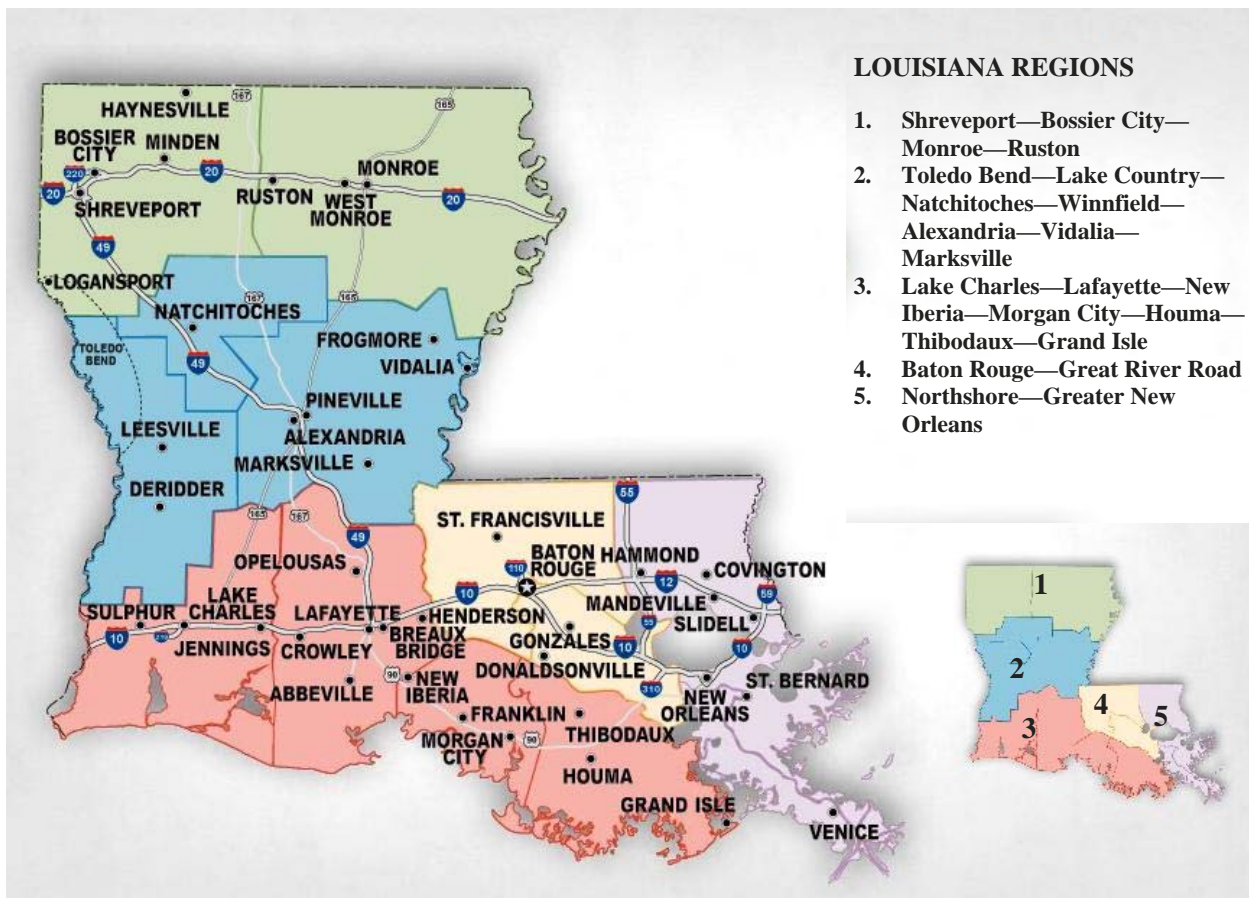# 6 Cities and Towns

In 1812, Louisiana had several important towns that were established by France and Spain during the colonial period (1699-1803); however, some of Louisiana's largest contemporary cities were not established until after Louisiana became a state.

