



WHAT WAS LOUISIANA DOING while America was becoming AMERICA?

TWO PLACES. TWO STORIES. ONE SHARED HISTORY.

This timeline is the simultaneous account of the colonial history of French—and later Spanish—Louisiana and the thirteen English colonies that would become the United States. The French, Spanish, and English empires competed for land and resources in the New World. What eventually becomes the United States of America has been primarily shaped by a unique mixture of French, Spanish, English, Indigenous, and African cultures. By seeing the series of major events that shaped Louisiana and the American colonies, students can compare the similarities and differences between the two colonies as they eventually become one nation.



1673 Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette explore the Mississippi River.

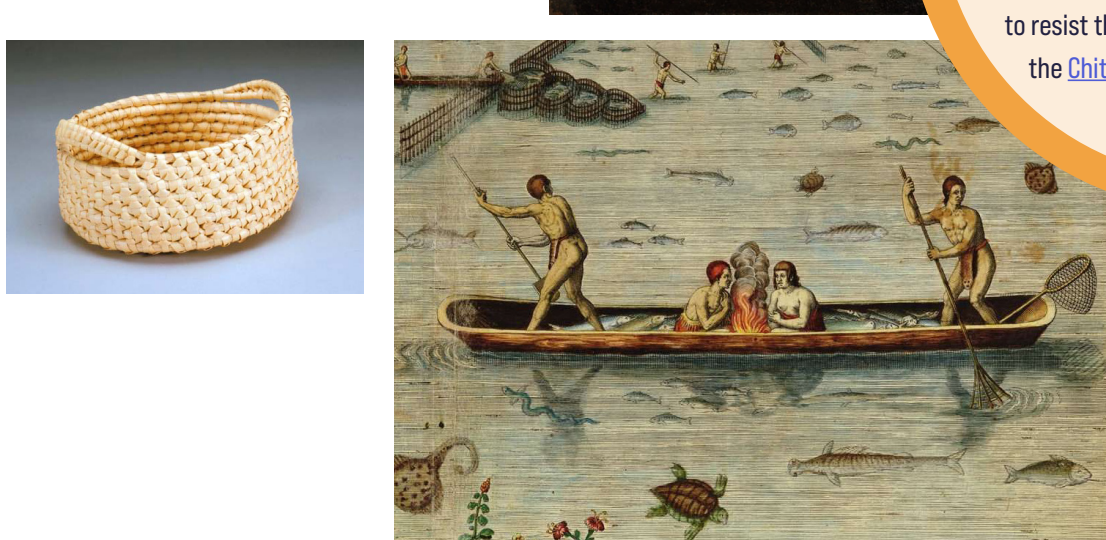
1682 René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle, claims the Mississippi basin for France. He calls the territory La Louisiane.



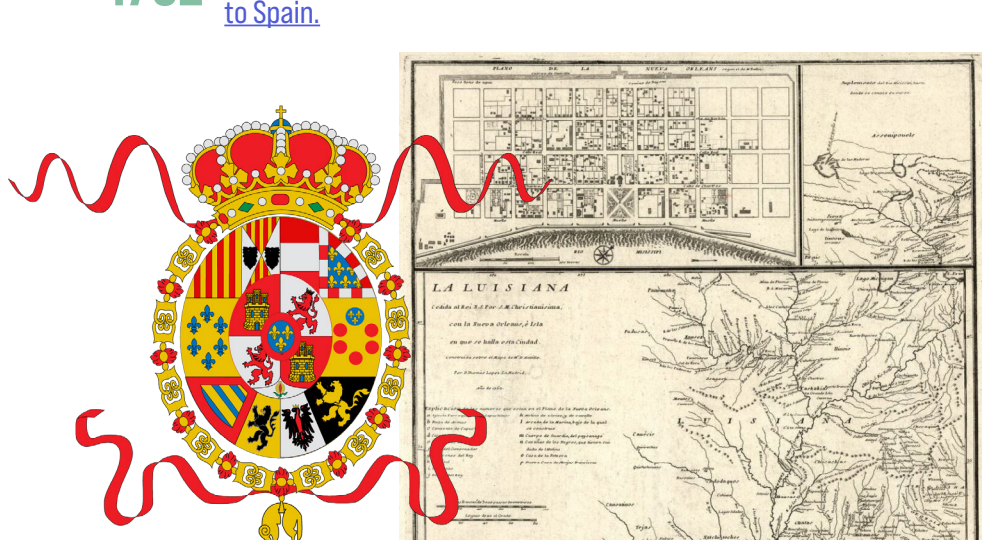
1716 Fort St. Jean Baptiste is established as the first permanent settlement in what will become the state of Louisiana.

