



Name _____ Date _____

Section 2

Interpreting Documents

Louisiana had been an economic disaster for France. When the Louisiana colony was secretly transferred, Spain was willing to take on the financial difficulties of the colony. The evidence below suggests some of the challenges the Spanish faced. Document 1 shows the value of goods exported from Louisiana in the last year of French control of the colony. Document 2 describes the bedroom furniture of Joseph Villeré, who was convicted in the Revolt of 1768. As part of his punishment, all of his personal property was confiscated and sold. Document 3 summarizes the results of a census ordered by General Alexander O'Reilly.

Directions: Read these documents and answer the questions that follow each one.

Document 1: *Value of Louisiana Colony Exports (1762)

Indigo	\$1,400,000
Deerskins	\$1,120,000
Lumber	\$699,000
Naval Stores	\$168,000
Rice, Peas, and Beans	\$55,900
Tallow	+ \$55,900
Cost of French colonial government in Louisiana	- \$5,030,000

*Based upon *History of Louisiana* by Charles Gayarré published in 1867. The values of the exports have been put in current dollar figures.

1. What was the total value of Louisiana exports? _____
2. In the last year of French rule, did the Louisiana colony experience a profit or loss? How much profit or loss?

3. What export item listed above is still a Louisiana export today? _____
4. Assume the role of a Spanish official. What does Document 1 suggest about the future profitability of the Louisiana colony? _____



Name _____ Date _____

Section 2

Interpreting Documents (continued)

Document 2: *Summary of Joseph Villeré's Personal Property

The personal property in Joseph Villeré's bedroom consisted of a cypress bed (three feet wide by six in length) including two mattresses (the bottom mattress was filled with corn shucks and the top mattress was filled with feathers), a pillow of corn shucks, and a coarse, homemade cotton quilt, six chairs of cypress wood with straw bottoms, and some candlesticks with candles made of the common green wax of the country.

*Based upon *History of Louisiana* by Charles Gayarré published in 1867.

- List the items from Joseph Villeré's bedroom that were confiscated and sold. _____

- If the list of Joseph Villeré's personal property is representative of other colonists, what does this suggest about the lifestyle of people living in Louisiana? _____

- Predict how the money raised from the sale of Joseph Villeré's personal property will be used.

Document 3: *Summary of the O'Reilly Census of New Orleans

The population of New Orleans amounted to 3,190 souls:

1,902 Free Persons (including 31 Blacks and 68 persons of mixed race)
1,225 Slaves
60 Indians

There were 468 houses and most of them were located in the third and fourth streets from the river.

*Based upon *History of Louisiana* by Charles Gayarré published in 1867.

- What does this summary of the O'Reilly census tell you about the population of New Orleans in the 1760s?

- How might the location of the dwellings (houses) in New Orleans be problematic?