Guiding Questions

1. What factors contribute to the growth of towns and cities?

2. Which major Louisiana cities were established during the French and Spanish colonial period? Which were established in the antebellum period?

3. How do cultural groups affect the development of the cities in which they live?

4. How does your community represent some of the best features of Louisiana?

LOUISIANA REGIONS

1. Shreveport—Bossier City—Monroe—Ruston
2. Toledo Bend—Lake Country—Natchitoches—Winnfield—Alexandria—Vidalia—Marksville
3. Lake Charles—Lafayette—New Iberia—Morgan City—Houma—Thibodaux—Grand Isle
4. Baton Rouge—Great River Road
5. Northshore—Greater New Orleans

New Orleans

Established in 1718 as a French colonial settlement and port, New Orleans by 1812 was one of the most important ports in the United States, as it was essential for exporting goods into and out of the Mississippi Valley. Whereas the city's population stood at 10,000 at the time of statehood, the economic opportunity within the city drew Americans and European immigrants in great numbers so that by1840 the population stood at 102,000. Between 1810 and 1840 the city grew to be the fourth largest in the U.S. and the largest in the South. Today, New Orleans remains one of the country's busiest and most important ports and one of the nation's most distinctive cities for its food, music, architecture, and Carnival celebrations.

Baton Rouge

Founded as the site of a British fort in 1779, Baton Rouge existed as a Spanish colonial settlement from 1779 to 1810, at which point the slave-holding English-speaking residents of West Florida revolted against Spain. The short-lived West Florida Republic, of which Baton Rouge was the westernmost town, was annexed by the U.S. into Louisiana in1812. The city laid out the Spanish Town community for the Spanish-speaking residents of Ascension Parish to settle after 1803. However, Baton Rouge remained a largely rural town and maintained a population of only 2,269 in 1840 and 5,429 by 1860. The city did not experience considerable growth until the coming of the modern petrochemical industries during the twentieth century.

Natchitoches

Louisiana's oldest settlement, founded in 1713, emerged as an important Native American trade center in French colonial Louisiana, and then an important tobacco-growing region under Spanish rule during the 1780s and 1790s. At the time of statehood, Natchitoches' population stood under 2,000 persons, but the settlement contained one of the largest and wealthiest communities of free persons of color in the U.S. After the Red River's main channel was opened to commercial navigation in the 1830s, the port of Natchitoches on the Cane River tributary declined, but the area remained one of the most important cotton-producing regions of the state and home to a unique rural Creole of color community. In the 1990s, the National Park Service designated the Natchitoches-Cane River region as a National Heritage Area because of its distinct Creole culture. Today, the National Park Service operates the two historic Magnolia and Oakland plantations for the public.

Monroe

Originally founded as the Spanish settlement of Fort Miro, the American town was established in 1807 and renamed in 1819 when the first steamboat, *James Monroe*, reached the upper Ouachita River. At the time of statehood, Prairie de Canots, as the settlement was then known, was small but grew in importance with the rise of the cotton industry in the mid-1800s and the lumber industry in the early 1900s.

Alexandria

Originally established as a trade post in the 1780s, Alexandria was officially incorporated in 1819, and emerged as an important cotton and lumber trade center for the lower Red River Valley in the 1800s. The town is the seat of Rapides Parish, named after the historic falls (rapides) on the Red River above the city. In the twentieth century, the growth of military bases in the region brought new economic development. At the time of statehood, it remained a small river trade settlement.

Shreveport

Louisiana's third largest city was founded in 1839 after the upper section of the Red River was opened to steamboat navigation. The city is named for Captain Henry Shreve, of the Army Corps of Engineers, who removed the 180-mile long wood debris field, known as the Great Raft, on the middle Red River and opened the upper river to commercial river vessels in the 1830s. Originally named Shreve Town, the site was purchased from the Kadohadacho band of the Caddo Indians in 1835 and soon grew to be an important trade center and river port. By 1860, the town had 2,200 free persons and 1,300 enslaved persons. With the growth of oil, gas, lumber, and military industries in the twentieth century, Shreveport grew rapidly into the commercial center of the Ark-La-Tex region. Shreveport's modern economy has benefitted from the growth of the film and shale gas industries.

