

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Geography is the study of the land and how we use it. A geography lesson about your hometown would teach about the terrain, including any landforms like mountains or waterways, its vegetation, roads and other human-made developments, and its people.

Geography means "description of the earth's surface." It is often confused with a related word, geology, which means "study of the earth." Geography is about anything that happens on the ground, or above it, including how people live and use the land, while geology studies the earth's content, like the plates that form it and how they move.

1. What do these definitions have in common? How does adding the word "physical" to "geography" qualify each word's meaning? (Be prepared to share out)

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2. Explain the meaning of physical geography in their own words and provide visual examples of physical features a geographer would study.

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Political

**Physical:** relating to boundaries, divisions, or possessions.

**Geography:** the study of the features of the earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources, land use, and industries

3. What do these definitions have in common? How does adding the word “political” to “geography” qualify each word’s meaning?

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4. Explain the meaning of political geography in their own words and provide visual examples of physical features a geographer would study.

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5. In what way is physical geography important to the locations of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport? What physical features are present at each location?

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6. What do you notice about the location of cities along rivers as opposed to the Gulf of Mexico? What is one reason for this difference in location? What common natural threat do cities in both locations share?

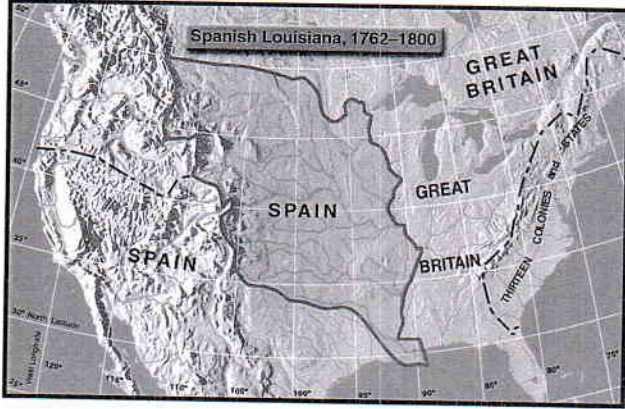
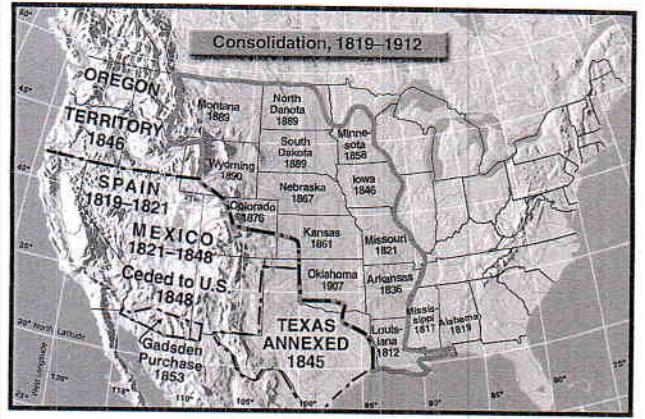
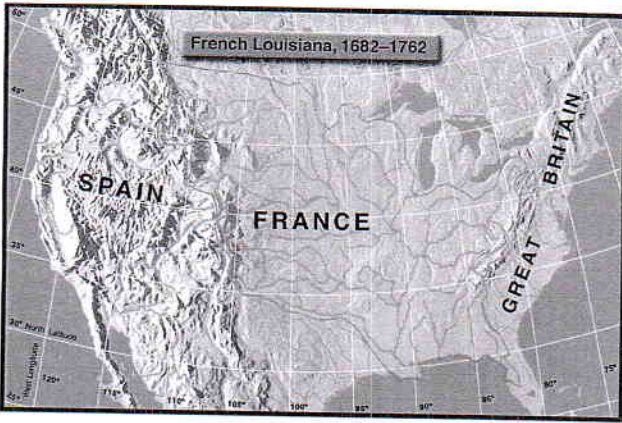
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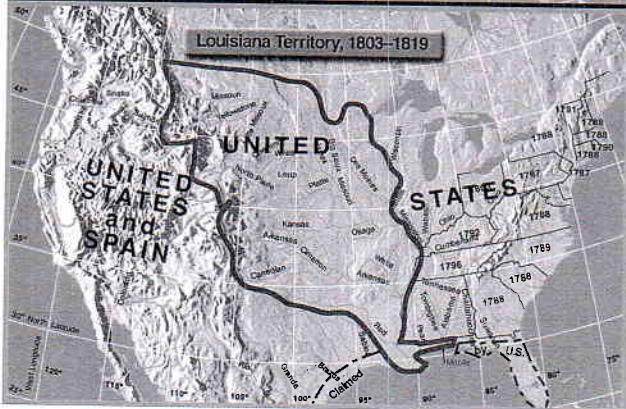
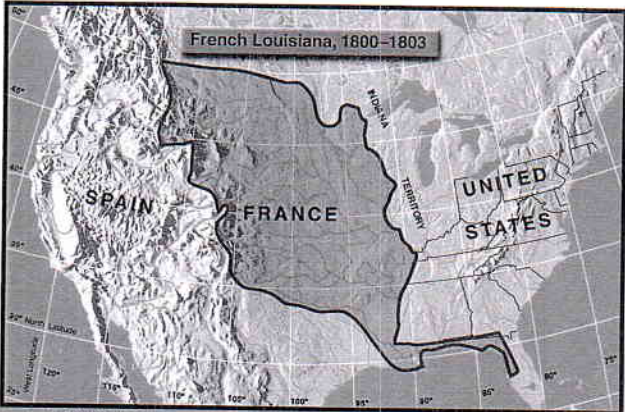
7. What natural phenomenon is a threat to ecosystems and trade at the mouth of the Mississippi River and along the Gulf of Mexico?

