

Louisiana from Colony to Territory to State



Chapter Preview

People

Antonio Sedella (Père Antoine), Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Pinckney, Pierre Clément de Laussat, William Charles Cole Claiborne, James Wilkinson, Aaron Burr, Charles (a slave), Andrew Jackson, Edward Michael Pakenham, Jean Lafitte, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay

Places

Republic of West Florida

Terms

Pinckney's Treaty, abolition, Treaty of San Ildefonso, Louisiana Purchase, Adams-Onís Treaty, filibustering, dueling, manumission, impressment, Battle of New Orleans, Electoral College, Corrupt Bargain

Father Antonio Sedella was born in Spain and came to Louisiana in 1781. During the Spanish colonial period, priests were supported by the Spanish king, and they often became involved in political issues. Sedella became the acting pastor of the St. Louis Cathedral in 1785, but he had disagreements with other priests and some political officials. A fellow priest convinced Governor Esteban Miró to send Sedella back to Spain to face charges of misconduct. Like Bienville before him, Sedella spent several years gathering evidence and defending his conduct. His efforts paid off. He was cleared of all charges and was allowed to return to Louisiana in 1795.

Sedella, whom many people called Père (Father) Antoine, returned just as disagreements about who controlled access to the Mississippi River were causing tensions between Spain and the United States. Spain closed docks and warehouses to American traders several times before 1803.

The United States realized how important the river and the port at New Orleans had become to its citizens. In 1795, the United States and Spain signed a three-year treaty ensuring American access to the port of New Orleans. The Spanish closed the river to U.S. shipping again in 1802, so President Thomas Jefferson decided to take action. His determination and some unforeseen international events allowed the United States to purchase Louisiana in 1803.



Internet Activity



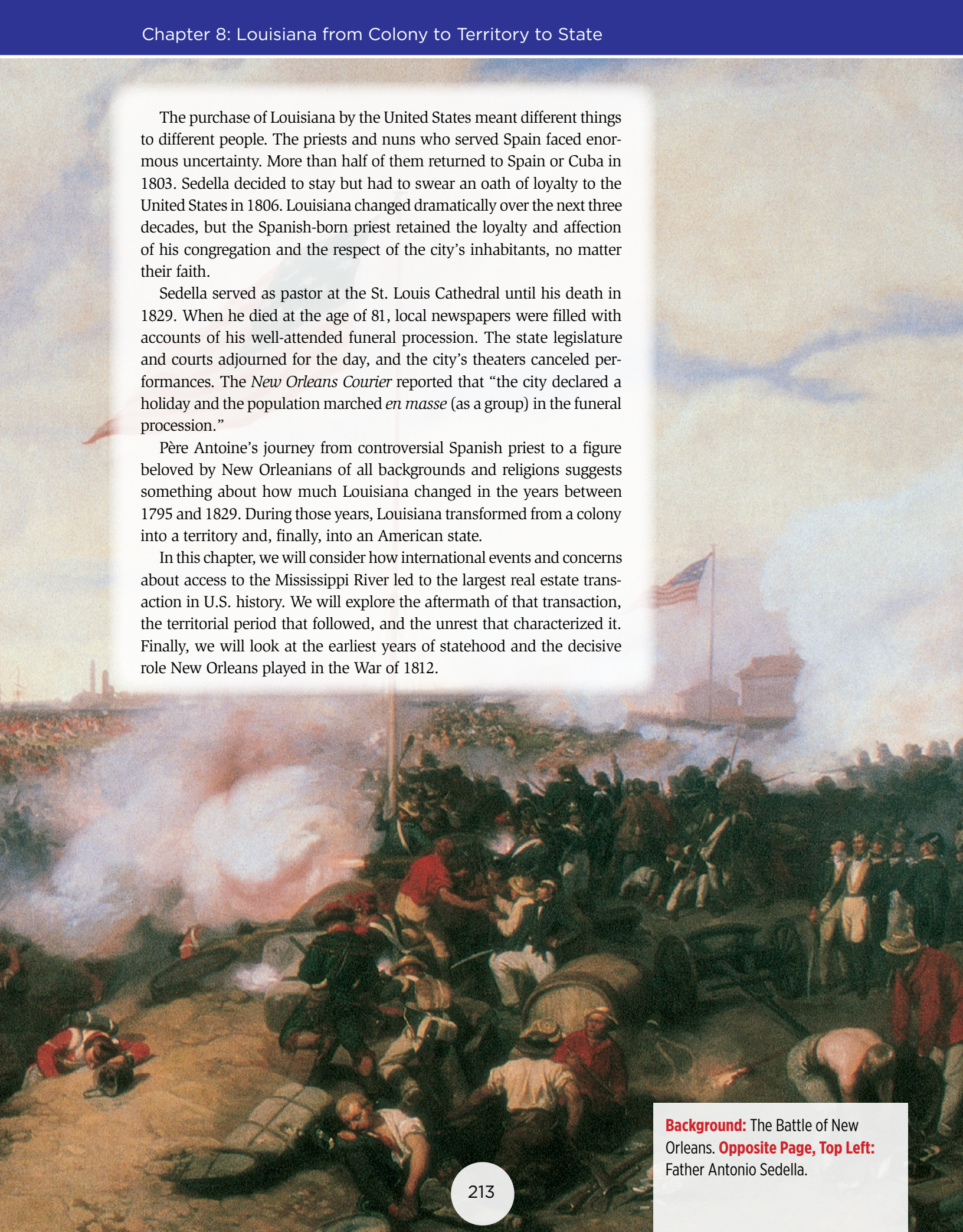
Vocabulary
Crossword

The purchase of Louisiana by the United States meant different things to different people. The priests and nuns who served Spain faced enormous uncertainty. More than half of them returned to Spain or Cuba in 1803. Sedella decided to stay but had to swear an oath of loyalty to the United States in 1806. Louisiana changed dramatically over the next three decades, but the Spanish-born priest retained the loyalty and affection of his congregation and the respect of the city's inhabitants, no matter their faith.

Sedella served as pastor at the St. Louis Cathedral until his death in 1829. When he died at the age of 81, local newspapers were filled with accounts of his well-attended funeral procession. The state legislature and courts adjourned for the day, and the city's theaters canceled performances. The *New Orleans Courier* reported that "the city declared a holiday and the population marched *en masse* (as a group) in the funeral procession."

Père Antoine's journey from controversial Spanish priest to a figure beloved by New Orleanians of all backgrounds and religions suggests something about how much Louisiana changed in the years between 1795 and 1829. During those years, Louisiana transformed from a colony into a territory and, finally, into an American state.

In this chapter, we will consider how international events and concerns about access to the Mississippi River led to the largest real estate transaction in U.S. history. We will explore the aftermath of that transaction, the territorial period that followed, and the unrest that characterized it. Finally, we will look at the earliest years of statehood and the decisive role New Orleans played in the War of 1812.



Background: The Battle of New Orleans. **Opposite Page, Top Left:** Father Antonio Sedella.

Signs of the Times



U.S. Expansion

Between 1800 and 1830, eight new states were added to the sixteen that had reached statehood in the 1700s. The new states were Ohio, 1803; Louisiana, 1812; Indiana, 1815; Mississippi, 1817; Illinois, 1818; Alabama, 1819; Maine, 1820; and Missouri, 1821.

Exploration

President Thomas Jefferson sent a Corps of Discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to explore the new Louisiana Territory. This Lewis and Clark Expedition left St. Louis in 1804, reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805, and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806.



Music

In 1810, the first regular orchestra in the United States, the Boston Philharmonic Society, was formed.

On September 14, 1814, U.S. soldiers at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, raised a huge United States flag to celebrate a victory over the British in the War of 1812. The sight of those “broad stripes and bright stars” inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Literature

Washington Irving’s “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “Rip Van Winkle” were published in 1819. James Fenimore Cooper’s *The Last of the Mohicans* was published in 1826. Other popular books were *Grimm’s Fairy Tales* (1812) and Mary W. Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1819). Noah Webster published the first American English dictionary in 1828.

Transportation

Robert Fulton demonstrated the promising future of the steamboat when his *Clermont* traveled from New York City to Albany, New York, in 1807. In 1812, the *New Orleans* became the first steamboat to reach the city of New Orleans. It began its journey in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and survived one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in the United States before reaching New Orleans.

