

Social Studies
Grade-Level Expectations: Grade 8

Geography

The World in Spatial Terms

1. Use time zones in the United States or the International Date Line to interpret a map or representation of a globe and calculate current times in different places (G-1A-M2)
2. Locate major landforms and geographic features, places, and bodies of water/waterways on a map of Louisiana (G-1A-M2)
3. Construct a map based on given narrative information (G-1A-M2)
4. Construct a chart or diagram to display geographical information in an organized way (G-1A-M2)

Places and Regions

5. Describe and analyze the distinguishing physical and/or human characteristics of Louisiana regions (G-1B-M1)
6. Describe ways in which location and physical features have influenced historical events in Louisiana and the development of the state (e.g., Mississippi River/swamp in the Battle of New Orleans) (G-1B-M2)
7. Explain how or why specific regions are changing as a result of physical phenomena (e.g., changes in the coastal wetlands) (G-1B-M3)
8. Identify and describe factors that cause a Louisiana region to change (e.g., natural occurrences, disasters, migration) (G-1B-M3)
9. Explain ways in which goals, cultures, interests, inventions, and technological advances have affected perceptions and uses of places or regions in Louisiana (G-1B-M4)

Physical and Human Systems

10. Analyze the population characteristics and other demographic information about the United States and Louisiana, including rates of increase/decrease for demographic variables (G-1C-M2)
11. Explain why humans settled and formed societies in specific regions or why immigrant groups (e.g., Acadians) settled in specific areas of Louisiana (G-1C-M3)
12. Describe the causes and effects of cultural diffusion and the effects of cultural diversity in Louisiana (G-1C-M5)
13. Describe factors that contribute to economic interdependence at the local, national, and global level, as related to Louisiana's past and present (G-1C-M6)

Environment and Society

14. Analyze, evaluate, and predict consequences of environmental modifications on Louisiana landforms, natural resources, and plant or animal life (G-1D-M1)
15. Analyze the benefits and challenges of the Louisiana physical environments on its inhabitants (e.g., flooding, soil, climate conducive to growing certain plants) (G-1D-M2)
16. Analyze the distribution and uses of Louisiana's natural resources (G-1D-M3)
17. Identify a contemporary Louisiana geographic issue, and research possible solutions (G-1D-M4)

Civics

Structure and Purposes of Government

18. Identify the powers of state government as defined in the Louisiana Constitution and compare/contrast those powers to the powers of the federal government (C-1A-M3)

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19. Explain the purposes of state constitutions and describe the relationship of the Louisiana Constitution to the U.S. Constitution (C-1A-M4)
20. Identify the structure and powers of the three branches of the state government, the limits of those powers, and key positions within each branch (C-1A-M5)
21. Describe the various forms of local government in Louisiana (C-1A-M5)
22. Describe the powers/responsibilities and limits of power for government officials at the local and state levels in Louisiana (C-1A-M6)
23. Identify qualifications and terms of office for key leaders/representatives at the state and local levels (C-1A-M6)
24. Identify current government leaders at the state, local, and national levels in the United States (C-1A-M6)
25. Explain how a bill becomes law at the state level (C-1A-M7)
26. List and apply criteria for evaluating rules and laws (C-1A-M7)
27. Describe ways by which public policies are formed, including the role of lobbyists, special interest groups, and constituents (C-1A-M8)
28. Explain why taxes are needed and purposes for which tax monies/revenues are used (C-1A-M9)
29. Identify types of taxes collected by the local, state, and federal government (C-1A-M10)
30. Evaluate a type of tax in a historical context (e.g., severance tax) (C-1A-M10)

Foundations of the American Political System

31. Explain how the Louisiana Constitution reflects the principles of government set forth in the U.S. Constitution (e.g., checks and balance, separation of powers) (C-1B-M3)
32. Describe various peaceful ways of resolving political or social conflicts, including *majority vote vs. consensus* (C-1B-M4)
33. Analyze how the democratic process has been used to institute change in Louisiana (C-1B-M5)
34. Explain how the U.S. census is used in the political process and how it affects Louisiana representation in Congress (C-1B-M6)
35. Describe the role of the Electoral College and how Louisiana participates in that system (C-1B-M6)
36. Explain how political parties, campaigns, and elections provide opportunities for citizens to participate in government (C-1B-M6)

International Relationships

37. Explain the role of nation-states in various alliances and international organizations (e.g., NATO, the United Nations, OPEC) and identify effects of their decisions upon Louisiana (C-1C-M1)
38. Explain how U.S. foreign policy has affected Louisiana (e.g., tariffs, NAFTA) (C-1C-M2)