Lake Charles

This southwestern Louisiana town was founded in 1861 and soon emerged as a center of lumber, cattle, and rice trade in the region. At the time of statehood, southwest Louisiana remained sparsely settled, and was largely an open prairie used for foraging cattle from local ranches. Like Baton Rouge, the petro-chemical industries brought economic development to the area in the twentieth century. With its rich ranching heritage and proximity to Texas, Lake Charles maintains a strong cowboy culture and identity today.

LESSON: LOUISIANA FESTIVALS
GLEs— Grade Eight: 81; Grade Three: 57

Overview
Over 400 festivals occur annually in Louisiana. Students will research the variety of festivals celebrated in Louisiana.

Directions
1. Make copies of the Louisiana Festivals worksheet on page eighty-seven, one per students or team.
2. Ask students to explore the Louisiana Tourism Internet site, www.louisianatravel.com, to find information about Louisiana festivals. Hint: Type the name of a city in the search box that is located at the top right corner of the page.
3. Explain that students will match the towns in the left hand column with their annual festivals in the right hand column .
4. Extension: Ask students to use their information to prepare a Louisiana Festival calendar wheel for their classroom. See the template on page eighty-eight.

ACTIVITY: INVESTIGATE THE HISTORY OF YOUR COMMUNITY
GLEs— Grade Eight: 64, 70, 76, 81; Grade Three: 51, 54, 57

Overview
Students will use a variety of community resources, including local libraries and museums, to investigate the political social, and economic history and development of their community.

Directions
1. Ask students to work within their team to research one topic related to the history of their community. Suggested topics—architecture, education, early families, transportation systems, economic development, political development, music, religion, etc.
2. Ask students to develop a multimedia advertising campaign (plan and/or produce brochures, public service announcements, YouTube video ad, Internet page, etc.) to promote their community to the rest of the state and nation. *Hint:* See the Louisiana Destinations Family Guide project on page eighty-nine for project organization ideas.

LOUISIANA FESTIVALS WORKSHEET

Student Worksheet

Name _____

Overview
Over 400 festivals occur annually in Louisiana. Find information about the variety of festivals celebrated in Louisiana.

Directions
1. Explore the Louisiana Tourism Internet site, www.louisianatravel.com, to find information about Louisiana festivals. Hint: Type the name of a city in the search box that is located at the top right corner of the page.
2. Match the towns in the left hand column (below) with their annual festivals in the right hand column (below). Fill in the month during which each festival is celebrated.
3. Extension: Use your information to prepare a Louisiana Festivals calendar wheel (page eighty-eight) for your classroom.

City or Town	Festival	Month Celebrated
1. Breaux Bridge	____ a. Pecan Festival	Month _____
2. Bernice	____ b. Picking and Ginning Festival	Month _____
3. Columbia	____ c. Crawfish Festival	Month _____
4. Colfax	____ d. International Rice Festival	Month _____
5. Crowley	____ e. Shrimp and Petroleum Festival	Month _____
6. DeQuincy	____ f. Blueberry Festival	Month _____
7. Dubach	____ g. Tamale Festival	Month _____
8. Fisher	____ h. Festivals Acadiens	Month _____
9. Independence	____ i. Sawmill Days	Month _____
10. Lafayette	____ j. Southwest LA Zydeco Fest.	Month _____
11. Lutcher	____ k. La Grand Boucherie	Month _____
12. Madisonville	____ l. Corney Creek Festival	Month _____
13. Mansfield	____ m. Peach Festival	Month _____
14. Marion	____ n. Tunica-Biloxi Powwow	Month _____
15. Marksville	____ o. Wooden Boat Festival	Month _____
16. Morgan City	____ p. Italian Festival	Month _____
17. New Orleans	____ q. Festival of the Bonfires	Month _____
18. Plaisance	____ r. Railroad Days	Month _____
19. Ruston	____ s. Germanfest	Month _____
20. Robert's Cove	____ t. Corn Festival	Month _____
21. Bunkie	____ u. Uncle Earl Hog Calling Fest.	Month _____
22. St. Martinville	____ v. Chicken Festival	Month _____
23. Rayville	____ w. Mayhaw Festival	Month _____
24. Zwolle	____ x. Jazz and Heritage Festival	Month _____