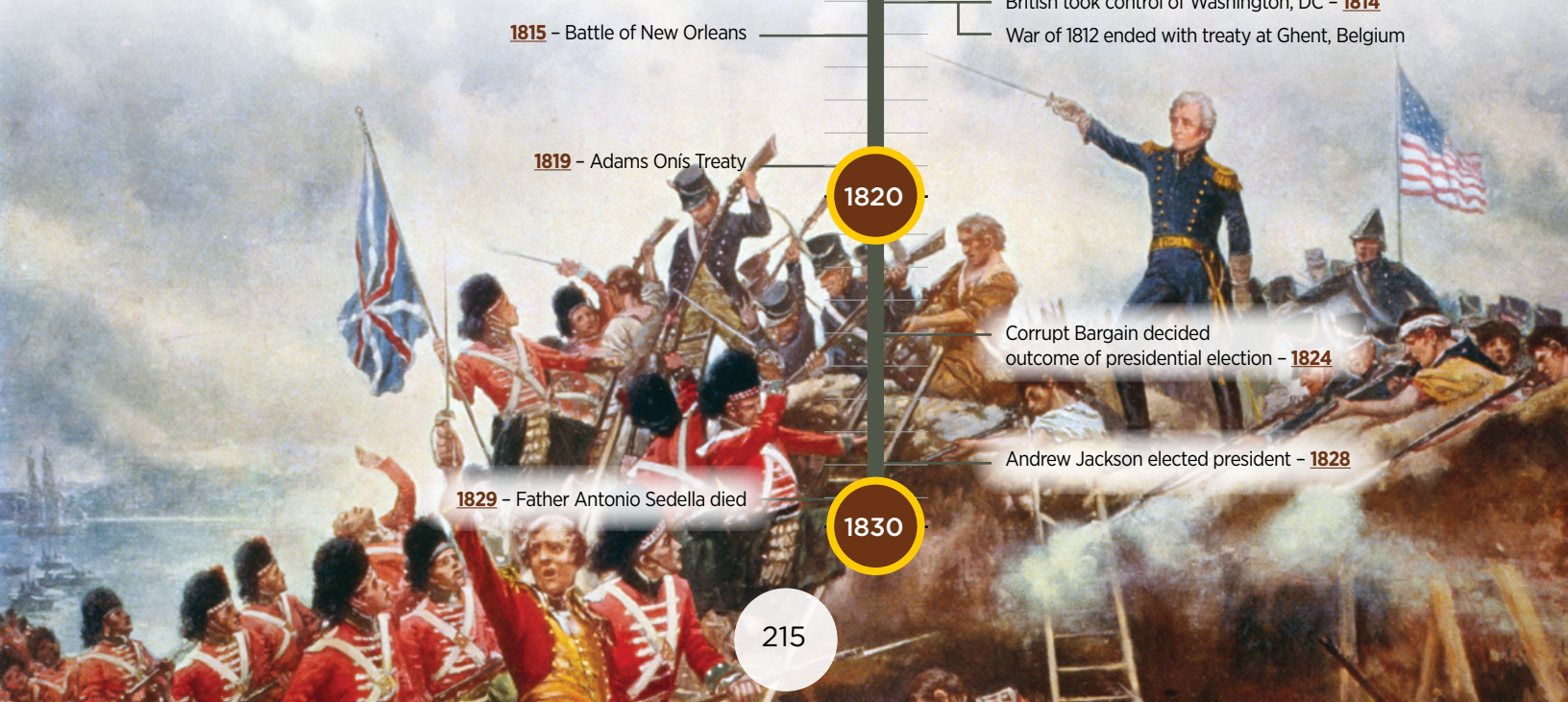
“Tom Thumb,” the first American-built steam locomotive used on a common-carrier railroad, was built in 1830.

Architecture

After eight years of construction, President John Adams moved into the unfinished President’s House in Washington, DC, in 1800. The British set fire to the house in 1814, and it was rebuilt in time for President James Monroe to occupy it in 1817. The South Portico was constructed during Monroe’s administration, and Andrew Jackson oversaw the addition of the North Portico in 1829. Called at various times the President’s House, President’s Palace, and Executive Mansion, it was officially named the White House in 1901.

Timeline

1780-1830



1781 - Father Antonio Sedella arrived in Louisiana

1780

French Revolution began - 1789

1790

Slave revolt in Saint-Domingue began - 1791

1795 - Pinckney's Treaty

1800 - Secret treaty of San Ildefonso returned Louisiana to France

1801 - Manuel Juan de Salcedo became the last Spanish governor

1802 - Spanish again closed Mississippi River to U.S. shipping

1803 - Louisiana Purchase

1800

Napoleon Bonaparte named first consul of France - 1799

Napoleon named consul for life - 1802

1804 - W. C. C. Claiborne appointed territorial governor

1804 - Importation of slaves from foreign countries to Louisiana outlawed

1806 - New slave code adopted

1809 - Refugees ejected from Cuba by the Spanish settled in Louisiana

1810 - Republic of West Florida founded; became part of Louisiana Territory

1810

1811 - Largest slave revolt in U.S. history

1812 - Louisiana became a state

Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel - 1804

Importation of slaves into U.S. outlawed - 1808

War of 1812 began - 1812

1815 - Battle of New Orleans

British took control of Washington, DC - 1814

War of 1812 ended with treaty at Ghent, Belgium

1819 - Adams Onis Treaty

1820

Corrupt Bargain decided outcome of presidential election - 1824

1829 - Father Antonio Sedella died

Andrew Jackson elected president - 1828

1830

Section 1

The United States Purchases Louisiana



Pinckney's Treaty



Jefferson's Secret Message to Congress Regarding the Lewis & Clark Expedition

As you read, look for

- ▶ the value of Pinckney's Treaty to those who used the Mississippi River for transportation and trade;
- ▶ how Napoleon's failure to regain control of Saint-Domingue led to his sale of Louisiana to the United States;
- ▶ the orderly transfer of Louisiana from Spain to France to the United States;
- ▶ the importance of the Louisiana Purchase to our young nation;
- ▶ terms: **Pinckney's Treaty, abolition, Treaty of San Ildefonso, Louisiana Purchase, Adams-Onís Treaty.**

a-z
GLOSSARY



Above: This wood engraving by Alfred R. Waud depicts a “Kentucky Boat” on the Ohio River around 1788.

Migrants of English descent began coming to Louisiana in larger numbers after 1787. Even those who did not settle permanently in Louisiana began to depend on the Mississippi River as a transportation route for the goods they grew and produced. The Americans and the Spanish disagreed about the borders that separated Spain and the United States. The Spanish were also sometimes uncooperative with U.S. citizens who wanted to use the port at New Orleans. Frontier settlers floated downriver toward New Orleans on barges filled with goods from upriver states like Kentucky and Tennessee.

These traders had to offload their barges and boats and find other ships willing to carry their cargo out into the Gulf and, from there, to Europe, the Caribbean, or ports along the East Coast of the United States.

Pinckney's Treaty

By the early 1790s, it was clear to the U.S. government that the Mississippi River was an essential trade route for Americans, but a formal agreement with Spain took years to achieve. In 1795, U.S. representative Thomas Pinckney successfully negotiated a treaty that bears his name. **Pinckney's Treaty** gave the nation much of what it wanted, including the right for Americans to trade and deposit goods in New Orleans. The terms were to be renegotiated after three years.

The Spanish attempted to close the river to American traders one final time in 1802, but international events ruined this last attempt to control the Mississippi. This action also pushed events in Louisiana toward a surprising conclusion.

International Events and Intrigue

The French Revolution and the slave revolt in Saint-Domingue had begun in 1789 and 1791 respectively. By 1794, France had abolished slavery both at home and in its colonies, including in Saint-Domingue, but fighting continued in both places. France was engaged in numerous wars for much of the next two decades. The chaos changed borders in Europe and also led to the rise of an ambitious military leader.

Napoleon Bonaparte was born on the island of Corsica and became head of the French army in Italy. He won many prominent battles and

became well known. Because of his fame as a military leader and his *audacity* (boldness, daring) as a political one, Napoleon became first consul of France in 1799. By 1802 he was named consul for life. This, however, did not diminish his ambition to control as much territory as possible.

Because Napoleon's ambitions were so large, he needed huge sums of money to pay for his military campaigns. One of his plans included regaining control of the former French colony of Saint-Domingue. Before the slave revolution began, Saint-Domingue had been one of France's most valuable colonial possessions. Despite the **abolition** (official ending) of slavery by France in 1794, Napoleon planned to re-establish slavery on the island and put the former slaves back to work on sugar and coffee plantations. He would use the profits to pay for his military campaigns.



Above: Thomas Pinckney. **Left:** Napoleon Bonaparte in his study.

Lagniappe

The disease that killed most of Napoleon's soldiers, yellow fever, was caused by the bite of a certain tropical mosquito. This mosquito was widespread in the hot, damp climate of Saint-Domingue, and the soldiers who came from France had no immunity to the disease it carried. It is called *yellow fever* because one of the symptoms is jaundice, which can make the skin and whites of the eyes appear yellow.

