
Sample Item Set
The Louisiana Purchase
Grade 3

Standard 2 – Key Events, Ideas, and People: Students analyze how historical people and events have contributed to the diversity of Louisiana.

GLE 3.2.1 Explain how major explorers and leaders contributed to the early development of Louisiana

Use the two sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer questions 1–3.

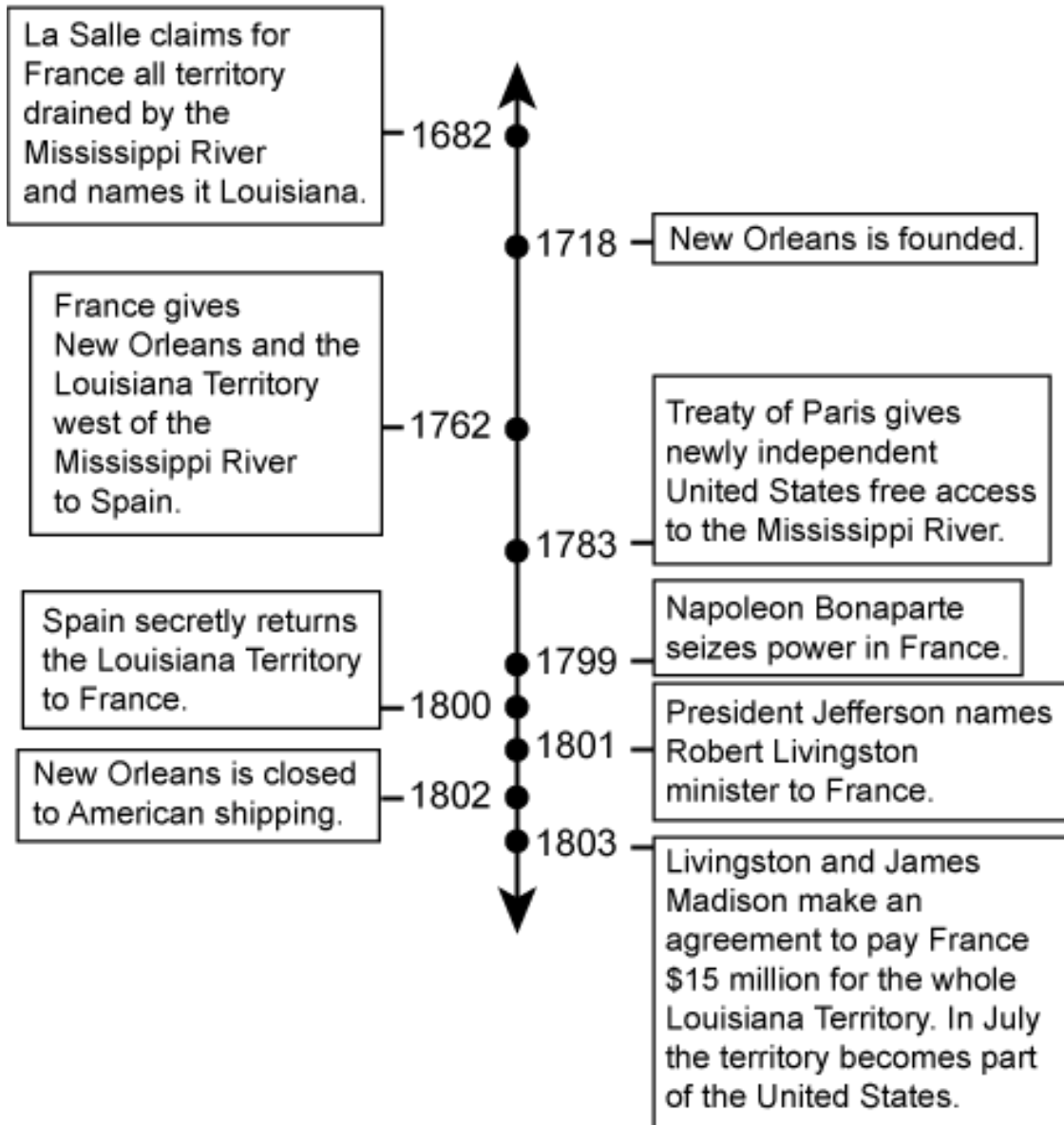
Source 1

Louisiana Purchase Map



Source 2

Timeline of Events Leading to the Louisiana Purchase



Source: Montecello.org.

Item 1: Multiple Select

What was France's interest in the territory known as Louisiana?

Select the **three** correct answers.

- A. France explored the territory in the 1600s.
- B. France purchased the territory from Spain.
- C. France found the Northwest Passage through the territory in the 1500s.
- D. France established scattered settlements in the territory in the 1600s and 1700s.
- E. France sold the territory to the United States.
- F. France declared war with England to regain the territory.

Item 2: Multiple Choice

Based on Source 1, which statement describes an effect of the Louisiana Purchase?

- A. It cost the United States about \$15 million, or four cents an acre, to purchase Louisiana from France.
- B. It decided where the final borders of the United States would be located and opened the area for exploration.
- C. It increased the land area of the United States, opening the way for westward expansion and trade on the Mississippi River.
- D. It provided easy access to territories in the Northwest, which the United States hoped to buy from Britain.

Item 3: Constructed Response

Explain how gaining control of the Louisiana Territory would make the United States safer and protect the nation's trade.

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Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student's response correctly explains how gaining control of the Louisiana Territory would make the United States safer and explains how the purchase protected the nation's trade.
1	Student's response correctly explains how gaining control of the Louisiana Territory would make the United States safer or explains how the purchase protected the nation's trade.
0	Student's response does not explain how gaining control of the Louisiana Territory would make the United States safer and does not explain how the purchase protected the nation's trade.

Scoring Notes:

Louisiana Territory made the United States safer:

- The expanded borders of the United States opened the Louisiana Territory for westward expansion, and there was no need to fight for this area with other nations.
- Accept other reasonable answers.

Louisiana Territory protected the nation's trade:

- The Port of New Orleans was a key port for trade and economic expansion. The United States now controlled all trade coming in and out of the port.
- With the Louisiana Purchase, Jefferson kept the port out of the hands of a foreign power that could cut off access at any time.
- Accept other reasonable answers.