Adapted from Louisiana Voices: Lesson 3 Folklife Around the Year and Around the State
http://www.crt.state.la.us/arts/folklife/edu_home.html
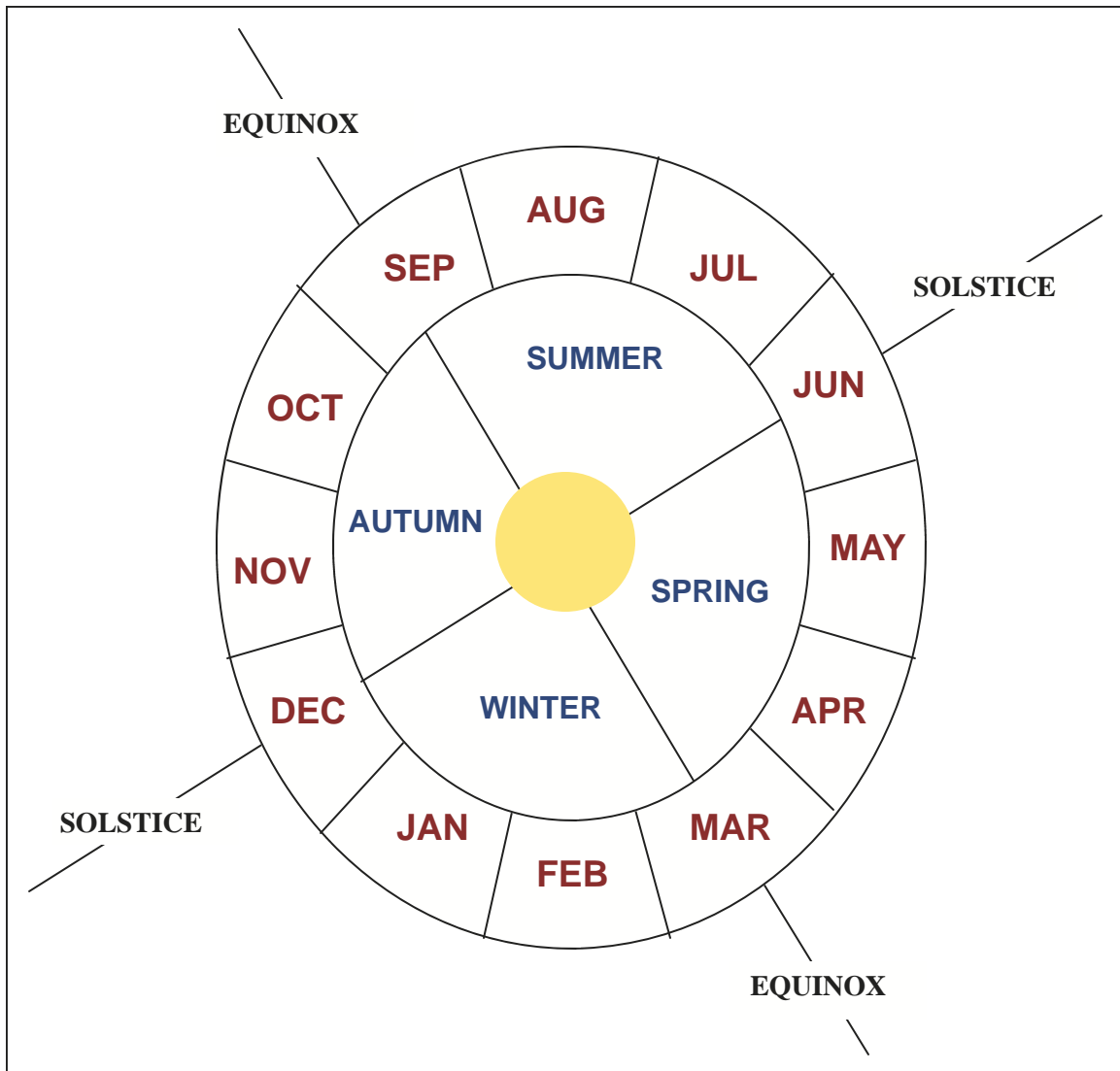
LOUISIANA FESTIVALS
CALENDAR WHEEL