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Historical Map  
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Use with Historical Map Changes



## PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS TOOL

### OBSERVE

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### REFLECT

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### QUESTION

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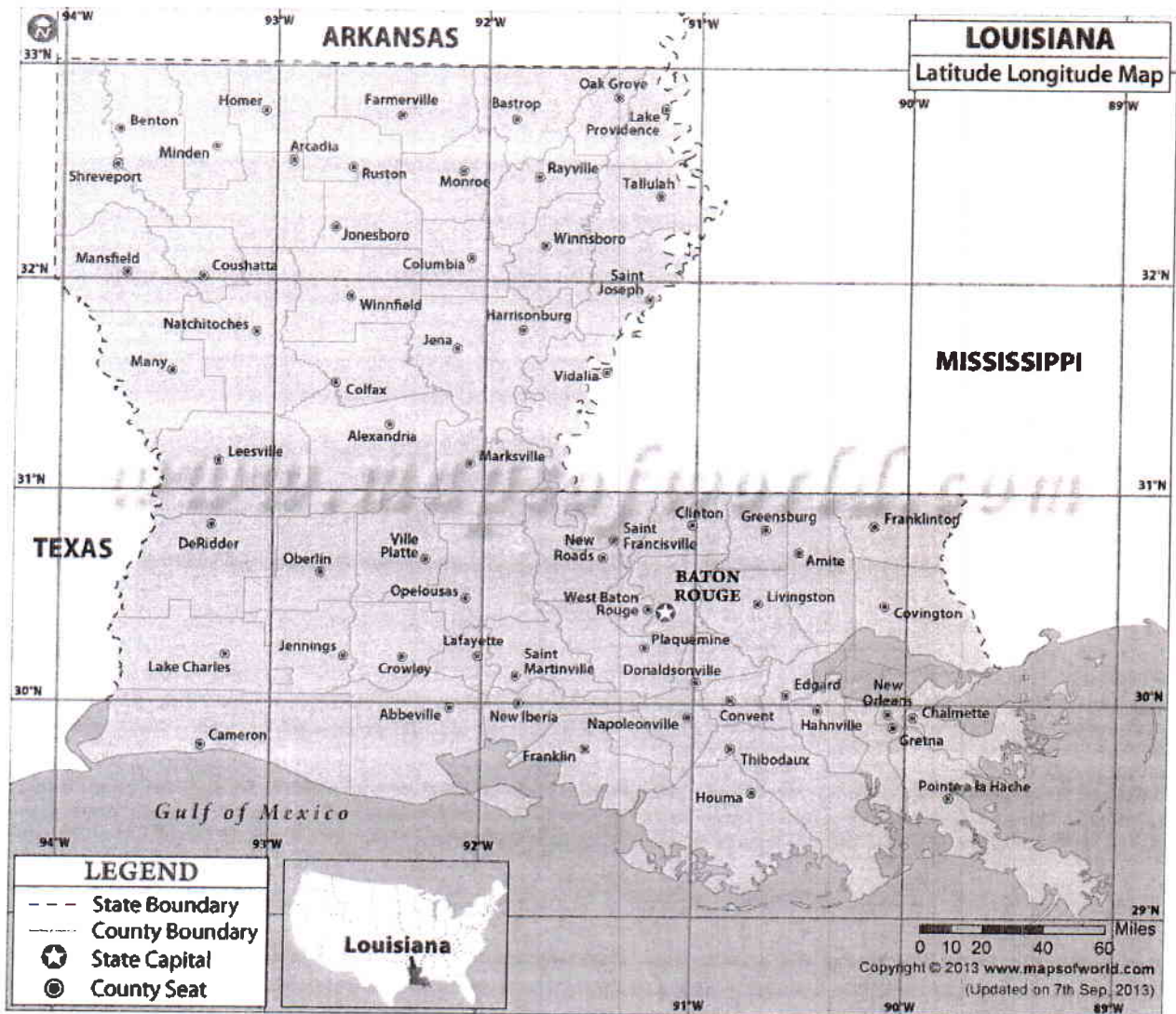
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### FURTHER INVESTIGATION



