

Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: Louisiana's Geography - Section 2: Natural Regions

Guided Reading



Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. The diversity of Louisiana's _____ can surprise residents and visitors alike.
2. Physical geography is concerned with observing the _____ in the _____ and _____ of the land in a given place or region.
3. Geographers _____, _____, and _____ the regions they study.
4. Natural regions are classified according to characteristics such as _____, _____, _____, and _____.
5. _____ have divided the United States into _____ natural regions.
6. Louisiana is located in the western portion of the _____.
7. The name Gulf Coastal Plain indicates that it sits near the _____ of _____ and has a relatively _____.
8. Elevation refers to the _____ of a place above _____.
9. _____ is the difference between the highest and _____ levels in a given area.
10. Elevations in Louisiana range from about 8 feet _____ in New Orleans to a height of 535 feet above sea level at _____.
11. In 1869, the Louisiana _____ called for a _____ survey of the state.

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12. Samuel _____ was chosen to lead the expeditions that continued for _____ years.
13. The survey identified five major _____ regions in the state, (1) the Mississippi _____, (2) the _____ River Valley, (3) the _____, (4) the _____, and (5) the _____.
14. A _____ is the _____ land along a river that is likely to _____.
15. The Mississippi Floodplain region runs along both sides of the river in the _____ part of the state.
16. Alluvial soil means it is made up of _____ carried by a river and _____ along its banks.
17. Alluvial soil is _____, produces plentiful natural _____ life, and is well suited for growing _____.
18. The Mississippi Floodplain region is subdivided into three parts, the _____, the _____, and the _____.
19. Natural levees are created when a river _____ and _____ is deposited alongside the _____ of a river.
20. Natural levees begin within one _____ feet of a river and can cover an area up to _____ miles wide.
21. _____ - _____ levees have been built to try to keep the Mississippi River inside its _____.
22. The slope between the _____ of the natural levee and the river is called the _____, and only trees that can survive _____ grow well in this area.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

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23. The swamp is the _____ part of the river basin and it exists _____ the natural levee.
24. One definition for swamp is “ a _____ forest.”
25. Swamps are numerous and very _____ and exist in _____ or in wildlife _____.
26. The geological name for the _____ the Mississippi River takes as it flows into the Gulf of _____ is the _____.
27. This area is also called a _____ because the mouth of the river is _____-shaped, like the Greek alphabet letter delta.
28. On a map, the passes can resemble a _____ with _____ spread wide.
29. At the estuary (the place where the _____ meets the _____), the water changes from _____ to saltwater, the land and water continually _____ and the landforms shift, which cause the passes to change.
30. An ecosystem is everything that _____ in a particular _____.
31. The Red River Valley region borders the _____ as it flows from the _____ corner of the state to _____ Louisiana.
32. The region gets its name from the rich red _____ that the river carries from _____ and Texas into Arkansas and Louisiana.
33. Today the Red River flows between the urban areas of _____ and _____ and continues southeast through _____.
34. The three distinctive types of _____ that make up the Terraces region were all _____ by the _____ River when it flowed into the Gulf along other courses.

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35. The three divisions of the Terraces region are the _____, the _____, and the _____.
36. The blufflands are the _____ part of the Terraces region and were the natural _____ along the river when it flowed there.
37. The levees gained more _____ when the wind carried a fine soil that landed on the _____ and built them even higher.
38. This dust is called _____, windblown dust that builds up and forms a _____ of bluffs as it approaches higher _____.
39. Loess soil is light and contains silt and _____ easily.
40. Erosion is _____ by the action of _____ or _____.
41. The prairies are also part of the Terraces region, but unlike the blufflands, they are _____.
42. Some people thought these prairies looked like _____ of _____.
43. Today, Louisiana's prairies are considered "critically _____" because only about 200 acres of _____ prairies remain.
44. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established four _____ in the prairies region: the _____ Prairie, _____, Lacassine, and _____ Wildlife Refuges protect plant and wildlife species.
45. Like the prairies region, the _____ areas are very flat, but unlike the prairies, they are covered in _____.
46. Today there are still many _____ forests in this area (flatwoods).
47. The Marsh region lies along Louisiana's _____ with the Gulf of _____.

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48. A _____ is found only along a coast and is the _____ area between land and water.
49. Louisiana has about 2.5 _____ acres of marsh.
50. The part of the region where salty ocean water and freshwater meet is called the _____ that has brackish water (a mixture of _____ and _____).
51. The freshwater marsh supports different _____ of plants and is the more inland area of the marsh.
52. When saltwater enters a freshwater marsh, it _____ the freshwater _____, which threatens freshwater _____.
53. Salt _____ are geological _____ found in Louisiana's salt marsh.
54. Salt domes are covered by layers of _____ that, under great _____, have folded upwards above the surrounding _____ in formations that look like _____.
55. The Hills region is the _____ region and has the roughest _____.
56. Geologists are _____ who study the origin, _____, and _____ of Earth.
57. An uplift is caused when rock formations _____ against each other and _____ upward.
58. As erosion wore down portions of the uplifts, _____ were formed, called _____.
59. The soil that dominates in the Hills region is _____ in color because it is high in _____.
60. _____ trees grow well in this soil and much of this region is now planted in _____ farms.