Napoleon also wished to reestablish control over Louisiana. In his plans, Louisiana and the trade on the Mississippi River would serve as a supply depot for Saint-Domingue. This part of his vision required that he convince Spain to return Louisiana to France. France made a secret agreement with the Spanish king in 1800. The terms of the transfer were spelled out in the **Treaty of San Ildefonso**. After two years of negotiations, the final agreement was reached in 1802. As part of the agreement, Spain believed France had promised not to transfer Louisiana to any other power before offering it back to Spain first.

Shortly after getting possession of Louisiana, Napoleon sent more than 30,000 soldiers to Saint-Domingue to initiate his plans of ending the slave revolt and reestablishing slavery. Events worked against his scheme. Within weeks of arrival on the island, more than 80 percent of Napoleon's soldiers were dead, most of them from disease rather than fighting. With this disastrous turn of events, Napoleon realized his plan to regain control of Saint-Domingue had failed. Under the circumstances, he decided he no longer benefited from possession of Louisiana.

The Louisiana Purchase

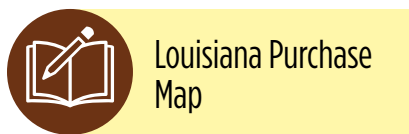
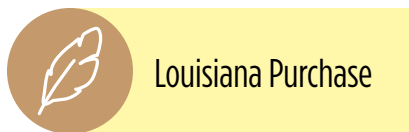
Since the late 1790s, the United States had been keenly interested in establishing permanent access to the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. Aware of the rumors of a transfer from Spain to France, President Thomas Jefferson sent James Monroe to join the American ambassador to France, Robert Livingston. Their orders were to negotiate for the purchase of New Orleans.

A Surprising Offer

Both men were shocked in early 1803 when they were offered the opportunity to purchase not just New Orleans but all of Louisiana. They had no orders authorizing such a massive purchase. Given the slow pace of transatlantic communication, they had no ability to ask for and receive permission in a timely fashion. Monroe and Livingston took a chance and went far beyond their orders. They accepted the offer to purchase all of Louisiana and negotiated a price of \$15,000,000. An agreement was reached in early May. When they asked for clarification about the actual borders of the area they had purchased, the French foreign minister advised Monroe and Livingston only that, "You have made a noble bargain for yourselves; I am sure you will make the most of it."



Right: Thomas Jefferson signing the Louisiana Purchase papers.

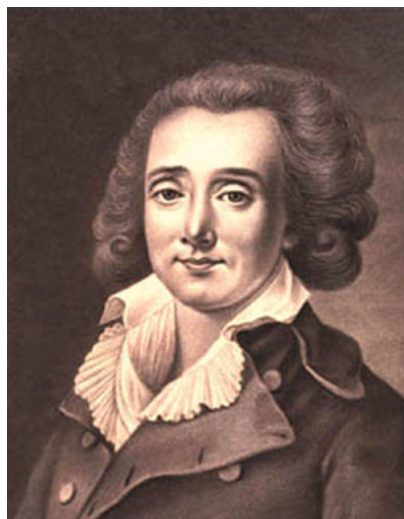


The Treaty

Events moved rapidly after this. The terms of the treaty were sent to Washington, DC, for approval. President Jefferson was aware there was no constitutional authority for such an act, but he felt it was in the growing nation's interest to take this step. In order to avoid a long, drawn-out debate, Jefferson pushed for quick *ratification* (approval) of the terms. He was able to achieve this, and the U.S. Senate ratified the treaty for the **Louisiana Purchase** on October 19, 1803.

Two Transfers

Two transfers had to take place at New Orleans to finalize the process. First, the Spanish transferred Louisiana to Napoleon's representative in New Orleans on November 30, 1803. Pierre Clément de Laussat had been sent from France with the understanding that he would take over as governor of the colony once Napoleon gained control. Because of the Louisiana Purchase, Laussat governed Louisiana for only three weeks. He transferred Louisiana to the United States in a ceremony in the Cabildo on December 20, 1803. Although no one yet knew it for certain, with that transfer a new era in the nation's history had begun.

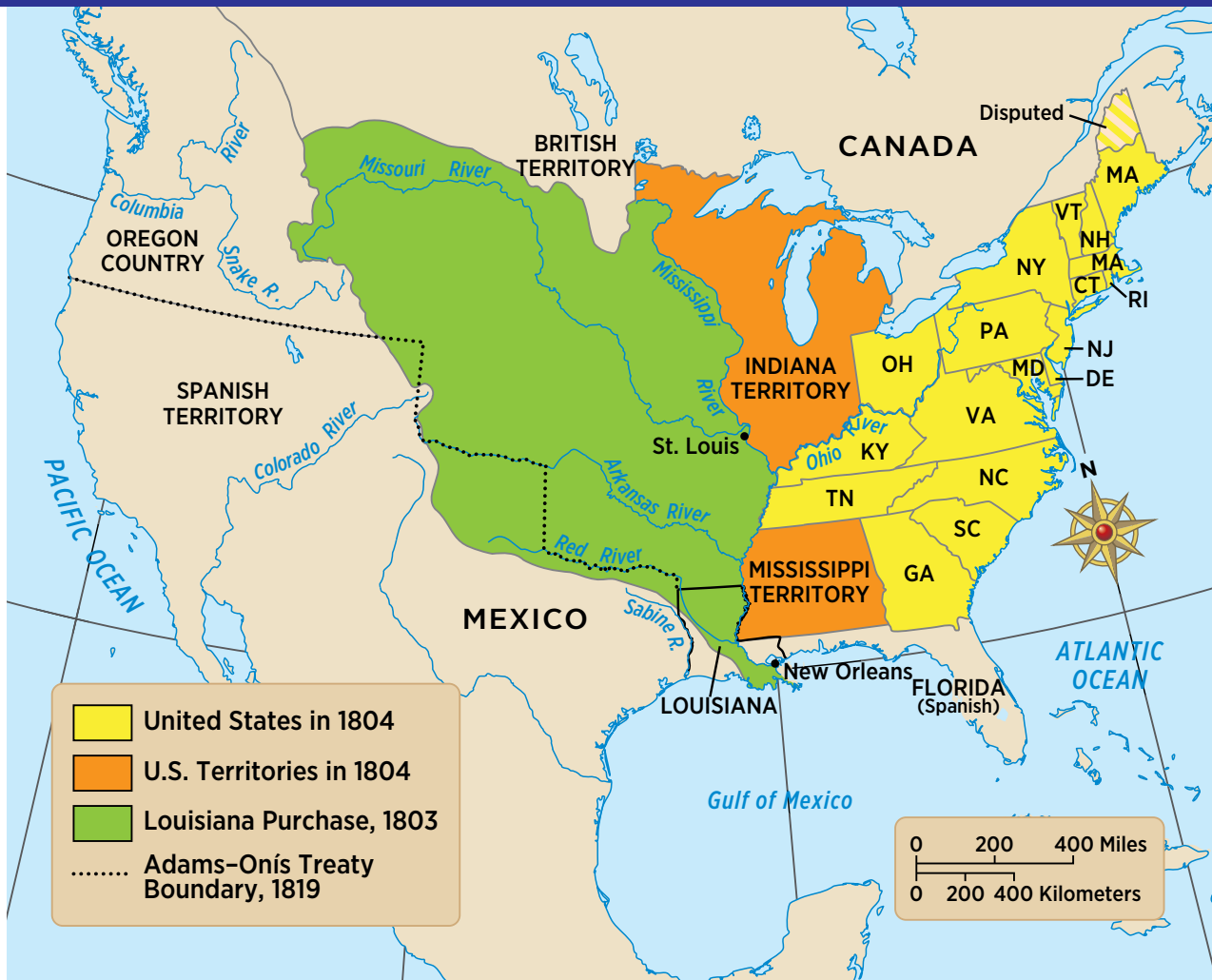


The Territory

At the time, however, several important issues remained to be settled. Before the Purchase, the territory of the United States included approximately 434,000,000 acres of land. President Jefferson estimated that the area purchased in 1803 would add about 500,000,000 acres. He was almost right. The **Adams-Onís Treaty**, signed in 1819, specified how much land the Louisiana Purchase added to the United States. The final treaty made clear that the historic events of 1803 more than doubled the size of the country, adding 530,000,000 acres to the nation's territory. Ultimately those lands would make up all or part of fifteen states. After all of the interest was paid on the \$15,000,000 loan, the United States paid \$23,537,872 for Louisiana, amounting to approximately 4 cents an acre—a noble bargain indeed!



