do you agree with Mike Foster's assertion that wealthy individuals would be less tempted to engage in corrupt practices while in public office?

Section 2

Contemporary Governors

As you read, look for

- ▶ attempts by Mike Foster to restore dignity to the governor's office;
- ▶ how Kathleen Blanco's response to Hurricane Katrina led to a negative assessment of her term in office;
- ▶ the election of the nation's first Indian American governor;
- ▶ terms: **polling, privatize.**

To date, no governor after 1996 has had the kind of electoral success enjoyed by Edwin Edwards. Nor have the state's most recent governors been quite so colorful in terms of their personalities and public statements. However, for many voters, a more dignified public image seemed to be appealing.

Below: Mike Foster, the grandson of a Democratic governor, won the governor's election in 1995 as a Republican. **Right:** Cleo Fields was runner-up to Mike Foster in the 1995 general election. Fields had become the youngest state legislator ever elected in Louisiana when he won a state Senate seat at age 24. He also served two terms in the U.S. Congress.



Mike Foster as Governor, 1996-2004

Mike Foster was elected governor for a term that began in 1996. Reflecting the view that Edwards had misused his office, Foster promised he would bring fair decision-making back to state government and to the awarding of state contracts. Although his grandfather Murphy Foster had been governor in the late nineteenth century, Mike Foster was not well known when he entered the race. However, he had a history of accomplishment as a state legislator and a solid record of success in business. Foster was wealthy enough to begin his campaign by using his own money. He argued that, because he was already wealthy, he would not be tempted to engage in corruption to enrich himself.



414

Social Studies Standard 2—Key Events, Ideas and People

Students analyze how the contributions of key events, ideas, and people influenced the development of modern Louisiana.

8.2.10 Predict ways in which Louisiana will continue to grow toward economic, cultural, and political diversity in the 21st century

Using the Internet

Have students go to www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/AboutLouisiana/LouisianaGovernors1877-Present/Pages/KathleenBabineauxBlanco.aspx and listen to or read the short biography of Kathleen Blanco. They should make a list of her “firsts” and other accomplishments both before and during her governorship.

Discussion

Do students think Kathleen Blanco was unfairly blamed for the failures in the state’s response to Hurricane Katrina? They can find many sources on the Internet with varying opinions about the suitability of her actions after the hurricane. Remind students that correctly placing the blame for the handling of a crisis is not an exact science.

Using the Internet

The Audubon Aquarium of the Americas website is www.auduboninstitute.org/visit/aquarium. Share with your students this video (4:11), “The Real Wild Animals of New Orleans,” as found at this website: <http://vimeo.com/75486876>.

Middle: After defeating Bobby Jindal in the 2003 governor’s race, Kathleen Blanco served one term as governor from 2004-2008.

Kathleen Blanco as Governor, 2004-2008

Like Edwin Edwards, Kathleen Blanco came from the Acadian region of the state. She was born in Coteau in 1943. She worked briefly as a teacher, married in 1964, and had six children. Blanco and her husband ran a successful small business that did research and **polling** (questioning persons to obtain information or opinions). She decided to enter electoral politics in the early 1980s. Blanco was elected to the state legislature and to the Public Service Commission before being elected lieutenant governor in 1995. After two terms as lieutenant governor, Blanco ran for governor in 2003. She won a narrow victory over her general election challenger, a Republican U.S. congressman named Bobby Jindal. In the process, she became the first woman elected governor of the state.

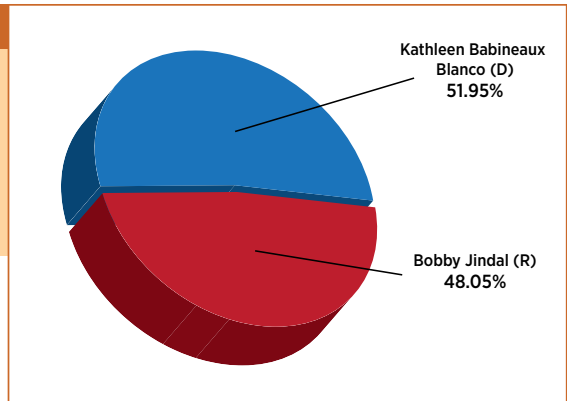


In the first year and a half of her term, Blanco focused on improving educational opportunity and facilities. She also raised salaries for teachers.

