



Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: Louisiana's Geography -

Section 5: People and the Environment

Guided Reading

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

1. Throughout history, people have interacted with the _____ in ways designed to meet _____ needs.
2. A great deal of the human interaction with _____ in Louisiana has centered on the powerful _____ River.
3. Spring _____ are a natural part of the Mississippi River's yearly _____.
4. By 1900, the (Mississippi River) Commission had adopted a _____-only policy to control flooding.
5. The problems with that policy became clear in the wake of a _____ flood in _____.
6. After that great natural disaster, the U.S. Army _____ of _____ added dams, diversion _____, and other flood _____ to its system of Mississippi River levees.
7. As part of this system, the Corps of Engineers completed the _____ Control Structure in Louisiana in _____.
8. In 1935, the Corps completed another kind of structure called the _____ Spillway, an _____-foot-long _____ bridge with 350 _____ that remain closed most of the time.



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9. However, when dangerously high spring _____ threaten the city of New Orleans, the bays can be _____ and water from the Mississippi River can _____ through those open bays directly into Lake _____ and this will lower water _____ and ease _____ on the levees.
10. Keeping the river from flooding has had _____ consequences.
11. One of those consequences is that, when the _____ flooding ceased, _____ stopped being deposited which resulted in _____ but significant land _____, particularly along the state's _____.
12. Coastal _____ is a serious _____ issue in Louisiana.
13. The survival of Louisiana's _____ is a national concern.
14. The state is home to about _____ percent of the wetlands in the _____ United States.
15. Wetlands are _____, _____, and other areas that have a _____ supply of _____ and are covered or soaked with water at least _____ of the year.
16. Unfortunately, Louisiana also has the _____ rate of coastal _____ (or land _____).
17. The state's coastal marshes serve as _____ for 75 percent of the _____ that live in the Gulf of Mexico.

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18. Coastal _____ and wetlands _____ also have very serious results for the _____ of people who live near the Gulf Coast, especially _____ and gas companies.
19. There are _____ causes for coastal erosion.
20. _____ is the slow process of land _____ into the sea.
21. Over the course of the twentieth century, the _____ in sea _____ has added to the effects of subsidence.
22. In 2005, Hurricanes _____ and _____ devastated the state's coastal _____, destroying more than two hundred square miles of _____ between them.
23. Humans have contributed to coastal _____ by introducing non-native _____ and _____ species to the state's land and waterways.
24. The nutria is a _____ that was once valued for its _____.
25. Nutria _____ rapidly and eat virtually any _____.
26. With populations as high as _____ animals per square mile, they can remove the _____ from an area, leaving only barren _____ behind.
27. Another human activity that has caused unintended _____ is cutting _____ through Louisiana's coastal _____.

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28. The federal government adopted the Coastal Wetlands _____,
_____, and _____ Act (CWPPRA) in 1990,
sometimes called the _____ Act in honor of John Breaux.
29. Its purpose is to direct _____ to protect and rebuild _____ in
Louisiana and other coastal _____.
30. On April 20, _____, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon _____
set off a chain of events that resulted in the _____ and most damaging oil
_____ in the nation's history.
31. More than 4 _____ of oil flowed into the Gulf in the
months that followed.
32. The nation's largest oil spill drew _____ to the _____
wetlands once again.
33. It will take _____ resolve, _____, and commitment to
stem the tide of coastal _____ and its resulting land _____ in
Louisiana.