Above: Pierre Clément de Laussat.
Left: This ceremony at the Place d'Armes in New Orleans marked the transfer of Louisiana from France to the United States. On December 20, 1803, the tricolor French flag was lowered and the American flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, was raised.



MAP 8.1

The Louisiana Purchase

Map Skill: What forms the eastern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase?

Despite its impressive size, the Louisiana Purchase was more than just a large real estate deal. In 1803, the United States was a small and very young nation. With the stroke of several pens, it became a potential world power. It was also extraordinary that, in the context of so much ongoing warfare in Europe and the Caribbean, Louisiana changed hands peacefully and rapidly—from Spain to France to the United States—all in less than one year. Its transformation into an American state would take nine more years to accomplish.

Lagniappe

The Louisiana Purchase encompassed all of the present-day states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, as well as parts of Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and, of course, Louisiana.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: Pinckney's Treaty, Treaty of San Ildefonso, Louisiana Purchase.
2. What was the main reason that Napoleon's plans to regain control of Saint-Domingue failed?
3. How many acres were added to the United States by the Louisiana Purchase, and at what price per acre?

Section 2

The Territorial Period: Leadership and Challenges

As you read, look for

- ▶ personal and administrative challenges facing Territorial Governor William C. C. Claiborne;
- ▶ the mysterious schemes of Aaron Burr that threatened to destabilize the new territory;
- ▶ how the Florida Parishes came to be part of Louisiana;
- ▶ troubles involving free people of color and slaves in the new territory;
- ▶ terms: **filibustering, dueling, manumission.**

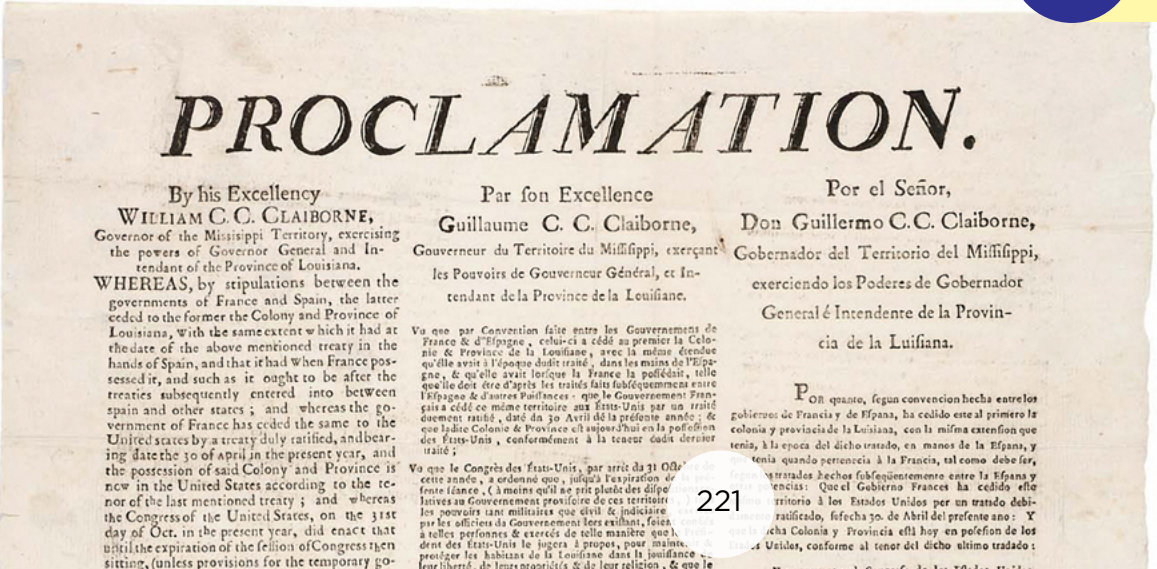
a-z
GLOSSARY

Because the Purchase happened so rapidly, President Jefferson had to act quickly to find a leader for Louisiana. He asked three men, who turned him down, before asking William Charles Cole Claiborne. Jefferson knew and liked Claiborne. In the *contentious* (controversial) presidential campaign for the election of 1804, Claiborne had supported Jefferson for the presidency. Because Claiborne was stationed nearby as governor of the Mississippi Territory in 1803, he was also a convenient choice. Many people were not sure he was the best choice, particularly because he spoke no French or Spanish. This meant that the person who was put in charge of Louisiana had no ability to communicate directly with the vast majority of the population.

Lagniappe

On December 20, 1803, William C. C. Claiborne issued a proclamation to clarify to the people of New Orleans their new citizenship status. Though Claiborne spoke only English, his proclamation was printed in English, French, and Spanish. His printed signature was also given in three languages: as William C. C. Claiborne, Guillaume C. C. Claiborne, and Guillermo C. C. Claiborne.

 Claiborne





Lagniappe

Today, the term *to filibuster* is more likely to mean “to use delaying tactics to put off or prevent the passage of laws (particularly in the U.S. Senate).” The added meaning came into being late in the nineteenth century, when members of Congress who delayed passage of laws by conducting long speeches were compared to adventurers (filibusterers) who tried to overthrow legitimate rule.

Above: James Wilkinson. **Right:** Aaron Burr.

Claiborne’s co-commissioner and military commander was General James Wilkinson. Wilkinson too was a less-than-ideal choice. Although it was not widely known at the time, Wilkinson had been a secret agent for the Spanish since 1787 and had, at one time, sworn an oath of loyalty to the Spanish king. Despite their potential problems, these two men were the new leaders of Louisiana.

Jefferson directed Claiborne to make change slowly, but because Louisiana was still a colony, Claiborne had essentially unlimited powers. The Louisiana Purchase treaty included a promise that Louisiana “would be incorporated” into the United States and “admitted as soon as possible.” It was made a territory of the United States in 1804, with Claiborne appointed as territorial governor. That territorial status lasted for another eight years. Several events that took place during the territorial period remind us that, in addition to being a period of great change, it was also a time of uncertainty and unrest.

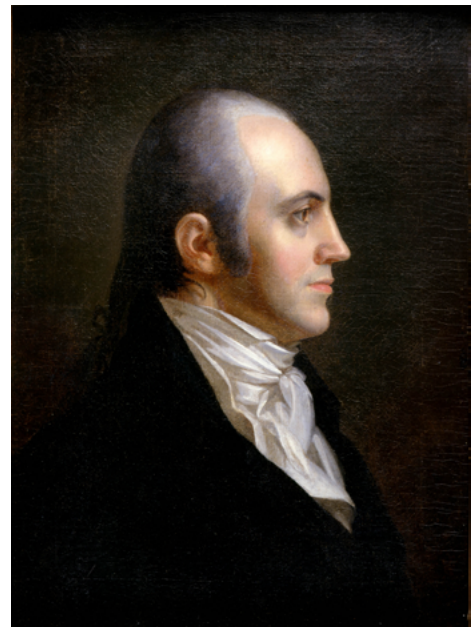
Administrative Challenges and Change

When Louisiana became a territory, Claiborne divided it into twelve administrative units, which he designated “counties.” By 1807, the territorial legislature, which included representatives who had lived in Louisiana long before the Purchase, changed those “counties” back to “parishes.” As a result, Louisiana is the only state with parishes rather than counties.

Laws too reflected compromise between American ideas and Louisiana’s French and Spanish colonial past. As we learned in Chapter 4, the 1808 Civil Code was based on France’s Napoleonic Code. In contrast, criminal law came to resemble the common law tradition more familiar throughout the rest of the United States.

The Burr Conspiracy

Louisiana was still a very unstable place in the territorial period. Those who wanted to evade the law or take part in a form of adventuring, called **filibustering** in the nineteenth century, looked toward Louisiana and its uncertain borders as a place of opportunity. One unlikely filibusterer was a former vice president of the United States, Aaron Burr. Though he served as vice president during Thomas Jefferson’s first term, Burr and Jefferson despised each other. As Jefferson prepared to run for reelection in 1804, he made it clear that Burr would not continue to serve as his second in command. In the wake of Jefferson’s rejection, Burr decided to run for governor of New York.



Burr also had a long-standing personal feud with former secretary of the treasury Alexander Hamilton. When Hamilton wrote a newspaper article that was very critical about Burr and his ambitions to be governor, Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel.

Dueling (a combat between two persons, especially one fought with weapons in front of witnesses) had been a common way for men to settle disputes in the early national period. By 1804, it was becoming less acceptable. Dueling had been outlawed in both New York and New Jersey by that time, but New York enforced the ban more vigorously than its neighboring state. Thus, Burr and Hamilton decided to leave New York and cross the border into New Jersey to settle their affair of honor. On the morning of July 11, 1804, Burr shot Hamilton, and Hamilton died the next day. Charges were filed in both states, but none ever came to trial. Burr even finished out his term as vice president.