1718 Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville founds New Orleans as a French Colony.

1719 The first enslaved Africans are brought to Louisiana. Five years later, the Code Noir establishes rules for the colony's enslaved people as well as its population of free people of color.



1762 The Treaty of Fontainebleau gives much of colonial Louisiana to Spain.



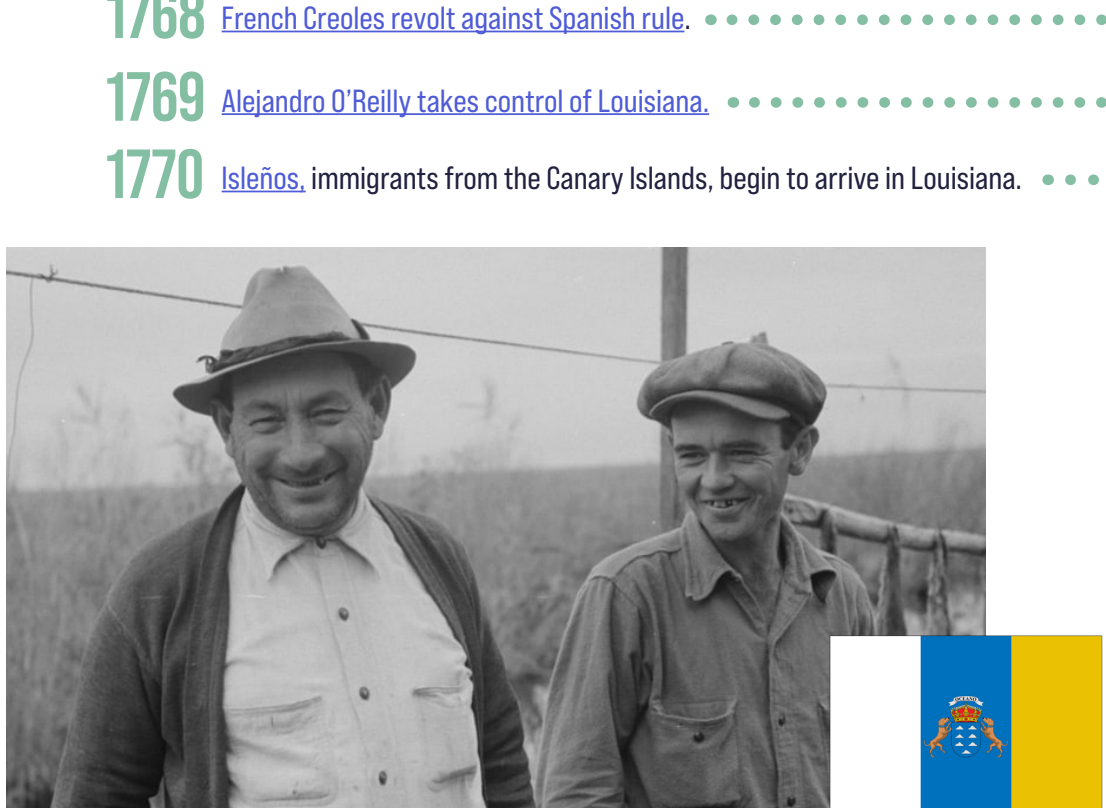
1765-1770 Acadians who had been expelled from Canada settle outside of New Orleans.



1768 French Creoles revolt against Spanish rule.

1769 Alejandro O'Reilly takes control of Louisiana.

1770 Isleños, immigrants from the Canary Islands, begin to arrive in Louisiana.



1780 Bernardo de Gálvez, the fourth governor of Spanish Louisiana, leads Louisiana militia troops against the British during the American Revolution.