Student Worksheet
Name _____

Directions

Calendar wheels are charts that help you organize events or important dates by seasons (fall, winter, spring, summer). Use the information on your Louisiana Festivals worksheet to prepare a Louisiana Festivals calendar wheel.

1. Investigate the meaning of "solstice: and "equinox." How is each related to the seasons? Place the approximate date of each solstice and equinox on the calendar wheel below.
2. On the calendar wheel, use a different color to shade the name of each season.
3. Using the information on your Louisiana Festivals worksheet, place each festival in the season during which it occurs. Write the festival names in the areas between the words "solstice" and equinox."
4. Personalize your calendar wheel by placing dates and events that are important to you (your birthday, etc.) in the season during which each occurs.
5. Based on your calendar wheel, what general statements can you make about Louisiana festivals (when most of them occur, are they based on planting or harvest seasons, etc.)?

Louisiana Festivals Calendar Wheel

EQUINOX

SOLSTICE

AUG

SEP

JUL

SUMMER

JUN

OCT

AUTUMN

MAY

NOV

SPRING

DEC

WINTER

APR

SOLSTICE

JAN

MAR

FEB

EQUINOX

LESSON: LOUISIANA DESTINATIONS FAMILY GUIDE

Overview

Students work in teams to;
1. Discover some of Louisiana's important cities and highways– teams label the cities and highways shown on the Louisiana Destinations map, page ninety-three.
2. Learn about Louisiana's tourism regions—each team researches one Louisiana tourism region.
3. Develop a Louisiana Destinations Project—each team uses their researched tourism region and the Louisiana Destinations cities and roads map to plan a family trip to a location in their region.
4. Produce a Louisiana Destinations Family Guide—work as a class to combine all Louisiana Destinations projects to compile and produce a Louisiana Destinations family guide.

Find enhanced directions and student worksheets for this and other student and family projects at http://www.crt.state.la.us/education.

Directions
1. Louisiana Destinations Cities and Roads Map (page ninety-three)
   - Use Google Maps and LouisianaTravel.com to label a map showing some of Louisiana's important roads, highways, and cities.
2. Louisiana Tourism Regions
   - Use the Louisiana's Regional Characteristics graphic organizer, page ninety, and the Office of Tourism's interactive destination explorer, http://www.louisianatravel.com/destinations, to discover interesting facts about one Louisiana region.
3. Louisiana Destinations Project (Make copies of the project overview on page ninety-one and the student guide on page ninety-two, one for each student.)
   - Ask students to use the researched information, their completed destinations map, Louisiana highway maps, GPS coordinates, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, and Internet research sites to plan a family road trip to visit one of Louisiana's historic sites in their researched region.
   - Explain that students should find the best route from the team's present location to their chosen Louisiana destination.
   - Try It Out Peer Editing: Ask students to share their directions with another group, but do not tell the final destination. Each team should follow the directions to determine the destination. Ask students to make notes when directions are clear or unclear.
   - Ask students to use the Office of State Parks' Internet site, www.crt.state.la.us/parks, and the Office of Tourism's virtual visitor center guidebooks, http://www.louisianatravel.com/virtual-visitor-center, to write a short travel guide overview about their destination.
4. Louisiana Destinations Family Guide
   1. Work as a class, combining all Louisiana Destinations projects and guides, to compile and produce a Louisiana Destinations Family Guide. Make a copy of the guide for each student to share with her/his family
   2. Suggestion: Ask students to develop a technology-based advertising campaign for their region by producing an e-brochure, 30-second YouTube video, virtual poster (such as Glogster, http://edu.glogster.com/edu/register/), e-book (such as MixBook, www.mixbook.com), Internet slideshow (such as Flickr, www.flickr.com), etc.