What Burr's plans were next has never been entirely clear. They included discussions of such ambitious schemes as taking over New Orleans and stripping the city of its valuables. He would then invade Mexico where he would establish himself as ruler. Whether these ideas were serious or simply talk, they never took place. General James Wilkinson had originally *conspired* (plotted, schemed) with Burr, but ultimately decided to inform Jefferson of Burr's schemes. Burr was tried and acquitted of conspiracy charges, but the trial for conspiracy and his murder of Hamilton deeply damaged his reputation. Burr went into exile in England, but returned to the United States in 1812. He spent the final years of his life practicing law in New York.

West Florida Rebellion

There was also unrest along the borders of the area known then as Spanish West Florida (and today as the Florida Parishes). Although the Spanish still controlled the area in 1810, English-speaking migrants from the United States dominated the region's population. Many of them wanted to become a part of the United States. To accomplish this goal, they staged their own revolt against the Spanish in 1810. The rebels declared themselves an independent republic, called the Republic of West Florida. They even adopted a flag with a blue field and a single white star. Their independence did not last long. Three months later, the United States declared West Florida part of the Louisiana Territory. The Florida Parishes were formally incorporated into Louisiana after it became a state in 1812.



Lagniappe

As the first secretary of the treasury for the United States, Alexander Hamilton is honored by being pictured on the ten dollar bill.

Lagniappe

The Bonnie Blue Flag of the Republic of West Florida, which symbolized independence, was not forgotten. When the state of Mississippi left the Union in 1861, a similar flag was raised over the capitol dome in that state. An 1861 song titled "The Bonnie Blue Flag," with the lyrics "Hurrah for the bonnie blue flag that bears a single star," became a popular Confederate Civil War anthem.



Top: Alexander Hamilton on the ten dollar bill. **Bottom:** The Bonnie Blue Flag of the Republic of West Florida.



MAP 8.2

The Florida Parishes

Map Skill: By what year did all of the present-day state of Louisiana belong to the United States?

Free People of Color and Slaves

Louisiana's diverse population also presented its new administrators with unexpected challenges. Free people of color, who had become a significant part of Louisiana's population, especially in New Orleans, presented the United States with an unfamiliar situation. Claiborne was both astonished and alarmed when he realized that local militia units included two groups made up entirely of free men of color. In one letter back to Washington, DC, he referred to these armed free men of color as his "principal difficulty." The free men of color wrote Claiborne asking that their militia units be retained. They quoted from the Louisiana Purchase treaty in making their case. In 1804, Claiborne decided on a compromise that kept the militia units intact for the time being, but put white officers in charge of them.



Right: A battalion of free men of color would be critical to the American victory at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.

Claiborne also oversaw the adoption of a new slave code in 1806 based on U.S. rather than French or Spanish practices. The code still allowed for **manumission** (setting free of slaves by their masters). However, the privilege of self-purchase (called *coartación* by the Spanish) was no longer available to slaves, making it all but impossible for a slave to be freed without the approval of his or her master. Slaves were also prohibited from making complaints against their masters. When they committed crimes of a public nature, they were tried in a separate system of courts that gave out harsh punishments.

Slave law and life changed in another important respect as well. After 1804, the federal government made it illegal to import slaves into Louisiana from any place outside the United States. Similar legislation became the law for the entire country in 1808. This led to a rise in the importance of the domestic slave trade. Rather than being brought to the United States from Africa or the Caribbean, slaves were now sent from coastal states like Virginia, to be sold in Deep South locations like New Orleans.

Although this was a national law, Claiborne made an exception to it in 1809. In that year, a large group of refugees who had fled Haiti (Saint-Domingue) and settled in Spanish-controlled Cuba were forced to migrate one more time when the Spanish ejected them from Cuba because of tensions between Spain and France. Nine thousand of them set sail for nearby Louisiana. The refugees were almost equally divided among white people, free people of color, and slaves. The fate of these three thousand slaves created a problem for Claiborne. Although it was technically illegal to import slaves, Claiborne needed to make an exception. He felt it was inhumane to leave so many people stranded, and most slave owners refused to leave their slaves behind or abandoned on boats at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Among other things, this 1809 wave of immigration nearly doubled the size of the city of New Orleans in a single year.

Below: This painting by Agostino Brunias depicts free people of color in Saint-Domingue. People like this would have been among those fleeing to Louisiana in 1809.



Black Code of 1806



Special FEATURE

The Queen of Voodoo: Marie Laveau

One of the most interesting people in New Orleans history is Marie Laveau, the Queen of Voodoo. Laveau was born on September 10, 1801, in New Orleans to *mulatto* (mixed race) parents. Marie was a free woman of color, the first in her mother's family to be born free. Marie Laveau married Jacques Paris in 1819 at St. Louis Cathedral, and the couple had two daughters, although neither daughter lived a long life. After the death of her husband, Marie became known as "Widow Paris," the name that is inscribed on her tombstone. Later in life, Marie had seven more children in her relationship with a man of French descent named Louis Glapion. Two of those children—both daughters—survived into adulthood.

Even though she was a devout Catholic, Marie Laveau is most famous for being the Queen of Voodoo in New Orleans from the 1820s until the 1860s. Voodoo developed from traditions rooted in Africa, Haiti, Cuba, Trinidad, and Brazil, and integrates the belief of one god, like in Christianity, with the belief in spirits. Folklore suggests that Marie Laveau sold charms, favors, and prophecies. In addition, she charged fees for communicating with the dead. Local legends connect Marie Laveau with basically anything unusual that happened during her lifetime in New Orleans, even though most of the stories cannot be proved. Near the end of her life, Marie Laveau gave up her position as Voodoo Queen and devoted her life to doing charitable work, such as meeting and praying with prisoners. She died on June 15, 1881.

To learn more about Marie Laveau, you can visit the Voodoo Museum in the French Quarter in New Orleans. Her tomb in St. Louis Cemetery Number 1 is also a popular tourist attraction. Is there anyone today who reminds you of Marie Laveau?



The 1811 Slave Revolt

Fear that slaves who had come from Saint-Domingue would bring knowledge and experience of the island's slave rebellion was one reason some in Louisiana feared the 1809 slave refugees. Although there is no clear connection between the two events, in 1811 slaves upriver from New Orleans rebelled against their masters in what became the largest slave revolt in U.S. history.

In January 1811, an enslaved man named Charles led others to take control of the plantation of Miguel Andry. The slaves believed there might be a large collection of weapons on the plantation, but were disappointed not to find them. Most of the slaves were armed only with farm tools. As they began their approach toward New Orleans, they convinced other slaves to join them. Their numbers certainly exceeded 150 and may have been as high as 500. But the poorly armed rebels were no match for the local militia and U.S. Army forces that surrounded them two days into their march. Many of the slaves were killed in the fighting that followed. Those who were captured were taken to New Orleans for trial. Twenty-one slaves were hanged, and their heads were then placed on poles along the route they had taken toward New Orleans. This would serve as a warning to other slaves who might consider rebellion. Although the 1811 slave rebels were defeated, the sheer numbers of slaves involved make the revolt an important part of the nation's history.



Above: This painting by renowned Louisiana artist Lorraine Gendron depicts the 1811 slave revolt that started upriver from New Orleans.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: filibustering, dueling, manumission.
2. How did the people of Spanish West Florida come to be part of the state of Louisiana?
3. What were the main principles of the Slave Code of 1806?

Section 3

Statehood and Early Government

As you read, look for

- ▶ the causes of the War of 1812;
- ▶ how the outcome of the Battle of New Orleans was both a national triumph for the United States and a personal victory for Andrew Jackson;
- ▶ the continuing political and cultural divide between Anglos and Creoles in the new state of Louisiana;
- ▶ how a “Corrupt Bargain” drew Louisiana citizens into national politics;
- ▶ terms: **impressment, Battle of New Orleans, Electoral College, Corrupt Bargain.**

a-z

GLOSSARY

Bottom: This 1873 painting by William Henry Powell depicts the Battle of Lake Erie, one of the greatest American victories in the War of 1812. It hangs in the Senate Wing of the U.S. Capitol.

A committee was appointed in 1811 to draft Louisiana’s first constitution. After several months of work, the document was translated from French into English and sent to the U.S. Congress for approval. Louisiana formally became the eighteenth state in the Union on April 30, 1812. Although this was an important moment, the uncertainty and unrest had not come to an end for the new state’s people. In fact, less than three months after Louisiana became a state, President James Madison declared war on Great Britain, and the War of 1812 began.