1800 Spain returns Louisiana to France in the Third Treaty of San Ildefonso.



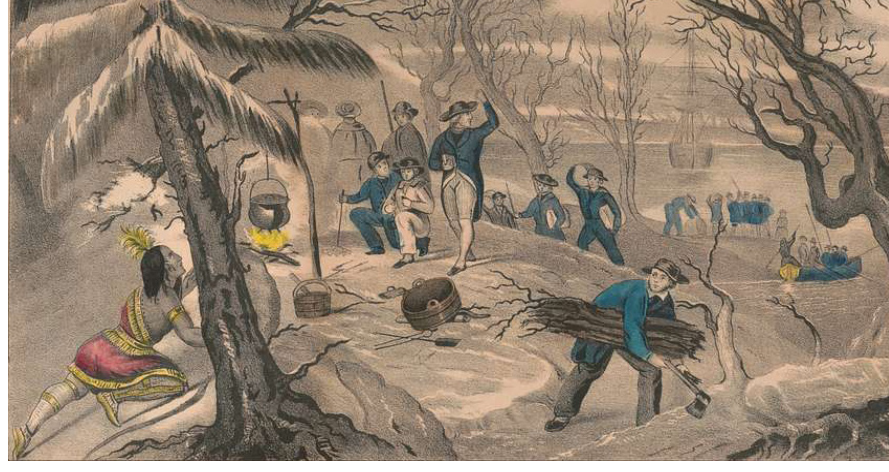
1803

The United States buys Louisiana from France in the Louisiana Purchase.

1600

LOUISIANA

AMERICA

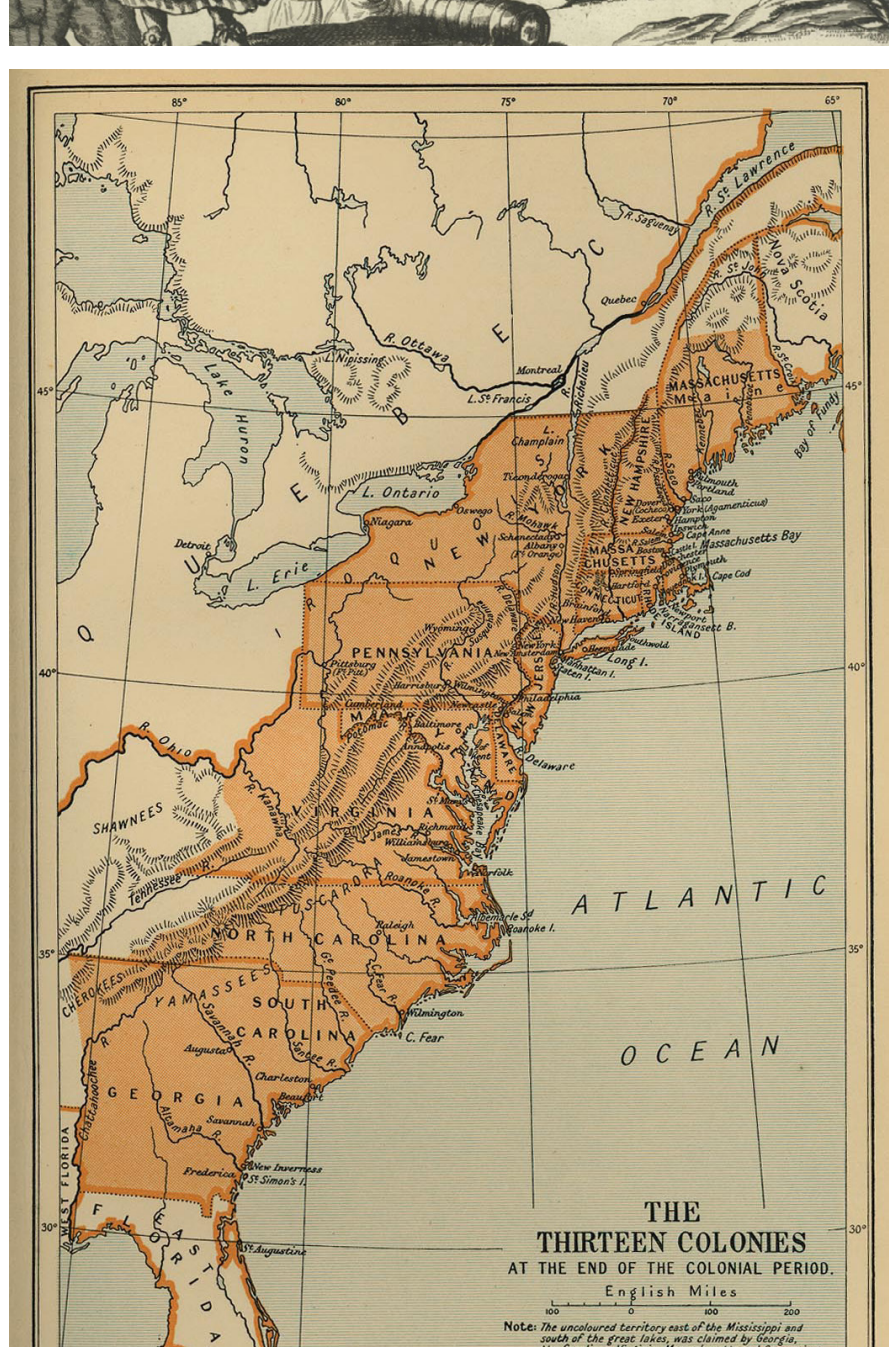


1607 The first successful English settlement in North America was established at Jamestown.

1620 A group of English people known as Pilgrims arrive in North America on the Mayflower and establish Plymouth Colony.

1622-1733 The English, Dutch, Swedish, Puritans, and Quakers establish colonies in North America.