However, when Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in late August 2005, local, state, and federal officials were unprepared to deal with the crisis that followed. Blanco disagreed with federal officials about how to handle the response, and this led to her being blamed for a delay in the arrival of federal help.

Lagniappe
Another victim of Hurricane Katrina was the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, which had opened in New Orleans in 1990. Though it was not flooded or damaged by Katrina, loss of electricity killed most of its 10,000 fish. The aquarium reopened nine months later.

Figure 15.3
Louisiana Governor’s Race - 2003
What additional percentage of voters would Jindal have had to win over to earn a majority (50.01%) of votes?



Notes

Section 3

Continuity and Change in Contemporary Louisiana

INTRODUCE

Outline

- A. Population
- B. Education
- C. Poverty and Well Being
- D. Incarceration and Crime
- E. Change, Challenges, and the Future
- F. Economic Diversification
- G. Cultural Diversity

Materials

Textbook, pages 420-425

Student Workbook

Teacher Tech DVD

Lesson Plan

Guided Reading, 15-3

mystatehistory.com

Online Textbook

Bellringer

Ask students: In what ways will your generation advance Louisiana?

Section 3

Continuity and Change in Contemporary Louisiana

Top: New Orleans is still Louisiana's largest city, despite losing population after Hurricane Katrina. By 2013, the city had regained much of its pre-storm population. **Bottom:** Baton Rouge, the state capital, is our second-largest city.

As you read, look for

- ▶ changes in population trends in Louisiana;
- ▶ successes and failures in the field of education;
- ▶ continuing problems with poverty and crime;
- ▶ gains for African Americans and women;
- ▶ hope for the future of our unique state;
- ▶ terms: *white flight*, *incarceration*, *laissez les bon temps rouler*.

Many things have changed in Louisiana since Edwin Edwards first became governor in 1972. Other aspects of life in the Bayou State, including many stubborn social problems, continue to challenge Louisiana's people.

Figure 15.5

Population of Louisiana

What caused the drastic population decline that began in 2005?



Population

Although many people left the state during the oil crisis of the late 1980s, the state's population has continued to grow slowly since then. However, the very low growth rate shows that the state is falling behind other surrounding states in population growth. In the two decades between 1990 and 2010, the state's overall population rose by more than 300,000 people, but the rate of growth dropped from 5.9 percent between 1990 and 2000 to only 1.4 percent between 2000 and 2010.

Social Studies Standard 2—Key Events, Ideas and People

Students analyze how the contributions of key events, ideas, and people influenced the development of modern Louisiana.

8.2.10 Predict ways in which Louisiana will continue to grow toward economic, cultural, and political diversity in the 21st century



People also continued to move to new locations within the state. There was a large shift in population from cities to suburbs that began in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Population experts describe this trend, which followed federally ordered school desegregation, as **white flight** (the movement of white residents from cities to less racially integrated suburban communities). As a result, suburban parishes like St. Tammany outside New Orleans and Ascension near Baton Rouge have experienced very high rates of growth in the last few decades.

As of 2010, New Orleans and Baton Rouge remained the state's two largest cities, followed by Shreveport in third place. In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the population of New Orleans shrank drastically. By 2013, however, the city had regained much of its pre-storm population. While the city remains majority African American, the percentage of African American residents shrank by several percentage points.

Statewide, the percentage of African American population held steady between 2000 and 2010 at 32 percent. Meanwhile, the white population shrank by 1 percent, but remained the state's majority ethnic group at 62.6 percent. The largest area of population growth took place among Hispanics. Many of them migrated to the state after the 2005 hurricanes, seeking work in the booming construction industry. According to the 2012 edition of the *Louisiana Almanac*, the "Hispanic population grew nearly 79 percent to represent 4.2 percent" of the state's population in the 2010 census. Asians make up the remaining 1.5 percent of the state's major population groups.