**Description:** Map showing Latitude and longitude of Louisiana state of the US.

**Directions:** Using the following coordinates, write where each one places you. Also, Indicate if these locations are a political or a physical feature.

a. 29.9° N., 90.1° W. \_\_\_\_\_

b. 30.5° N., 91.1° W. \_\_\_\_\_

c. 29.5° N., 93° W. \_\_\_\_\_

d. 32.5° N., 93.7° W. \_\_\_\_\_

e. Challenge!: 29.1° N., 89.2° W. \_\_\_\_\_

5  Introduction

- The dominant physical feature of Louisiana is the nearly 5,000 miles of navigable waterways.
- Waterways were a major part of the state's history and are important today for trade and transportation.
- The Mississippi River ends its journey through the U.S. in Louisiana at the Gulf of Mexico.

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7  Rivers

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important river in Louisiana.
- The drainage basin (an area of land that drains into tributaries and rivers) of the Mississippi is over 1.2 million mi<sup>2</sup> and extends to \_\_\_\_\_ and two Canadian provinces.
- The basin extends from \_\_\_\_\_ and carries 375 million gallons of water daily through Louisiana.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (matter that settles to the bottom of liquid) from floods created rich farmlands.
- Flood control systems now direct this sediment to the \_\_\_\_\_

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8  Rivers (Continued)

- \_\_\_\_\_: second largest river drainage system in Louisiana; begins in New Mexico and flows into the Atchafalaya and Mississippi Rivers.
- \_\_\_\_\_: begins in Arkansas; merges with the Tensas and Little Rivers to form the Black River.
- \_\_\_\_\_: cleared in the 1830s for navigation; the Army Corps of Engineers controls the flow of Mississippi River water into the Atchafalaya.
- \_\_\_\_\_: runs from east-central Mississippi into Lake Borgne; the river splits into the East and West Pearl River branches surrounding Honey Island Swamp.

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9  Rivers (Continued)

- \_\_\_\_\_: flows from east of Leesville to Lake Charles; a deepwater channel connects Lake Charles to the Gulf of Mexico.
- The port at Lake Charles is successful because of its location near the \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_: part of the border with Texas; the Toledo Bend Reservoir was formed on the river by a dam to generate hydroelectric power.

10  **Lakes**

- Louisiana has several man-made lakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a large, shallow natural lake and is crossed by the 24-mile-long Causeway Bridge. The lake is a tidal lagoon with brackish water connected to the Gulf of Mexico.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is another lake and tidal lagoon with brackish water connected to Lake Pontchartrain.
- \_\_\_\_\_, such as Cain River Lake and False River, are formed when \_\_\_\_\_

11  **Lakes (Continued)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ were created as a result of rivers blocked by logjams which flooded nearby swamps (e.g. Caddo Lake and Lake Bistineau).
- \_\_\_\_\_ were created behind low groups of ridges which retain water after floods (e.g. White Lake, Grand Lake, and Calcasieu Lake).

