
Sample Item Set
Louisiana During World War II
Grade 8

Standard 2 – Key Events, Ideas and People: Students analyze how the contributions of key events, ideas, and people influenced the development of modern Louisiana

GLE 8.2.8 Investigate and describe the impact of World War II on Louisiana’s social, political, and economic systems

Use the three sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer questions 1–4.

Source 1

Higgins Boats in World War II

This photograph shows Allied troops in Higgins Boats landing on the beaches of Normandy, France for the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.



Source: National Archives.

Source 2

Higgins Boats Quotations

These quotations discuss Andrew Jackson Higgins and what are commonly referred to as Higgins Boats which were constructed at Higgins Industries in New Orleans during World War II.

In a 1964 interview, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, “Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us. If Higgins had not designed and built those LCVPs¹, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different.”

Colonel Joseph H. Alexander, USMC (Ret) said, “The Higgins boats broke the gridlock on the ship-to-shore movement. It is impossible to overstate the tactical advantages this craft gave U.S. amphibious commanders in World War II.”

Jerry E. Strahan, the author *Andrew Jackson Higgins and the Boats That Won World War II*, wrote, “It was (Higgins’) boats that made D-Day and the landings at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Tarawa, Okinawa, Leyte, Guam and thousands of lesser-known assaults possible.”

On June 6, 2001, in a speech to the U.S. House of Representatives, Louisiana representative William Jefferson stated, “Higgins employed more than 20,000 workers around the clock for over four years. They built over 20,000 landing craft and trained over 30,000 military personnel on the operation of the boats.”

¹ LCV - Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel

Source 3

Louisiana's Population, 1930–1950

Year	Total Population	Percent of Population Living in Urban Areas	Percent of Population Living in Rural Areas
1930	2,101,593	39.70%	60.30%
1940	2,363,880	41.50%	58.50%
1950	2,683,616	54.80%	45.20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Item 1: Multiple Choice

Based on Source 1 or Source 2, how did Louisiana **most** impact the events of World War II?

- A. Louisiana industries contributed to the success of the Allies.
- B. Politicians in Louisiana encouraged people to move to cities.
- C. Louisiana residents purchased bonds to fund the war effort.
- D. Military leaders from Louisiana planned the D-Day invasion.

Item 2: Multiple Select

Which factors influenced the trend shown in Source 3?

Select the **two** correct answers.

- A. announcement of a military draft
- B. growth of jobs in war production
- C. decline in the demand for agricultural products
- D. development of new educational institutions
- E. expansion of the shipbuilding industry

Item 3: Technology Enhanced Item

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, identify the ways Louisiana **most** influenced the war effort during World War II.

Drag the correct answers from the list to the chart titled Contributions of Louisiana during World War II. Fill every space in the chart. All options will not be used from the list.

Constructed boats for the transportation of troops
Created propaganda to increase patriotism
Manufactured tanks for use in combat
Produced uniforms for soldiers
Served as a location for training military forces
Supplied the armed forces with ammunition
Provided ports for shipping equipment

Contributions of Louisiana during World War II

Correct Answers:

Contributions of Louisiana during World War II
Constructed boats for the transportation of troops
Served as a location for training military forces
Provided ports for shipping equipment

Item 4: Constructed Response

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, describe **two** ways that World War II affected Louisiana.

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Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student's response correctly describes two ways that World War II affected Louisiana.
1	Student's response correctly describes one way that World War II affected Louisiana.
0	Student's response does not correctly describe two ways that World War II affected Louisiana.

Scoring Notes:

Ways that World War II affected Louisiana:

- People in Louisiana migrated from rural to urban areas because many jobs in war industries were in the cities.
- The number of employees increased in Louisiana businesses that produced goods for the war.
- Louisiana helped to train and mobilize U.S. forces.
- Individuals from Louisiana served in the war.
- Accept any other reasonable answer.