Education

In the area of education, the state has struggled to improve opportunities and outcomes for students in its public schools. The growth and maintenance of educational facilities suffered during and after the oil crisis of the 1980s. Governors Edwards, Foster, and Blanco all made funding and improving education a high priority, but the state's overall performance continued to compare unfavorably with that of other states.



Above: Decatur Street in the French Quarter is a popular destination for visitors to New Orleans.

421

Using Geography Skills: Political Geography

Project a map of Louisiana's parishes on a screen or Smart Board such as the one found at this website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laliving/lamap.jpg. Ask students to locate Ascension and St. Tammany Parishes.

Building 21st-Century Skills: Pie Chart

Ask students to create a pie chart representing the various ethnic group percentages that comprise Louisiana's current population. Remind students that the entire "pie" represents 100 percent of the population.

Engagement

Place students in heterogeneous groups of three or four students. Allow student groups to select one of the following areas to research as the area relates to Louisiana's present and future: Population Changes, Education, Poverty, Crime and Incarceration, Economic Diversity, and Tourism. Have students compile their research findings into a slide presentation that is shared with the class.

Social Studies Standard 10—Interdependence and Decision Making

Students use economic knowledge and skills to make decisions as individuals, families, groups, or businesses in the interdependent and changing state, nation, and world.

8.10.5 Use a variety of resources to research and present findings about education and training for jobs and careers

Discussion

Ask students: How many of you plan to attend some sort of postsecondary schooling? How are you preparing to be successful for this level of education? How are you going to pay for it?

Developing Writing Skills

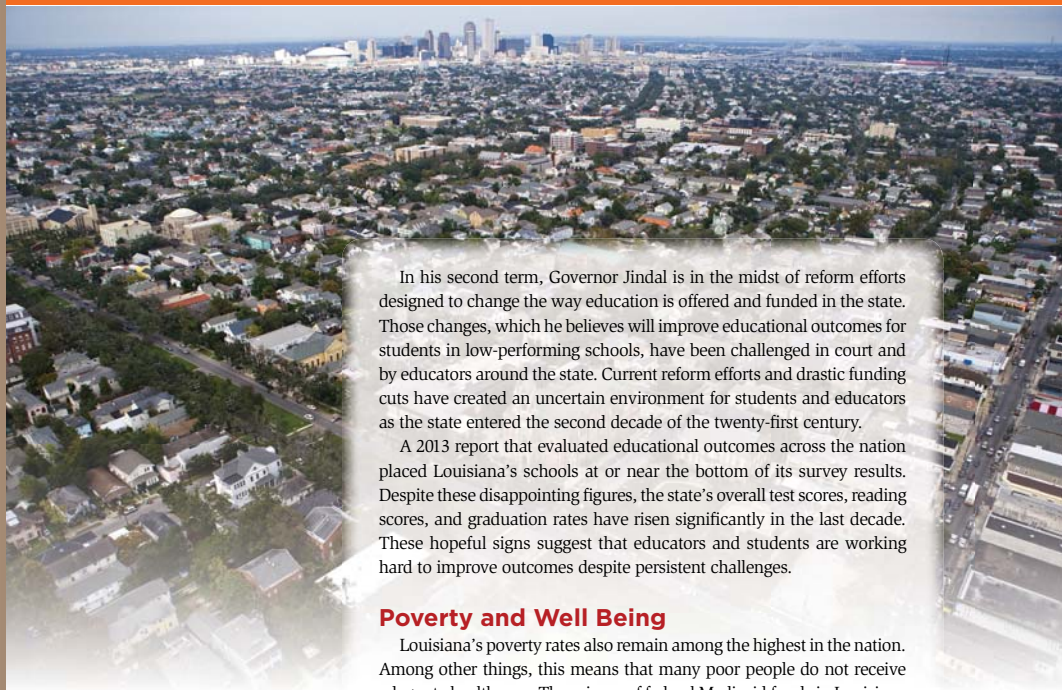
Using your school’s library/media center, have students research jobs and professions that will experience high demand in the next decade. Have each student write an executive summary of a job/profession that interests her or him. The summary should include job training/education required, skills required, licensing (if any), annual income, and anticipated demand.