The War of 1812

The war between Great Britain and the United States began because of issues that had never been fully resolved at the end of the American Revolution. For one thing, Great Britain had never quite accepted the idea of American independence. The British resented the colonies for rebelling and believed that they would eventually come under English control again. Accordingly, Great Britain often took *provocative* (confrontational) actions against the United States.



War of 1812



During this time, Great Britain had the world's largest and most powerful navy. However, being a British sailor was a hard and miserable job, and the British had a difficult time recruiting volunteers. One way they gained sailors was to overtake American ships at sea and *press* (force) the common sailors into service. This practice was called **impressment** and was one source of tension between the two nations.

The British had also agreed to abandon their forts near the borders of the United States at the end of the American Revolution, but they failed to honor this agreement. In fact, the British were using forts located along the U.S. border with Canada to *incite* (stir up) and support Native Americans, who began to attack settlers moving into frontier areas.

These mounting tensions ultimately resulted in a declaration of war. Once the war began, the British initiated a three-part strategy to defeat the United States. They first sought to take possession of cities and ports along the East Coast. Later, they planned to do the same thing along the coastal areas of the southern states. Finally, they planned to take control of the Gulf Coast and gain control of the all-important Mississippi River and its port at New Orleans.

Despite two years of fighting, by mid-1814 very little territorial control had been gained or lost by either side. The most spectacular event from the U.S. perspective occurred when the British took control of the nation's capital city, Washington, DC, in August 1814. The British burned many government buildings, including the White House. Despite the spectacular nature of this event, British forces did not keep control of the capital. Discouraged, both sides entered into peace negotiations. Those talks took place at Ghent, in the European country of Belgium.

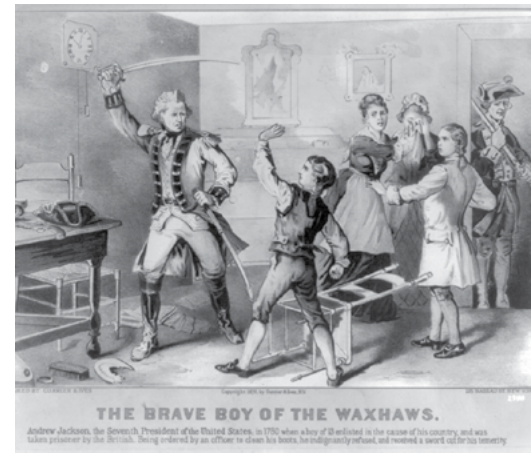
In spite of this development, both sides continued to make and enact plans that focused on control of the Gulf Coast and Mississippi River.

Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans

Andrew Jackson, who would later become president of the United States, had a deep personal grudge against the British. His father died before he was born, and his mother and two brothers died during the American Revolution, leaving Jackson an orphan. During the war, he was captured by the British. A British officer ordered his young prisoner to shine his boots. When Jackson refused, the officer struck him in the face with a saber, scarring him for life. Jackson looked at the War of 1812 as an opportunity for *vengeance* (payback) for the damage done to him by the British.



Above: British troops also burned the U.S. Capitol during their attack on Washington, DC. **Below:** Young Andrew Jackson was scarred for life when he was struck by a saber for refusing to shine a British officer's boots.



Battle of New Orleans



Above: Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. **Below:** Though the British navy defeated the American flotilla in the December 1814 Battle of Lake Borgne, the Americans' brave defense of Lake Borgne delayed the landing of British troops. This gave General Andrew Jackson time to reinforce his army before the Battle of New Orleans.

After the Revolution, Jackson settled in Tennessee where he practiced law, became involved in politics, and bought and operated a plantation called The Hermitage. He also became a major general in the Tennessee militia. Jackson led his Tennessee troops into the War of 1812. He was particularly successful in fighting against Creek Indians who had been attacking settlers in Alabama. Jackson achieved a major victory against the Creek warriors at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. As a result of that victory, the Creek nation ceded nearly 22,000,000 acres to the United States. These successes gained Jackson the title of major general in the U.S. Army. As such, he was ordered to take his troops toward New Orleans in late 1814 in anticipation of a British attack.

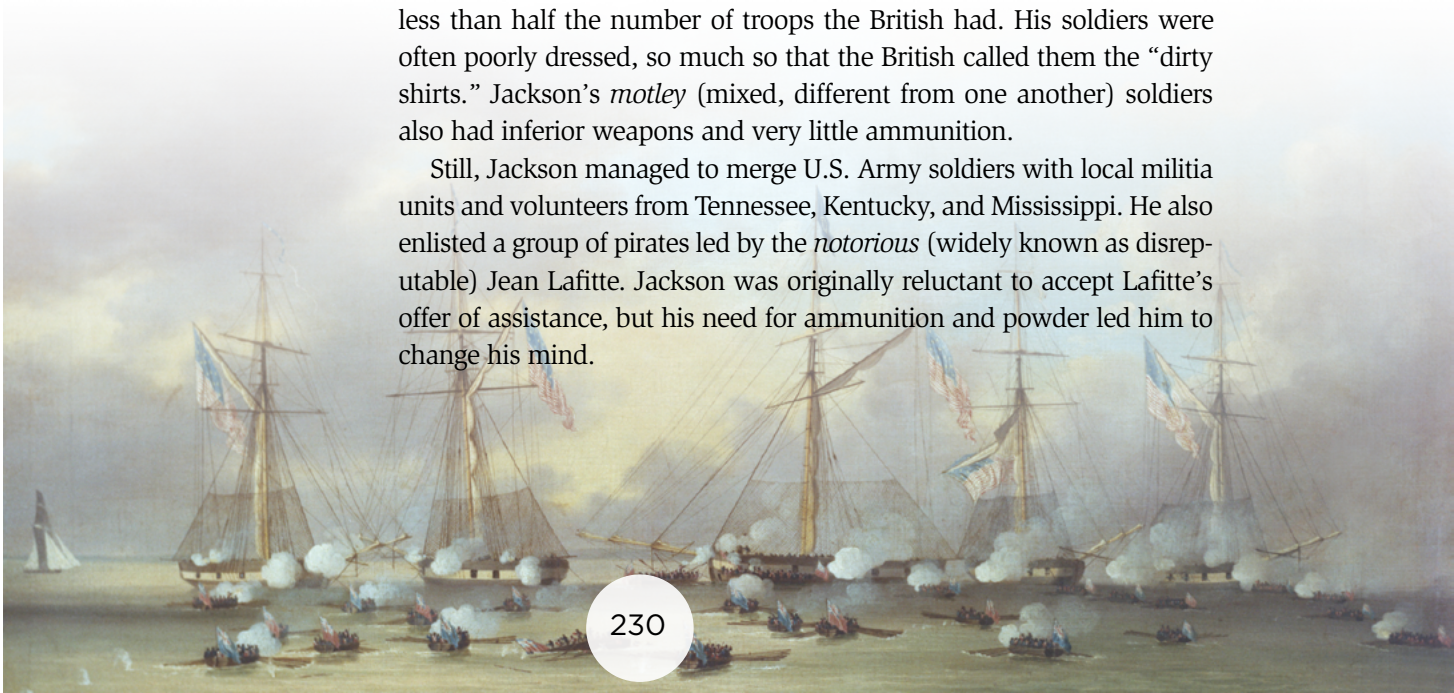
Advantages and Disadvantages for Both Sides

The British were indeed on their way to Louisiana. A force of approximately 8,000 well-equipped and experienced troops was to be led by General Sir Edward Michael Pakenham.

His troops arrived nearly two weeks ahead of their leader. Once Pakenham did join his troops in late December 1814, he was outraged by the position they had taken. He realized that the narrow strip of land the British had occupied gave their enemy undeniable advantages. In short, the British were stuck between the Mississippi River and a cypress swamp, leaving them very little room to *maneuver* (move) against the American forces.

If the British troops' poor location gave Jackson and his forces an advantage, he had many other disadvantages to overcome. Jackson had less than half the number of troops the British had. His soldiers were often poorly dressed, so much so that the British called them the "dirty shirts." Jackson's *motley* (mixed, different from one another) soldiers also had inferior weapons and very little ammunition.

Still, Jackson managed to merge U.S. Army soldiers with local militia units and volunteers from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi. He also enlisted a group of pirates led by the *notorious* (widely known as disreputable) Jean Lafitte. Jackson was originally reluctant to accept Lafitte's offer of assistance, but his need for ammunition and powder led him to change his mind.





Left: The Battle of New Orleans.

Below: Statue of Andrew Jackson on horseback.