Roles of the Citizen

39. Identify individual rights guaranteed in the Louisiana Constitution (C-1D-M2)
40. Describe ways by which citizens can organize, monitor, or influence government and politics at the local, state, and national levels (C-1D-M4)
41. Explain the importance of being an informed citizen on public issues, recognizing propaganda, and knowing the voting issues (C-1D-M5)

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Economics

Fundamental Economic Concepts

42. Analyze situations involving scarcity (limited resources) at the individual, group, and societal levels to determine the need for choices or what is gained/lost by a decision (E-1A-M1)
43. Explain how effective economic decisions (e.g., determining the best level of consumption) require comparing the additional costs of alternatives with additional benefits (E-1A-M2)
44. Explain choice/trade-offs, cost/benefits, and opportunity costs related to making personal economic decisions (E-1A-M3)
45. Analyze the role of specialization in Louisiana's economy (E-1A-M4)
46. Use a variety of resources to research education and training for jobs and careers (E-1A-M5)
47. Cite examples of how skills/knowledge and technical training increase personal productivity and career opportunities, and which skills/knowledge would enhance particular career prospects (E-1A-M5)
48. Characterize and analyze the use of productive resources in an economic system (E-1A-M6)
49. Describe how the four basic economic questions are answered in *traditional* vs. *command* vs. *market* economies (E-1A-M6)
50. Describe institutions (e.g., banks, government agencies, large companies, small businesses) that make up economic systems (E-1A-M7)
51. Use economic concepts (e.g., scarcity, opportunity cost) to explain historic and contemporary events and developments in Louisiana (E-1A-M9)

Individuals, Households, Businesses, and Governments

52. Explain how supply and demand affect prices (E-1B-M1)
53. Explain and analyze factors affecting production and allocation of goods/services in Louisiana and the United States (E-1B-M2)
54. Explain the difference between private goods/services and public goods/services and give examples of each (E-1B-M3)
55. Identify the costs and benefits of a given government policy (e.g., trade agreements, minimum wage) on a competitive market (E-1B-M4)
56. Identify various types of taxes and user fees and predict their consequences (E-1B-M5)
57. Explain reasons for trade between nations and the impact of international trade (E-1B-M6)
58. Describe historical and economic factors influencing the economic growth, interdependence, and development of Louisiana and the nation (e.g., mass production, oil boom and decline) (E-1B-M7)

The Economy as a Whole

59. Explain the meaning of various economic indicators that help describe the state of an economy (e.g., GDP, CPI, stock market indices, rate of unemployment or inflation) (E-1C-M1)
60. Define *inflation* and *unemployment* in terms of an economic system as a whole (E-1C-M2)
61. Describe the influence/impact of inflation or unemployment on different groups of people (e.g., consumers, business owners) (E-1C-M2)

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History

Historical Thinking Skills

62. Construct a timeline of key events in Louisiana history (H-1A-M1)
63. Interpret data presented in a timeline correlating Louisiana, U.S., and world history (H-1A-M1)
64. Compare and contrast events and ideas from Louisiana's past and present, explaining political, social, or economic contexts (H-1A-M2)
65. Analyze the causes, effects, or impact of a given historical event in Louisiana (H-1A-M3)
66. Analyze how a given historical figure influenced or changed the course of Louisiana's history (H-1A-M3)
67. Analyze given source material to identify opinion, propaganda, or bias (H-1A-M4)
68. Interpret a political cartoon (H-1A-M4)
69. Propose and defend potential solutions to past and current issues in Louisiana (H-1A-M5)
70. Conduct historical research using a variety of resources, and evaluate those resources, to answer historical questions related to Louisiana history (H-1A-M6)

Louisiana History

71. Describe major early explorers and explorations significant to Louisiana or early settlers in Louisiana (H-1D-M1)
72. Describe leaders who were influential in Louisiana's development (H-1D-M1)
73. Describe and explain the importance of major events and ideas in the development of Louisiana (H-1D-M1)
74. Describe the causes and effects of various migrations into Louisiana (H-1D-M1)
75. Describe the contributions of ethnic groups significant in Louisiana history (H-1D-M1)
76. Trace and describe various governments in Louisiana's history (H-1D-M2)
77. Describe major conflicts in context of Louisiana history (e.g., Rebellion of 1768, the French and Indian War) (H-1D-M3)
78. Describe and analyze the impact of Louisiana's geographic features on historic events, settlement patterns, economic development, etc (H-1D-M4)
79. Explain how Louisiana's natural resources have shaped its history (e.g., petroleum) (H-1D-M4)
80. Trace the state's economic development and growth toward economic diversity (e.g., fur trade, tourism, technology) (H-1D-M5)
81. Explain cultural elements that have shaped Louisiana's heritage (e.g., festivals, music, dance, food, languages) (H-1D-M6)