Discussion

Ask students: What is Louisiana’s rate of incarceration? (867 per 100,000 residents) Does this number surprise you?

Did You Know?

Louisiana has a prison population of approximately 40,000, and the state spends about \$663 million to house, feed, and provide medical care for these inmates.



In his second term, Governor Jindal is in the midst of reform efforts designed to change the way education is offered and funded in the state. Those changes, which he believes will improve educational outcomes for students in low-performing schools, have been challenged in court and by educators around the state. Current reform efforts and drastic funding cuts have created an uncertain environment for students and educators as the state entered the second decade of the twenty-first century.

A 2013 report that evaluated educational outcomes across the nation placed Louisiana’s schools at or near the bottom of its survey results. Despite these disappointing figures, the state’s overall test scores, reading scores, and graduation rates have risen significantly in the last decade. These hopeful signs suggest that educators and students are working hard to improve outcomes despite persistent challenges.

Poverty and Well Being

Louisiana’s poverty rates also remain among the highest in the nation. Among other things, this means that many poor people do not receive adequate health care. The misuse of federal Medicaid funds in Louisiana and other states brought the practice of awarding poor states a disproportionate share of Medicaid funds to an end in the late 1990s. In the years since then, the state has often struggled to fund its public hospitals and health care facilities. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, politicians and health care providers debated about how best to provide health care to the state’s people, particularly its large population of poor citizens. Those questions remain unresolved.

Incarceration and Crime

Criminal activity and violent crime also remain a troubling part of the state’s present reality. Violent crime rates remain very high, and the state’s murder rates are among the highest in the nation, especially in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Louisiana also has the highest rates of **incarceration** (putting people in prison) in the nation. Yet, despite jailing such a high percentage of its population, criminality and violence remain troubling parts of everyday life, particularly in urban areas. Concerns about crime have contributed to the decision of many citizens to move to suburban areas with lower crime rates and more aggressive policing. Within cities, many people have begun to live in gated communities or to pay a special tax for increased police patrols within their neighborhoods.

Top: Aerial view of New Orleans.

Notes

Blank lined area for taking notes.

Change, Challenges, and the Future

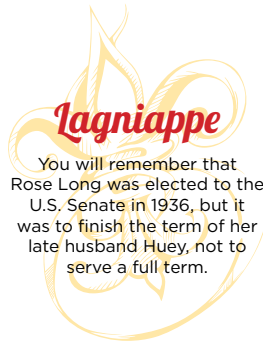
Despite all the bad news, many positive changes have taken place in Louisiana in recent decades. Just as African Americans made social and political gains from the mid-1960s forward, so did the state's women. The 1974 Constitution offered protection from many forms of discrimination. Additionally, the state's head and master laws were ruled unconstitutional and came to an end in 1980. Today, women do not lose their legal rights or independence when they marry. While, on average, women in Louisiana continue to earn far less than men for the same kinds of work, the possibilities to achieve economic success and social equality are higher in the twenty-first century than in any previous time in the state's history.

In contemporary Louisiana, women make up the majority of those who finish high school and enroll in colleges and universities. Women also serve or have served at all levels of state government. Currently, the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court is a woman. Many women serve in the legislature and as municipal mayors or council members. At the federal level, Mary Landrieu was the first woman elected to a full term in the U.S. Senate from Louisiana. She was first elected in 1996, and is running for a fourth six-year term in 2014. While much progress has been made, the number of women who hold public office remains small in comparison to the number of men who serve in elected positions.