The Fighting Begins

Fighting began between Great Britain and the United States two days before Christmas and continued in short bursts into the new year. The major battle between the two forces, which took place early on the morning of January 8, 1815, is known as the **Battle of New Orleans**. Pakenham's battle plan was quite complex and depended on coordination and precision to succeed. Unfortunately for the British, many things went wrong that morning. Even nature seemed to be on the American side. Pakenham and his soldiers were in the middle of a field approaching the American lines when the early-morning fog began to disappear. This made the British easy targets for Jackson's troops, who were protected by a fortified position behind a canal.

A Victory for the United States

The battle was spectacular in its outcome, but the heaviest fighting took place in less than an hour. During that very brief but bloody period, British *casualties* (people killed, injured, or captured in battle) reached two thousand. At least four hundred of those were killed. Pakenham and several other members of the senior command of the British forces were among the dead. In contrast, Jackson reported only seven killed and six wounded during the morning's engagement. This lopsided American victory came as a surprise to everyone involved. Having no choice, the British surrendered to Jackson and began withdrawal of their troops.

After overseeing the British withdrawal back to their ships in the Gulf, Jackson returned to New Orleans on January 21, a *bona fide* (genuine) American military hero. The news of his overwhelming victory against the British spread rapidly. In a matter of weeks, Jackson rose to national fame and prominence as the hero of the Battle of New Orleans.

Ironically, Great Britain and the United States had signed a peace treaty at Ghent, Belgium, on December 24, 1814. Technically, then, this major American military victory took place after the war's official end. Still, Jackson's defeat of the British mattered, particularly in the United States. Being undeniably defeated reminded the British that the Americans would fight and would retain their independence as a nation. This outcome of the War of 1812 has led some historians to refer to it as the "Second War for American Independence."

Lagniappe

The famous statue of Andrew Jackson on horseback was dedicated in New Orleans' Jackson Square in 1856. It was the second of four identical statues of Jackson designed by sculptor Clark Mills. The first was erected near the White House in Washington, DC, in 1853. The other two are in Nashville, Tennessee, and Jacksonville, Florida. This was the first *equestrian* (on horseback) statue in the world to be balanced only on the horse's hind legs.



Special FEATURE

Jean Lafitte: Pirate or Hero?

One of our state's most valuable treasures is Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in South Louisiana. Made up of six sites, the park might be considered a "treasure trove" of nature, history, and culture. The man for whom the park is named, however, is considered by some more pirate than patriot.

Born in France in 1780, Jean Lafitte would find his way to the city of New Orleans and eventually into the history of Louisiana. (The family name Lafitte was also spelled Laffite.) Before the War of 1812, Lafitte possibly ran a blacksmith shop with his brother. If so, this shop would have been just a front for his real business, which was smuggling goods and slaves stolen in the Caribbean by pirates. Lafitte based his activities in an area south of New Orleans called Barataria Bay, where he and his men would attack trade ships. In 1814, the U.S. Navy destroyed his base, but Lafitte escaped.

Everything changed, however, when Great Britain's war with the United States threatened New Orleans. A British commander offered Lafitte \$30,000 and the position of captain in the Royal Navy to fight alongside the British and attack New Orleans. Lafitte played along with the British, but when he saw his chance, he warned Governor Claiborne about the British plan of attack. Lafitte went to General Andrew Jackson and offered his services. Jackson accepted the offer, and Lafitte, along with his men, fought bravely in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. President James Madison even pardoned Lafitte and his men for their crimes.

After the battle was over, however, Lafitte returned to his old ways of pirating. He set up an outpost called Campeche, which is where Galveston, Texas, is today. The post did not last long, but Lafitte continued his life of piracy until the end. He died in Mexico around 1823 near his last base on Mujeres Island.

Do you think Jean Lafitte should be remembered as a pirate or a hero?



Top Right: Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, thought to be the base for his smuggling operation, is a popular New Orleans tourist attraction today.

Bottom Right: This painting by an unknown artist is believed to be of Jean Lafitte.

Early Statehood: Distinctive but American

Claiborne referred to the people who had lived in Louisiana before it became part of the United States as the “ancient population.” Indeed, Louisiana’s people, who identified as Creoles, felt they had little in common with the Americans who migrated to Louisiana in droves after 1812. Yet time and common purpose caused the two ethnic groups—Creoles and Americans—to work together when necessary. The Battle of New Orleans is a clear example of that kind of cooperation.

The creation of the state’s first constitution also *melded* (blended) the French language and Creole outlook into a document based on Kentucky’s constitution. Claiborne was elected the first state governor. After that, the office shifted regularly between a Creole and an American. Until the late 1820s, politics in Louisiana retained this distinctive aspect. For the most part, the state’s people saw themselves as citizens of the United States, but also saw themselves as different from the rest of the nation’s people. Their concerns remained focused on local issues. That is until the contested outcome of the presidential election of 1824 drew Louisiana directly into a national political dispute.

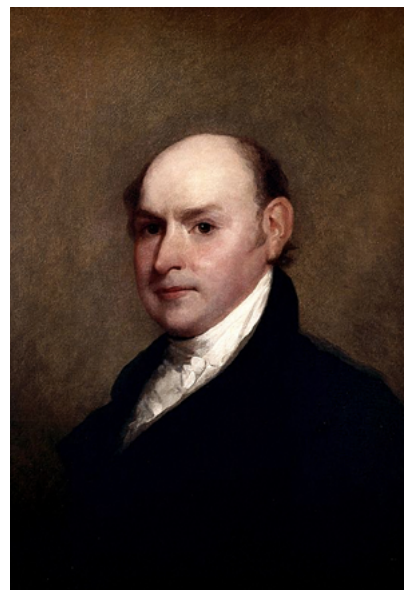
The Rise of Andrew Jackson and the Corrupt Bargain

Historian Robert Remini has written that Jackson’s victory over the British in 1815 transformed the general into a “towering hero who became a symbol of what was best in American society.” The nation was changing. As Americans moved further and further west, an idea began to develop about the benefits of the frontier experience. Simply put, many Americans believed that the process of moving west—making one’s way in the world and overcoming the difficulties of settling new land—gave people experiences that made them strong and capable. These frontier Americans came to believe that they brought special qualities and strengths to the nation. This set of beliefs came into contrast with older ones in the bitterly contested presidential election of 1824.

There were four major candidates in the race: John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay both of Kentucky, and Andrew Jackson of Tennessee. Jackson won the popular vote by a wide margin, but did not get enough votes in the **Electoral College** (the group that formally elects the president and vice president) to confirm his victory. None of the other candidates did either. Thus, the decision about who would become president went into the U.S. House of Representatives for the second time in the nation’s history.

The process in the House of Representatives was chaotic and many also felt it was unfair. Henry Clay had finished fourth, so his candidacy did not advance in the House, but because Clay was speaker of the House at the time, he was believed to have *undue* (more than is reasonable) influence. Crawford had become very ill shortly before the election and, while he too was under consideration in the House, his ill health doomed his chances. Thus, the contest came down to Jackson and Adams.

Below: Portrait of John Quincy Adams by Gilbert Stuart, 1818.



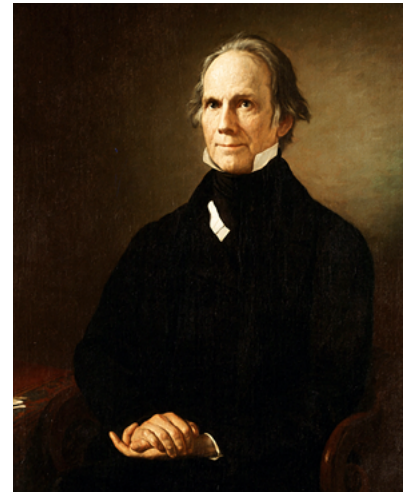
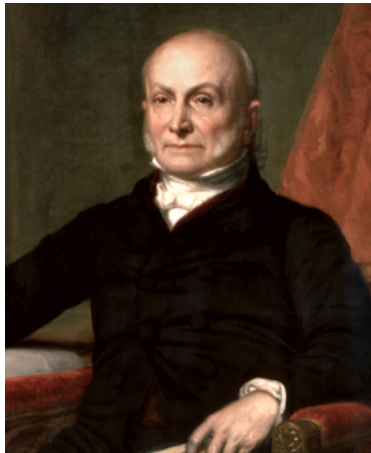
Lagniappe

John Quincy Adams, the 6th U.S. president, was the son of our 2nd president, John Adams.

The only other father-son presidential pair were George H. W. Bush (41st president) and George W. Bush (43rd president).

Right: The election of 1824 had four candidates. From left to right: John Q. Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford, and Henry Clay.

Below: Thomas Jefferson.