12  **Bayous**

- \_\_\_\_\_ are waterways that are associated with Louisiana; sometimes the state is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some bayous are short and shallow, others long and navigable.
- Hundreds of bayous spread across the state (e.g. Bayou Lafitte and Bayou Lafourche).

13  **Mississippi River**

- Flows through two of our largest cities and served as our Northern Boarder for the state
- \_\_\_\_\_ shaped Louisiana's geographic identity by depositing \_\_\_\_\_ (dirt suspended in water) throughout south Louisiana
- Rivers, especially Atchafalya, Mississippi, and Red have flooded many times over the last few hundred years leaving Louisiana with \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

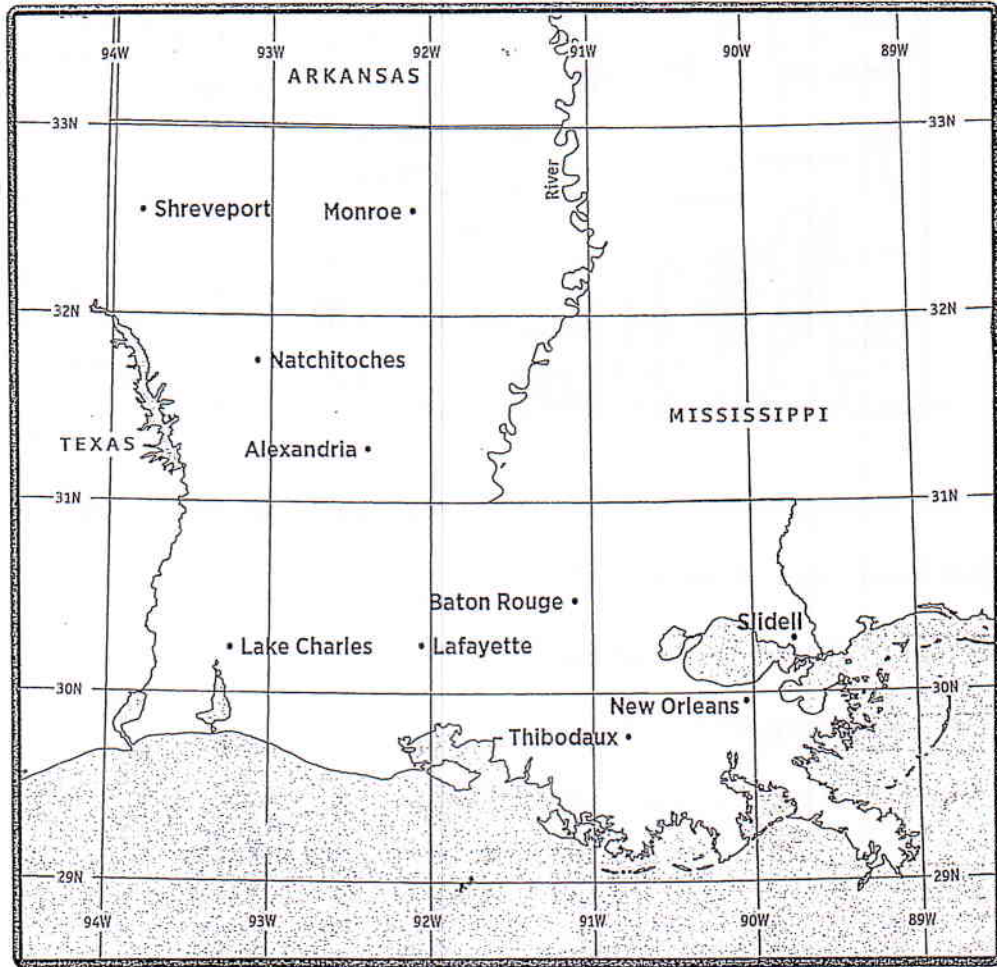
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Section 1