Economic Diversification

No matter how much people may love the state, without good jobs Louisiana will continue to lag behind other states. Oil, gas, petrochemicals, and the service industries that support them will continue to play an important role in the state's economy for the foreseeable future. In 2014, Governor Jindal suggested that possible areas for economic growth in the future include "automobile manufacturing, industrial machinery, plastics, rubber products, chemicals," and software.

Tourism is also critical to the state's economy. In 2012, more than 26 million people visited the state and created more than \$10 billion in economic activity. New Orleans is still one of the nation's most popular tourist destinations. Tourism officials are working hard to expand the level of visitation to other areas of the state as well. The many films and television shows made around the state reflect the state's natural beauty and diversity. They also entice people who see the state's many locales to visit them in person. In recent years television shows like *Swamp People* and *Duck Dynasty* have showcased unique cultures in different areas of the state and have drawn large numbers of viewers.



Below: Mardi Gras season in New Orleans lasts from January 6 through "Fat Tuesday," the day before Ash Wednesday.



Did You Know?

In the 2014 Louisiana state legislature, there were eighteen women legislators (fourteen in the House and four in the Senate).

Keeping Up to Date

Have students study the election results for the 2014 U.S. Senate race. Did Mary Landrieu win a fourth term? What were the vote percentages between her and her Republican rival?

Using Creativity

Louisiana has had a number of tourist slogans over the years. The words "Sportsman's Paradise" appeared on license plates for many years. The current slogan of "Pick Your Passion" is displayed all over the state. Have students work in teams to create a new tourist slogan for Louisiana based on their knowledge of our history and culture. After the teams submit their proposals to you in writing, list them on the board (without revealing the creators). Have the class vote on a new slogan for our state.

Did You Know?

The Robertsons, the focus of the television show, *Duck Dynasty*, received the Governor's Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence as a result of the success of Duck Commander, the family-owned business.

Notes

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Answers to “Reviewing the Section”

1. **White flight** is the movement of white residents from cities to less racially integrated suburban communities. **Incarceration** is putting people in prison. **Laissez les bon temps rouler** means “Let the good times roll.” It is often used in connection with Mardi Gras, and it became a slogan of Edwin Edwards.

2. Women now make up the majority of those who finish high school and enroll in colleges and universities. Women serve or have served at all levels of state and local government—as legislators and as municipal mayors and council members. The chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court is a woman, and Mary Landrieu has served as one of Louisiana’s two U.S. senators since 1996.

3. Tourism is critical to the state’s economy. In 2012, more than 26 million people visited Louisiana, creating more than \$10 billion in economic activity. New Orleans is one of the nation’s most popular tourist destinations. To boost the tourism economy, officials are working hard to expand the level of visitation to other areas of the state besides New Orleans. The many films and television shows made in the state entice people to visit the locales and observe the unique cultures depicted in the films and shows.

Engagement

As a whole class activity, ask students to list (and then prioritize) the most positive and negative aspects of living in Louisiana.



Cultural Diversity

Besides having a rich history, beautiful cities and towns to visit, and many different kinds of natural settings to enjoy, the state’s people also continue to preserve historic forms of culture even as they create new ones. Writers, musicians, artists, photographers, chefs, and many other creative people transform life and their experiences in Louisiana into various forms of art. Whether they write novels, paint portraits, take photographs, make music, or cook beautiful meals, Louisiana’s people continue to create and to share cultural riches at a rate that defies the state’s many other negative aspects.

In his third campaign for governor, Edwin Edwards often used the slogan *laissez les bon temps rouler* (“let the good times roll”) to describe the joyous way that many people approach life in Louisiana in good times and bad. The state’s citizens have remained committed to making this very special place home, and making life better in whatever ways make the most sense to them. Often, that has included making art that describes those troubles, or defies them by looking on the bright side and enjoying the present, despite the troubles of the past and the challenges of the future.