LOUISIANA TOURISM REGIONS GRAPHIC ORGANIZER
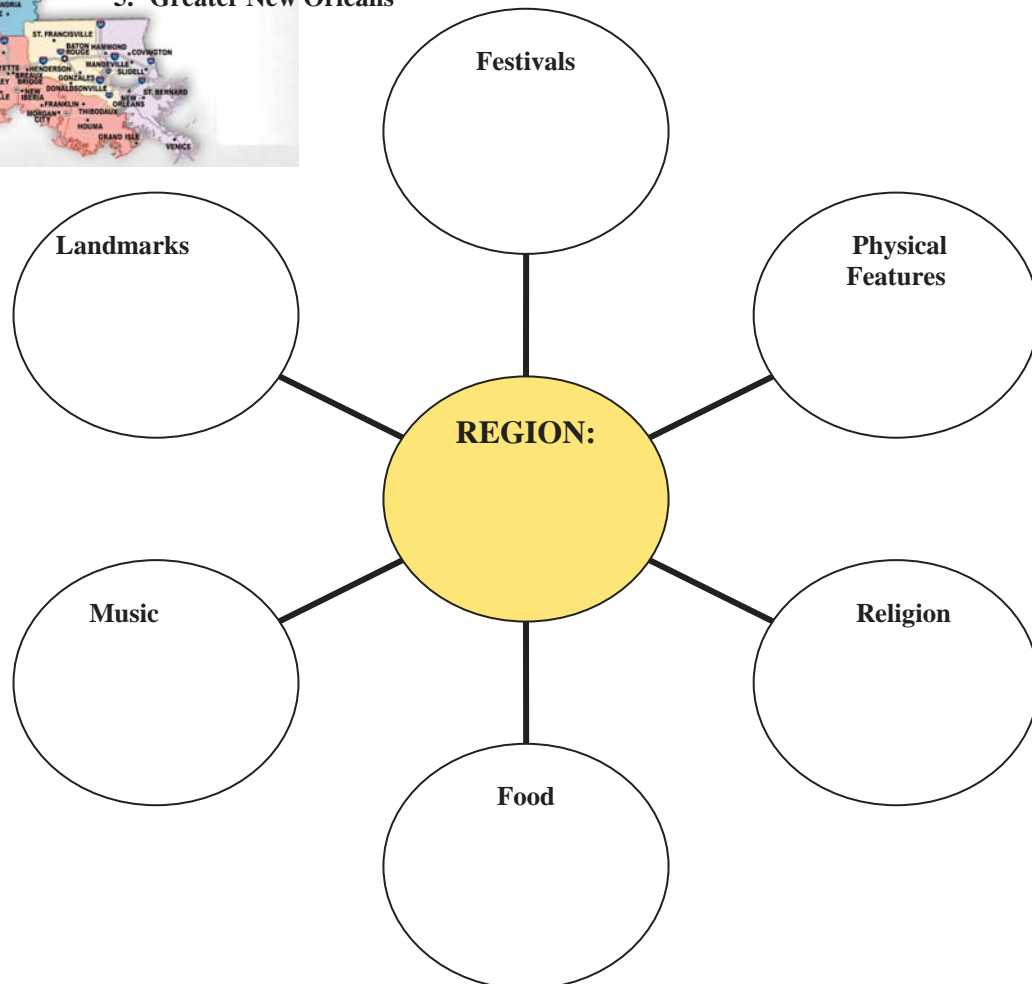
Student Worksheet

Name _____

Directions

Working with your team, use the Office of Tourism's interactive destination explorer, http://www.louisianatravel.com/destinations, to discover interesting facts about your chosen region. Develop a technology-based advertising campaign for your region by producing an e-brochure, 30-second YouTube video, virtual poster (such as Glogster, http://edu.glogster.com/edu/register/), e-book (such as MixBook, www.mixbook.com), Internet slideshow (such as Flickr, www.flickr.com), etc. Share your advertisement by sending a URL of your online production to lsmeducation@crt.state.la.us.