1650

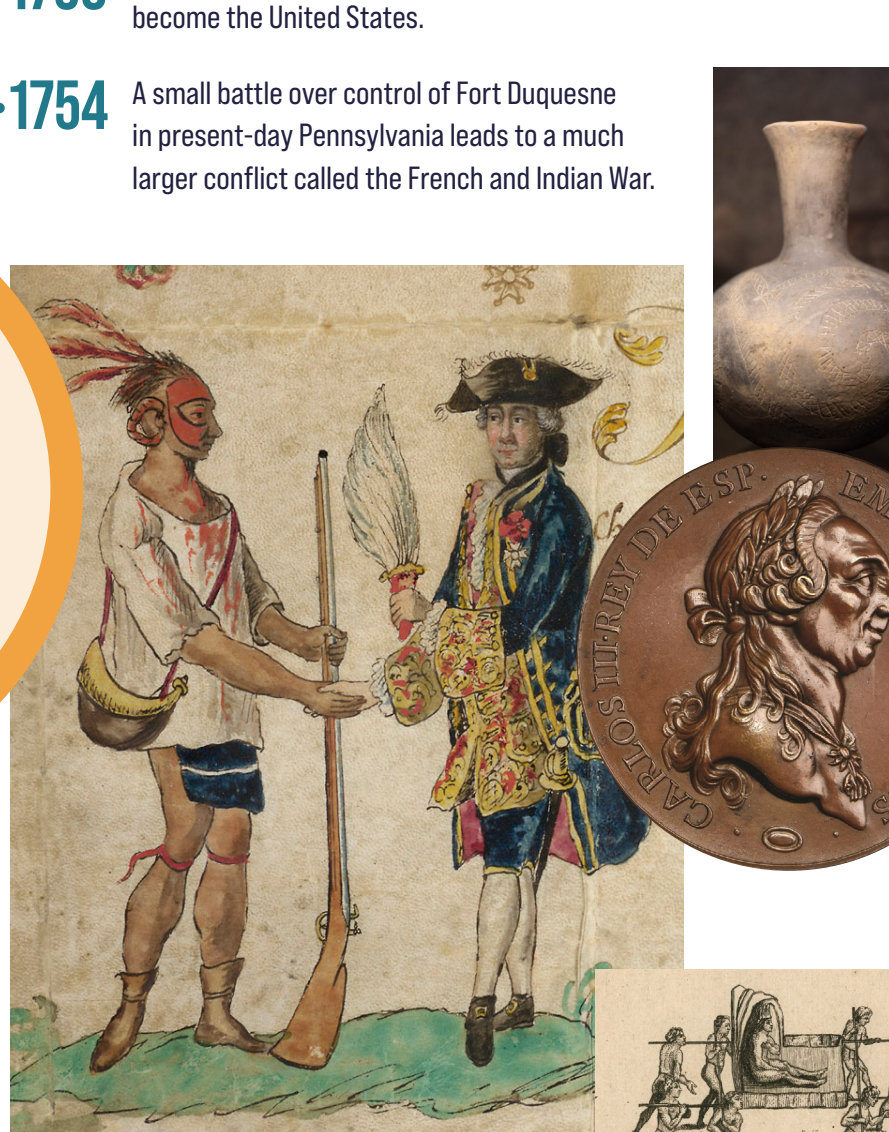


1750 There are thirteen English colonies on the East Coast of what will become the United States.

1754 A small battle over control of Fort Duquesne in present-day Pennsylvania leads to a much larger conflict called the French and Indian War.

Mid 1700s

European colonists continue to expand their settlements, and Native Americans continue to resist the European presence, including the Chitimacha, Natchez, Houma, and Tunica-Biloxi nations.



1763 The French and Indian War officially ends when Great Britain and France sign the Treaty of Paris.

1765 British Parliament passes the Stamp Act and the Quartering Act.



1773 The Boston Tea Party takes place.

1774 The First Continental Congress meets and issues a Declaration of Rights.

1775 The American Revolution begins with the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

1776 The Second Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.

1777 The Continental Army defeats the British at the Battle of Saratoga, prompting the French to join the war as American allies.