It is difficult to make predictions about what Louisiana’s future holds. If the state’s past is any guide, the state will continue to suffer tragedies and will struggle to overcome its longstanding social problems. Its people will also have to confront the ongoing crisis of wetlands loss and coastal erosion. Despite these harsh realities, the state’s people have shown great resilience and a willingness to defend a place and a way of life that, for many of them, is both unique and irreplaceable. While presenting firm answers about what Louisiana’s future holds is impossible, we hope your newfound knowledge of the state’s history will be of use to you. After all, you are likely among the people who will help to shape Louisiana’s future in the decades to come.



Lagniappe

In 2012, the “Spirit of Louisiana” returned to New York. Louisiana had donated a fire truck with that name to New York City to replace a truck that was lost on September 11, 2001. New York returned the equipment to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Louisiana sent the “Spirit” to New York’s Long Island after 2012’s Superstorm Sandy.

Top: George Rodrigue gained fame from his Blue Dog paintings. Right: Louisianians welcome crawfish season each spring.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: white flight, incarceration, laissez les bon temps rouler.
2. What are some of the gains women have made in contemporary Louisiana?
3. How does tourism contribute to Louisiana’s economy? What current and future trends are adding to Louisiana’s success as a tourism destination?

Notes

Special FEATURE

George Rodrigue: The “Blue Dog” Painter

Have you ever seen a painting like this before? If so, you may recognize it as one of the Blue Dog paintings created by one of Louisiana’s most famous artists, George Rodrigue.

Born in 1944, Rodrigue grew up in New Iberia. He discovered his love for art when, at the age of eight, he was confined to bed because of polio. His mother bought him a paint-by-number set, but instead of following the patterns printed on the canvases, Rodrigue painted his own designs. In 1962, Rodrigue attended the University of Southwest Louisiana and later studied at the Art Center College of Design in California.

After finishing school in California, Rodrigue returned to Louisiana armed with an art style that combined the “pop” style of California with the landscapes and people of Louisiana. He created a new category for himself: “Cajun artist.” In 1984, Rodrigue was asked to create a cover illustration for a set of ghost stories called *Bayou*, by Chris Segura. The Blue Dog was the result. It transformed the image of a Cajun werewolf dog, the *loup-garou*, into an international icon!

Rodrigue was a *humanitarian* (a person who does good works to help others) as well as an artist. After the September 11, 2001, attacks and Hurricane Katrina, he donated over \$3 million to humanitarian and arts organizations. In 2009, he founded the Rodrigue Foundation for the Arts to encourage teachers to use art across the curriculum. His foundation also financed scholarships, classroom art supplies, and art education programs. In 2006, Rodrigue was appointed Louisiana’s official artist laureate (honored artist) and received the Lifetime Achievement Arts Award.

Rodrigue was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2011. He died on December 14, 2013, as a result of his illness.

Use the Internet to explore images of his works. Which is your favorite, and why?



425

Notes

In Other Words

polio—a contagious viral illness that can cause paralysis, difficulty breathing, and sometimes death; because of a successful vaccine, there hasn’t been a naturally occurring case in the United States since 1978

“pop” style—art in which bright colors and common objects (such as road signs, hamburgers, comic strips, or soup cans) are used or shown

A Cultural Review

Write the words *Laissez les bon temps rouler*” vertically on the board and have students think of words or phrases that begin with each letter and that relate to some aspect of Louisiana’s history or culture that they have studied this year. Some words might be as follows:

- L** = Louisiana
 - A** = Agriculture
 - I** = Iberville
 - S** = Seafood
 - S** = Sugarcane
 - E** = Edwin Edwards
 - Z** = Zydeco
- etc.

Reading for Fun

The website <http://themoonlitroad.com/cajun-superstitions-spells/> has some Cajun superstitions and spells, including a humorous method for protecting oneself against a loup-garou.

Enjoying Art

Students can look at a variety of George Rodrigue’s paintings, including his famous Blue Dog, at <http://georgerodrigue.com/art/paintings/>.