Louisiana's Regional Characteristics Graphic Organizer

Region Researched: _____

Parishes in this region: _____

1. **Sportsman's Paradise**
2. **Crossroads**
3. **Cajun Country**
4. **Plantation Country**
5. **Greater New Orleans**

Festivals · Physical Features · Landmarks · REGION: · Music · Religion · Food

LOUISIANA DESTINATIONS FAMILY GUIDE
Project Overview

Student Worksheet

Name _____

Overview

Working with your team, use Louisiana highway maps, GPS coordinates, cardinal directions, and Internet research to plan a road trip to visit one of Louisiana's historic sites. Work with other students in your class to produce a Louisiana Destinations family guide.

Directions

1. Use Google Map and <u>LouisianaTravel.com</u> to label a map showing some of Louisiana's important roads, highways, and cities.
2. **Louisiana Destinations Proje**ct: Select a Louisiana destination (city, historic site, etc.), which is located in the region you researched, to visit. Use the completed map and the Internet resources to find the best route from your present location to your selected trip destination.
   - Write your directions in a narrative format giving cardinal (north, south, east, west) and intermediate (northwest, southeast, etc.) directions, distance between two other interesting cities or sites in the region, GPS coordinates, and landmarks along the way.
   - Share your directions with another team, but do not tell them the final destination. Ask the other team to use your directions to trace the route and discover your Louisiana destination. Use their suggestions to revise your project.
   - **Louisiana Destinations Family Guide:** When you have finished your project, explore the Office of State Parks Internet site and write a short travel guide overview about your destination. Combine your destination directions and travel guide with those written by other groups in your class to develop a Louisiana Destinations family guide. Make copies so each student can share with their family.

Suggested Locations

- Poverty Point State Historic Site
- Los Adaes State Historic Site
- Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site
- Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site
- Centenary State Historic Site
- Audubon State Historic Site
- Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site
- Hodges Gardens State Park
- Grand Isle State Park

Internet Resources (View online at www.crt.state.la.us/education)

Office of Tourism:
http://www.louisianatravel.com/destinations

Office of State Parks:
www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ihistoricsiteslisting.aspx
www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iparkslisting.aspx

Louisiana State Museum: http://lsm.crt.state.la.us

Division of Historic Preservation
http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/
historicplacesdatabase.aspx

Extension: National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, objects, and districts that relate to our nation's history or culture. Louisiana has over 1,300 entries on this prestigious list. Investigate the Division of Historic Preservation's National Register of Historic Places database (see URL above) to learn about Louisiana's historical architecture and locations such as the Cabildo and Madame John's Legacy in New Orleans. Include such locations in your Louisiana Destinations project.

LOUISIANA DESTINATIONS
FAMILY GUIDE
Student Guide

Student Worksheet
Name _____

LOUISIANA DESTINATION   Your Destination is _____

Highways, cardinal directions (north, south, etc.), and intermediate directions (northeast, southwest, etc.) to follow, in order of travel:

Interesting cities through which you will pass as you travel to your destination:

Major landmarks or physical features you will see, in order of travel, and GPS coordinates of each:

LOUISIANA DESTINATIONS
Cities and Roads

Student Worksheet

Name _____

Directions

Use the Internet resources to label the cities and highways shown on this map. Use these locations to complete your Louisiana Destinations project.

Internet Resources

- Office of Tourism: http://www.louisianatravel.com/destinations
- Office of State Parks: www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ihistoricsiteslisting.aspx and www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iparkslisting.aspx
- Louisiana State Museum: http://lsm.crt.state.la.us
- Division of Historic Preservation: http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/historicplacesdatabase.aspx

60 km

40 mi

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