1781 The British surrender after the Battle of Yorktown.

1783 The Treaty of Paris officially ends the American Revolution.



LOUISIANA (LEFT COLUMN)

READ FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Marquette and Joliet Discover the Mississippi. Illustrated by William Sheppard Ludlow. 1876. The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Rene-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle (portrait). Published by Goupil and Company. Lithograph reproduction. The Historic New Orleans Collection.

La Salle Claims Louisiana for France. 1682. Color lithograph by Jean-Adolphe Bocquin, c. 1870. The Historic New Orleans Collection. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, sieur de Bienville, c. 1742-1752. The Historic New Orleans Collection. Public Domain.

Fort St. Jean Baptiste Des Natchitoches. Restoration drawing of what Colonial Natchitoches was believed to have looked like by architects Butler & Dobson as shown in the book No Man's Land: A History of El Camino Real by Louis Raphael Nardini, 1961. Image courtesy of Project Gutenberg. Public Domain.

Portrait of a Free Woman of Color by François Jacques Fleischinger, 1837. The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Code Noir of 1724. Paris: les Librairies Associez, 1743. The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Basket with Handles. Woven by Janie Verret Luster, 1998-1999. New Orleans Museum of Art.

The Method of Fishing of the Inhabitants of Virginia. Theodor de Bry after John White, 1590. Printed hand-colored engraving. The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia.

Map of the territory of Louisiana and New Orleans ceded by France to Spain during the Treaty of Fontainebleau, 1765. Library of Congress.

Naval ensigns of Spain during the first part of the reign of Carlos III, 1760-1785. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The First Cajuns. Created by artist George Rodrigue, 1985-1989. Courtesy of George Rodrigue.

Spanish Muskrat Trappers. Photographed by Marion Post Wolcott, 1941. Library of Congress.

Flag of the Spanish Autonomous Community of Canary Islands. ID 150268844 © Mordicijovanov. Dreamstime.com

Bernardo de Gálvez. Louisiana State Museum.

Matthew Carey's 1814 map of Louisiana. Library of Congress.

The seal of the state of Louisiana. ID 163219475 © Patrick Guenette. Dreamstime.com

AMERICA (RIGHT COLUMN)

READ FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, 11th Dec. 1620. Lithograph by N. Currier, 1845. Library of Congress.

Nieuw Amsterdam. Copper engraving, c. 1624-1699. Courtesy of The New York Public Library. Public Domain.

The Thirteen Colonies at the End of the Colonial Period. University of Texas at Austin. From the Cambridge Modern History Atlas, 1912. Photo courtesy of emersonkent.com

An incised clay vessel found with the Tunica Treasure. Photographed by Brian Pavlich. Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Military Commission Granted to Chief Okana-Store of the Cherokee by Governor Louis Billeart. Chevalier de Kerlérec. General Records of the Department of State, 1761. Photo courtesy of National Archives Catalog, Road to Revolution Virtual Exhibit.

King Carlos III al mérito medal, ca. 1778. The Haynie Family Foundation.

Le transport du Grand Soleil by Antoine Simone Le Page du Pratz, 1758. The Historic New Orleans Collection.

An Emblem of the Effects of the Stamp. October 1765. Rare Books and Manuscripts Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations. Pennsylvania Journal.

Sons of Liberty burning a copy of the Stamp Act in 1765. Photomechanical color postcard, 1903. Library of Congress. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Drafting the Declaration of Independence. Engraving by Alonzo Chappel, 1896. U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Photo courtesy of Picryl.

1/2 Dollar, Continental Congress. Designed by Benjamin Franklin, 1776. National Museum of American History. Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.

Betsy Ross 1777 J.L.G. Ferris, 1932. Library of Congress. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Original 13 star colony flag of United States. ID 77326005 © Tab1962. Dreamstime.com

Burgoyne's Surrender At Saratoga. Edward Percy Moran, 1911. Melibohm Fine Art. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.

Hoisting American Colors, Louisiana Cession, 1803. Painting by Thure de Thulstrup. Commissioned by Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904. Louisiana State Museum. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.

All data points reflect the expectations of the Louisiana Department of Education's 2022 social studies standards. Louisiana history data points are aligned with 64 Parishes' K-12 resources, a collaboration between the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and the Louisiana Department of Education, funded in part by the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation.

What was Louisiana Doing While America was Becoming America? is a resource by the Institute for Louisiana Culture and History, an initiative of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. This resource was created in affiliation with the Louisiana America 250 Commission.