CHAPTER REVIEW

Content Review: Relay Race

Divide the class into relay teams for a relay race review. Give a clue. Students at the front of each line go to the word wall and swat the correct person, place, event, or vocabulary word.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: New Voters and Political Change in the Edwards Era

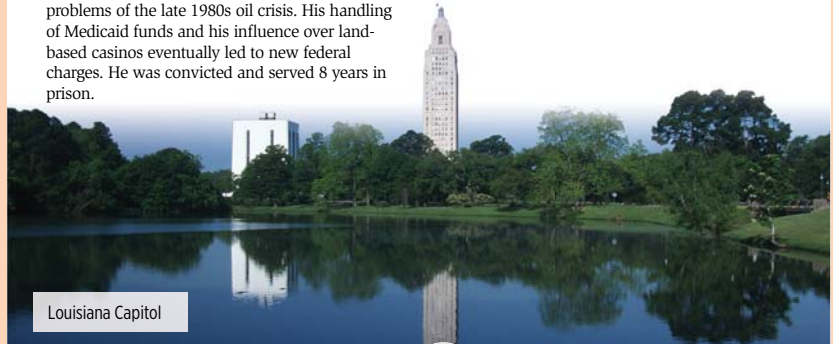
- In 1972, African American and Acadian voters helped Democrat Edwin Edwards win his first term as governor. The Republican Party showed a rise in popularity in this election.
- A 1973 state constitutional convention produced a replacement for the Constitution of 1921. In 1974, voters approved this new constitution.
- Economic reforms backed by Governor Edwards included the elimination of the state property tax, an increase in taxes on corporations and oil and gas, and the change to a value-based severance tax on crude oil.
- Allegations emerged during Governor Edwards's second term regarding his wife's acceptance of gifts and how Edwards influenced the awarding of state contracts.
- In 1979, in the first election using the open primary system, David Treen became Louisiana's first Republican governor since Reconstruction.
- Edwin Edwards's third term was marked by an economic crisis caused by low oil prices. During this term, federal charges brought against Edwards resulted in one mistrial and one not-guilty verdict.
- In the 1991 election, there were lingering suspicions of Edwards's corruption, but also concerns about the racial views of his opponent, David Duke. Edwards won a fourth term handily in the runoff election.
- Governor Edwards faced the lingering economic problems of the late 1980s oil crisis. His handling of Medicaid funds and his influence over land-based casinos eventually led to new federal charges. He was convicted and served 8 years in prison.

Section 2: Contemporary Governors

- Democrat Mike Foster successfully ran for governor as a Republican and served 2 terms, from 1996 to 2004. Governor Foster raised salaries for teachers, upgraded facilities at state universities, and restored dignity to the governor's office.
- In 2003, Kathleen Blanco, a two-term lieutenant governor, became the first woman elected governor of the state. Criticized for her performance after Hurricane Katrina, she did not run again.
- Bobby Jindal became the nation's first Indian American governor in 2008. He has undertaken reforms of the state's educational and health care systems, favoring privatization.

Section 3: Continuity and Change in Contemporary Louisiana

- Between 1990 and 2010, the state's population rose more than 300,000, but the growth rate has slowed.
- As of 2010, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport were our largest cities. There has been a shift in population from cities to suburban parishes, like St. Tammany and Ascension.
- A 2013 report placed Louisiana's schools at or near the bottom in the nation. However, the state's overall test scores, reading scores, and graduation rates have risen significantly in the last decade.
- Louisiana's rates of poverty and incarceration are among the nation's highest.
- In 2012, the 26 million visitors to our state created \$10 billion in economic activity.



Louisiana Capitol

Notes

Activities for Learning

Understanding the Facts



- Which two groups of voters helped Edwin Edwards win his first term as governor?
- What was one of Edwin Edwards's highest priorities during his first term as governor?
- How did Edwin Edwards increase tax revenue?
- Who was the first Louisiana Republican since Reconstruction elected to Congress and the governorship?
- What economic problems did Edwin Edwards face during his third term?
- What activity was legalized while Charles "Buddy" Roemer was governor?
- Who were the two candidates in the 1991 gubernatorial election? What percentage of the vote did each candidate receive?
- How did the state educational system benefit from Mike Foster's two terms as governor?
- Prior to being elected governor, what political offices did Kathleen Blanco hold?
- How did Governor Bobby Jindal attempt to reform the state's educational and health care systems?
- How did Hurricane Katrina affect New Orleans' population?
- Who was the first Louisiana woman elected to a full term in the U.S. Senate?

