

Becoming a Local Historian
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Grades: K-4

Introduction

In this lesson, students will have an opportunity to become local historians. They will examine a map of the East Baton Rouge area (or a local area) at the time of the Louisiana Purchase, and compare it to a more recent map of the same area.

Content Areas and Grade Levels

Students in primary elementary grades will be able to utilize language arts and social studies skills. This lesson is most applicable for students in 2nd through 4th grades.

Curriculum Standards

Curriculum Standards to be addressed in this lesson are:

Social Studies

- G-1B-E3 Describing how the physical and human characteristics of places change over time
- G-1C-E2 Describing and comparing the types of settlement and patterns of land use in local communities, the United States, and world regions
- G-1C-E3 Describing and explaining the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations
- G-1D-E1 Identifying and explaining ways in which people depend upon and modify the physical environment
- G-1D-E2 Describing how humans adapt to variations in the physical environment
- G-1D-E4 Describing the use, distribution, and importance of natural resources

Language Arts

(among others:)

- ELA-2-E1 Dictating or writing a composition that clearly states or implies a central idea with supporting details in logical, sequential order
- ELA-2-E3 Creating written text using the writing process
- ELA-2-E6 Writing as a response to tests and life experiences
- ELA-5-E1 Recognizing and using organizational features of printed text, other media, and electronic information
- ELA-5-E2 Locating and evaluating information sources

Implementation Overview

This lesson is to be implemented within a unit of study celebrating the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. This particular lesson can take 2-3 class periods of 25-45 minutes each.

Resources Needed

The following materials will be necessary for the implementation of this lesson.

- Map of East Baton Rouge in 1803. See Kneeland, Ira Cook. "East Baton Rouge and the City of Baton Rouge," 1812. Available through the LSU Digital Library at <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/u/?lapur,10346>. (or use navigational map for a local area)
- Map of East Baton Rouge in 2003 (or most recent, local map)
- Observation chart (attached)

Entry Level Skills and Knowledge

Students must have basic map reading skills in order to complete this lesson. They must be able to interpret map symbols; and make verbal or written observations. They must also understand the terminology "transportation"—how people get around (by train, interstate); "land usage"—what the land is used for (farming, industrial, residential purposes); "population"—are there lots of people living here? (how can we tell?); and "business"—what types of businesses we can detect from the map.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on their completed chart. Point values can be assigned to each cell within the chart.

Student Observation Chart

	EBR in 1803	EBR in 2003
Transportation (How do people get around the area?)		
Land Usage (What is the land used for?)		
Population (Estimate the amount of people in the area)		
Business (What types of trading or activities occur in the area?)		