

Louisiana's Indian Tribes at the Time of the Louisiana Purchase

Designed by:

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Introduction

At the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, there were several Indian tribes living in Louisiana. The following lesson uses first hand accounts and descriptions of the culture of Louisiana Indians living in the Red and Sabine River areas.

Content Area and Grade Levels

This lesson about Louisiana Indian Tribes is anchored in Social Studies and is intended for use by high school students.(grades 9-12)

Curriculum Standards

Louisiana Curriculum Standards to be addressed in this lesson are:

Geography

*G-1B-H2 Analyzing the ways in which physical and human characteristics of places and regions have affected historic events.

*G-1B-H4 Explaining and evaluating the importance of places and regions to cultural identity.

History

*H-1A-H3 Interpreting and evaluating the historical evidence presented in primary and secondary sources.

*H-1A-H5 Conducting research in efforts to analyze historical questions and issues.

Implementation Overview

This lesson can be implemented in conjunction with a unit on the Native American peoples of Louisiana or a unit on the Louisiana Purchase. The primary activity involves student research of primary readings concerning first hand accounts of the Indian tribes living in and around Louisiana's River systems. Students will complete a brief character sketch of each tribe characterized in the digital readings. These accounts are from a message from President Thomas Jefferson to Congress in February of 1806.

Estimated project time: 2-3 one-hour class periods.

Resources needed:

1. Classroom internet access to download primary period information from the LSU Digital Library.
2. Digital file of: United States. President (1801-1809 : Jefferson). *Message from the President of the United States, Communicating Discoveries Made in Exploring the Missouri, Red River and Washita*. (City of Washington, A & G. Way Printers, 1806). Available through the LSU Digital Library at <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/u/?lapur,12573>.

Entry Level Skills and Knowledge

Other than grade level reading and writing skills, the student should be familiar with internet research techniques. The student does not need prior knowledge of Louisiana History. He will learn from primary sources in this lesson!

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated as per the following criteria:

1. Did the student follow all teacher directions during the lesson?
2. Did the student create an accurate description of early 19th century Louisiana Indians?
3. Did the student satisfactorily present his findings to the class?

Conclusion

Upon completion of the research project, the teacher takes the lead role in initiating class discussion on the importance of the project. Emphasis should be on the reliability of primary sources in History.