Developing Critical Thinking



- Louisiana's population increased by 64,396 people from 2000 to 2010. If the population was 4,533,372 in 2010, what was its population in 2000?
- Louisiana's total area is 52,378 square miles. Now calculate Louisiana's population density by using this formula: $\text{Total Population in 2010} \div \text{Total Area} = \text{Population Density}$. (Round up your answer.)

Writing across the Curriculum



Assume you are the author of a biography on Edwin Edwards. Create a title for the biography and design the book jacket. On the front cover, include the title, the author's name, and an illustration. For the front inside cover, write a summary of Edwards's life using facts from this chapter. On the back cover, list the author, title, and an Edwards quotation. On the back inside cover, list your name, date, and class period.

Exploring Louisiana on the Internet



- Go to <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>. Next, click on the "Modify Table" and, then, the downward arrow of the second column, "April 1, 2010 Census." When prompted, click the "OK" button. Your table should now be sorted, so that the Louisiana cities with the largest population are listed at the top. List Louisiana's ten largest cities and their population. How many Louisiana cities have a population exceeding 100,000? Where in Louisiana are most of the largest cities located? What is the largest city or town in your parish?
- Go to www.census.gov/popfinder/. Select "Louisiana" and, then, click "Display." According to the 2010 Census, what are the five racial groups specifically identified in Louisiana? What is the population of each group?

Building 21st-Century Skills: Creating a Concept Map



A concept map is a special form of web diagram that is used to develop an understanding of an important concept and/or to explore relationships between ideas. Major ideas are often represented by a word or short phrase enclosed in a rectangle. Rectangles are connected to other ideas, terms, and descriptive words by arrows. In creating a concept map, you might ask yourself: What are the important people, events, issues, and terms connected with this concept?

In this chapter there are three sections, each involving a major concept. Review Section 1. You will find a description of each of Edwards's four terms as governor including accomplishments, failings, and political opponents in each election, and the major events during his term. There are several other terms mentioned in connection with the Edwards era.

Now, create a concept map diagram incorporating the accomplishments, failings, people, events, and terms from this section while also showing their interconnections.



427

Answers to "Activities for Learning"

Understanding the Facts

- African American and Acadian voters
- One of Edwards's highest priorities was a new state constitution.
- Edwards raised taxes on corporations and oil and gas.
- David Treen
- There was a drastic decline in oil prices. To balance the state budget, Edwards had to lay off many state employees.

Louisiana suffered a severe economic downturn with the highest unemployment rate of any state.

- gambling, or gaming
- Edwin Edwards (61%), David Duke (39%)
- Governor Foster raised salaries for teachers, and he upgraded facilities at the state's universities.
- Kathleen Blanco was a state legislator, a Public Service Commissioner, and lieutenant governor.
- privatization

11. Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, the population of New Orleans shrank drastically. By 2013, however, the city had regained most of its pre-storm population.

12. Mary Landrieu

Developing Critical Thinking

- 4,468,976
- $4,533,372 \div 52,378 = 87$ people per square mile

Writing across the Curriculum

Check students' book jackets.

Exploring Louisiana on the Internet

- New Orleans — 343,829

Baton Rouge — 229,493

Shreveport — 199,311

Lafayette — 120,623

Lake Charles — 71,993

Kenner — 66,702

Bossier City — 61,315

Monroe — 48,815

Alexandria — 47,723

Houma — 33,727
- four, southern Louisiana, and answers will vary.

White — 2,836,192

African American — 1,452,396

Asian — 70,132

American Indian and Alaska Native — 30,579

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander — 1,963

Building 21st-Century Skills

Check students' concept maps.