Lagniappe

The first time that the House of Representatives chose the president was in 1800. Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr had each received 73 electoral votes, and the House had to decide the winner. Under the provisions of the U.S. Constitution at that time, Jefferson was chosen president and Burr, as runner-up, became vice president. Because that election showed real confusion in the way presidential elections were held, the Twelfth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1804 to clear up that election process.



Henry Clay decided to give his support to Adams, shifting the votes he could influence. This shift gave Adams a victory in the House of Representatives, and he became president in 1824. Shortly thereafter, Adams named Clay his secretary of state, an office that was seen as a training ground for the presidency. This outcome led many to charge that Adams and Clay had engaged in a **Corrupt Bargain**, and this became a nickname for the election's outcome.

Many people in the nation were outraged at this turn of events, Jackson not least among them. Many in Louisiana strongly supported Jackson, especially because of his history of protecting New Orleans in the War of 1812. When the presidential election of 1828 took place, voter turnout tripled nationwide, and Jackson won the presidency in a landslide. When he went to Washington for his inauguration in early 1829, thousands of common people followed to see their frontier hero inaugurated.

Jackson was the first frontier American to become president, and he was hailed as a hero of the common man. His two terms as president were marked by many controversies, but one outcome was not in dispute. Jackson changed the way Americans felt about the nation's politics. Nowhere was this more the case than in Louisiana. While the state's politics would retain many distinctive aspects after 1824, Louisiana's voters became much more interested in national affairs.



Left: Ralph E. W. Earl painted this portrait of Andrew Jackson as a Tennessee Gentleman during his time as president. It is on display at The Hermitage, Jackson's Tennessee home.

In the same year that Jackson was inaugurated president, the Spanish priest Père Antoine was laid to rest, and, with him, an important reminder of the city's French and Spanish colonial heritage. Creoles and Americans would continue to compete for political power and economic gain, but both groups would also unite to defend the institution of slavery, which had become a critical part of the state's agricultural economy by the end of the 1820s.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: impressment, Battle of New Orleans, Corrupt Bargain.
2. Why was the War of 1812 sometimes called the "Second War for American Independence"?
3. How did losing in the Corrupt Bargain of 1824 help Andrew Jackson win the presidency in the next election?

Lagniappe

The office of secretary of state had indeed been a presidential training ground up to that time. Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, and John Quincy Adams had all served in that office before being elected president. After John Quincy Adams, only two more secretaries of state—Martin van Buren and James Buchanan—have been elected president.



Timeline of Key Events: Territory to Statehood



Analyzing Primary Sources: Eyewitness Accounts of the Battle of New Orleans



The Presidential Election of 1824

Chapter Review



Self Check Quiz

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The United States Purchases Louisiana

- In 1795, the United States and Spain agreed to Pinckney's Treaty, which gave Americans the right to trade and deposit goods in New Orleans.
- The French Revolution began in 1789 and a slave revolt in Saint-Domingue began in 1791. The French Revolution gave rise to the military and political leader, Napoleon Bonaparte.
- Napoleon wanted to regain control of Saint-Domingue, reestablish slavery, and use profits from the island for military campaigns. Louisiana would be a supply depot for the island. In 1802, the secret Treaty of Ildefonso between France and Spain returned Louisiana to the French.
- Napoleon's plan failed. Most of his army in Saint-Domingue was killed by disease.
- In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson instructed James Monroe and Robert Livingston to negotiate with France for the purchase of New Orleans. Instead, the French offered to sell all of Louisiana. Monroe negotiated the purchase of the entire territory without having true authorization.
- The U.S. Senate ratified the treaty for the Louisiana Purchase, and the territory was transferred from France to the United States on December 20, 1803. The Louisiana Purchase more than doubled the size of the United States.

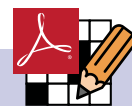
Section 2: The Territorial Period: Leadership and Challenges

- President Jefferson appointed William C. C. Claiborne governor of the Louisiana Territory. Claiborne's second-in-command was General James Wilkinson, an unprincipled man who would later conspire with Aaron Burr.
- Many administrative decisions regarding the Louisiana Territory became a compromise between American ideas and French and Spanish colonial influence.
- Louisiana became a haven for outlaws and filibusterers such as Aaron Burr, the former vice president who had killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel. Burr's exact plans are unclear, but before they could be carried out, General Wilkinson betrayed Burr. The former vice president was tried and acquitted of conspiracy.

- In 1810, the Spanish still controlled Spanish West Florida (today's Florida Parishes) but many English-speaking migrants living there wished to join the United States. They revolted, declaring themselves the Republic of West Florida. Three months later, they were incorporated into the Louisiana Territory.
- The presence of free people of color created tension in the area. In 1809, Governor Claiborne oversaw the adoption of a new stricter slave code based on U.S. practices.
- In 1804, the importation of slaves was made illegal. In 1809, Claiborne made an exception when he allowed the entrance of a large group of Haitian refugees including 3,000 slaves.

Section 3: Statehood and Early Government

- On April 30, 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state admitted to the Union.
- The War of 1812 was caused by tensions between the British and Americans, specifically the British impressment of U.S. sailors and British refusal to abandon forts along the U.S. border as promised.
- By mid-1814, after little territorial change, both sides entered into peace negotiations; however, the fighting continued.
- In 1814, General Andrew Jackson was ordered to take his troops toward New Orleans in anticipation of a British attack.
- The Battle of New Orleans, which took place on January 8, 1815, solidified Andrew Jackson's position as a military hero. Despite numerous disadvantages, Jackson achieved a decisive victory.
- Creoles of Louisiana began to work with Americans in common struggles but viewed themselves as a distinctive group. The state's politics tended to focus on local issues.
- In spite of winning the popular vote in 1824, Andrew Jackson lost the presidency to John Quincy Adams when the election was decided in the House of Representatives. This angered many Americans, including many Louisianians. It led to a huge voter turnout in the 1828 presidential election, which Jackson won by a large margin.
- The election of Jackson, a hero of the common man, changed the way Louisianians felt about politics. They began to take an increasing interest in national affairs.



Activities for Learning

Understanding the Facts

1. Who deposited goods in New Orleans for shipment to the Gulf, Europe, or the East Coast of the United States?
2. Describe Napoleon Bonaparte.
3. What was the United States' primary interest when it made the Louisiana Purchase?
4. What was the purchase price of the Louisiana Territory? How many acres did the United States acquire in this purchase?
5. Who was appointed the territorial governor of Louisiana?
6. Give two examples of French and Spanish colonial influence on the laws passed while Louisiana was a territory.
7. Whom did Aaron Burr kill in a duel while still serving as vice president?
8. How did General James Wilkinson betray Aaron Burr?
9. Describe the flag of the Republic of West Florida.
10. What astonished Governor Claiborne about the population of the Louisiana Territory?
11. Who led the 1811 slave revolt? How many slaves participated in this revolt?
12. What issues led to the outbreak of the War of 1812?
13. What were two important outcomes of the Battle of New Orleans?
14. Which two groups competed for political control of Louisiana?

Developing Critical Thinking

1. Why was the Louisiana Purchase controversial?
2. Why was Henry Clay's appointment to serve as President John Quincy Adams's secretary of state called a "Corrupt Bargain"?

Writing across the Curriculum

Review the Chapter 8 subsection titled "Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans." Assume the role of an American or British newspaper reporter. Write a three-paragraph news story from an American or British perspective on the outcome of the Battle of New Orleans. In your news story, be sure to answer the journalistic questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? Include an attention-getting headline at the top of your story.

Exploring Louisiana on the Internet

Review the chapter's Special Feature titled "Jean Lafitte: Pirate or Hero?" Next, read the articles about Jean Lafitte as found at these websites: www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fla12 and www.knowla.org/entry/1190/&view-summary. Based on your readings, decide whether Jean Lafitte is a pirate or a hero. If you consider Lafitte a pirate, then create a "Wanted" poster including his likeness, the bounty on his head, and a list of crimes he has committed. If you consider Lafitte a hero, create a "Celebratory" poster including his likeness, his heroic qualities, and a list of his accomplishments.

Building 21st-Century Skills: Understanding Cause and Effect

The connection between what happens and what makes it happen is known as the cause-effect relationship. A *cause* is a sufficient action for an event to occur. An *effect* is the result of this action. Not all cause-effect relationships are clear. Sometimes an event has more than one cause, or an action more than one effect. Written materials often provide a verbal road map to alert you to cause and effect. Look for words or phrases such as *because*, *consequently*, *gave rise to*, *produced*, *resulted in*, *so*, and *therefore*. For example, "Because the Purchase happened so rapidly, President Jefferson had to act quickly to find a leader for Louisiana." Find two additional examples of cause-effect relationships in this chapter.



Chapter Review