

Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: Louisiana's Geography - Section 3: Waterways

Guided Reading



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

1. Louisiana has nearly _____ miles of _____ rivers, bayous, creeks, and canals.
2. Navigable means that water is _____ enough for safe travel by _____.
3. The state's most important river was given many _____ before it became known as the Mississippi.
4. The Mississippi River's drainage basin covers more than _____ square miles and includes all or part of _____ states and two _____ provinces.
5. A drainage _____ is an area of land that drains into _____ (smaller rivers and streams) and eventually into _____ rivers.
6. The (Mississippi) river's basin resembles a _____ across the _____ center that empties water through its narrowest point into the _____ of _____.
7. The river carries 375 _____ gallons of water through _____ each day.
8. That drainage process also brings 256 _____ of sediment (material that settles to the _____ of a liquid) down the river each year.
9. Because of an extensive _____ system that protects cities along the river's course, most of that sediment now _____ into the Gulf of Mexico.
10. The _____ River dominates the _____-largest river drainage system in the state.
11. The Little River and the Tensas River merge with the _____ to form the _____ River.

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12. The Black River flows into the Red River before it joins the waters of the _____.
13. Today the Atchafalaya still receives waters from the _____ River plus _____ percent of the water volume from the _____.
14. The _____ River begins in east-central Mississippi and flows into Lake _____ in Louisiana. The river splits into the _____ and _____ Pearl River branches.
15. The area between the two branches is the _____ Swamp and is an important natural _____ for fish and wildlife.
16. The _____ River begins in Vernon Parish and flows southward into Lake Charles.
17. In 1926, a _____ was dug to connect Lake Charles to the Gulf of Mexico.
18. Later, a system of man-made _____ linked waterways from the _____ Ocean in Florida all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.
19. The entire system of _____ waterways, known as the Gulf _____ Waterway, provides a safe and continuous channel for small boats, ships and barges engaged in _____ and _____.
20. The _____ River serves as part of Louisiana's western _____ with Texas.
21. Construction of a dam on the Sabine River is designed to generate _____ power (electricity produced by _____).
22. Toledo Bend _____ is an artificial lake where water is _____ for people's use.
23. The largest of the natural lakes is called _____.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

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24. Each day commuters cross the lake (Pontchartrain) via an almost _____-mile-long span called the _____ Bridge which is one of the two _____ bridges in the world.
25. The lake (Pontchartrain) is also called a tidal _____ because it connects to the Gulf of Mexico through a system of narrow _____ called the Rigolets.
26. Because it contains a mixture of _____ from nearby rivers and _____ from the Gulf, its water is classified as _____.
27. Lake _____ is another lake and _____ lagoon with brackish water.
28. Cutoff lakes are formed when rivers seek _____, _____ courses through flat terrain.
29. Lakes created when huge logjams _____ the flow of a river are called _____ lakes because a raft created by _____ of logs, tree trunks, and other _____ could block the flow of a river.
30. The water would overflow into nearby _____, forming so-called raft lakes.
31. _____ lakes are created behind low groups of _____ located in the _____ that border Louisiana's Gulf Coast.
32. A bayou is a _____ that ranges in size from short and _____ to long and _____.
33. _____ of bayous spread across the state.