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**Longitude and Latitude**

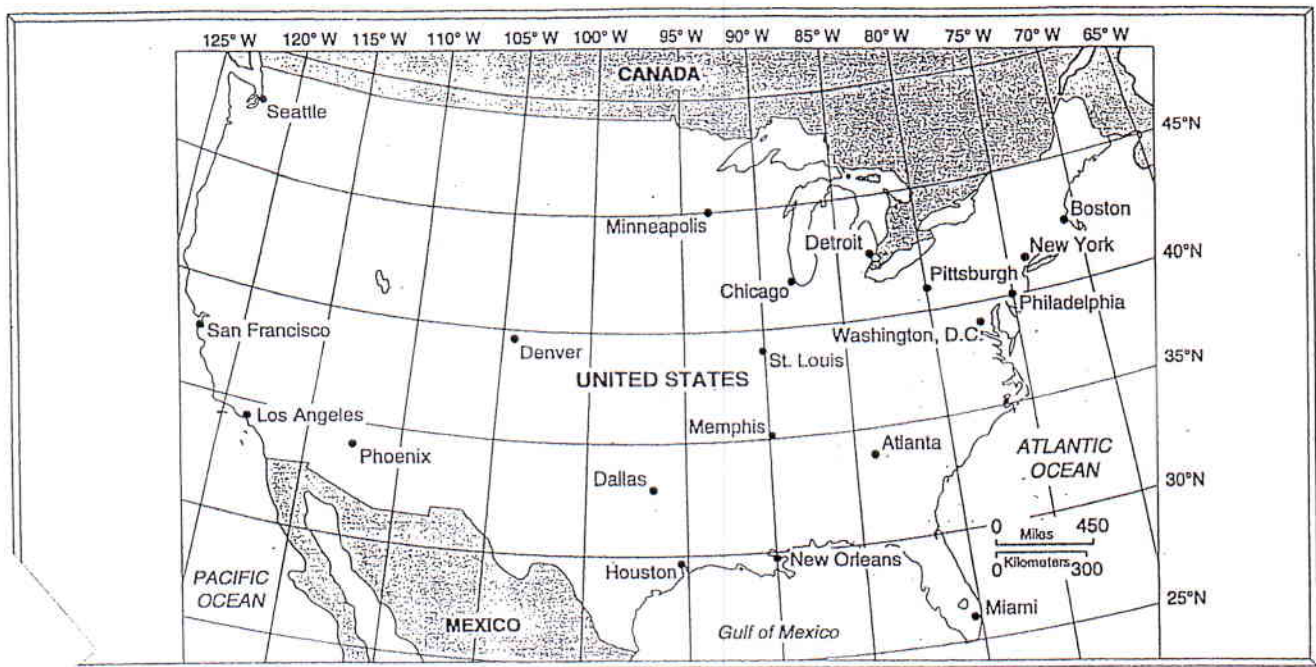
**Directions:** Locate and identify ten Louisiana cities based on the longitude and latitude coordinates provided below.



City	Latitude (North)	Longitude (West)	City	Latitude (North)	Longitude (West)
1. _____	30.46°	91.14°	6. _____	32.51°	92.09°
2. _____	32.46°	93.77°	7. _____	31.75°	93.10°
3. _____	30.21°	93.20°	8. _____	29.97°	90.06°
4. _____	31.29°	92.46°	9. _____	30.21°	92.03°
5. _____	30.28°	89.78°	10. _____	29.79°	90.82°



# Locating Places Using Latitude and Longitude Worksheet



**Directions** – Use the map of the United States above to answer the following questions.

1. In what direction do lines of latitude run? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what direction do lines of longitude run? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What city is located along 45° N Latitude? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What three cities are located closest to 90° W longitude? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If you were at 30° N latitude and 75° W longitude, you would be in the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What city is located about 30° N latitude and 95° W longitude? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What city is located about 38° N latitude and 122° W longitude? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What city is located about 47° N latitude and 122° W longitude? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What city is located about 42° N latitude and 71° W longitude? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What body of water is located about 25° N latitude and 90° W longitude? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Atlanta is located about \_\_\_\_\_ latitude and \_\_\_\_\_ longitude.
12. Phoenix is located about \_\_\_\_\_ latitude and \_\_\_\_\_ longitude.

**Split-page Notes**

<b>Keywords/Quotations</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>How does rain water from as far away as Montana and Pennsylvania eventually end up flowing into the Mississippi River?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>How was the southeastern part of Louisiana formed?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Why is most of the land surrounding the Mississippi River prone to flooding?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>What is the Mississippi River's delta basin?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Why is sediment suspended in the Mississippi River so important to the physical geography of Louisiana?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>