



GRADE 1 LOUISIANA SOCIAL STUDIES

A Place Called Louisiana



Brown pelican

New Orleans region



Wetlands



Reading a map

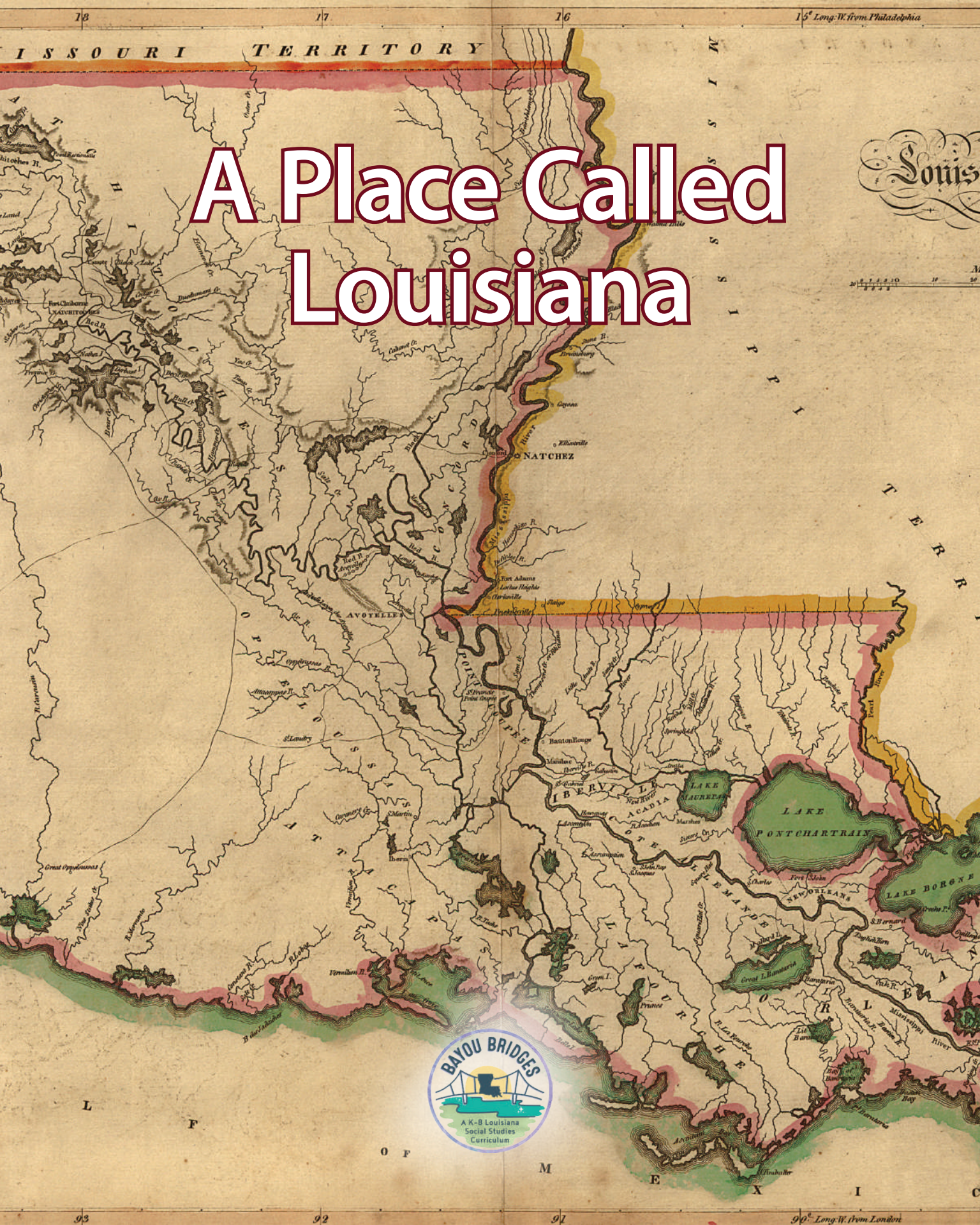


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A Place Called Louisiana



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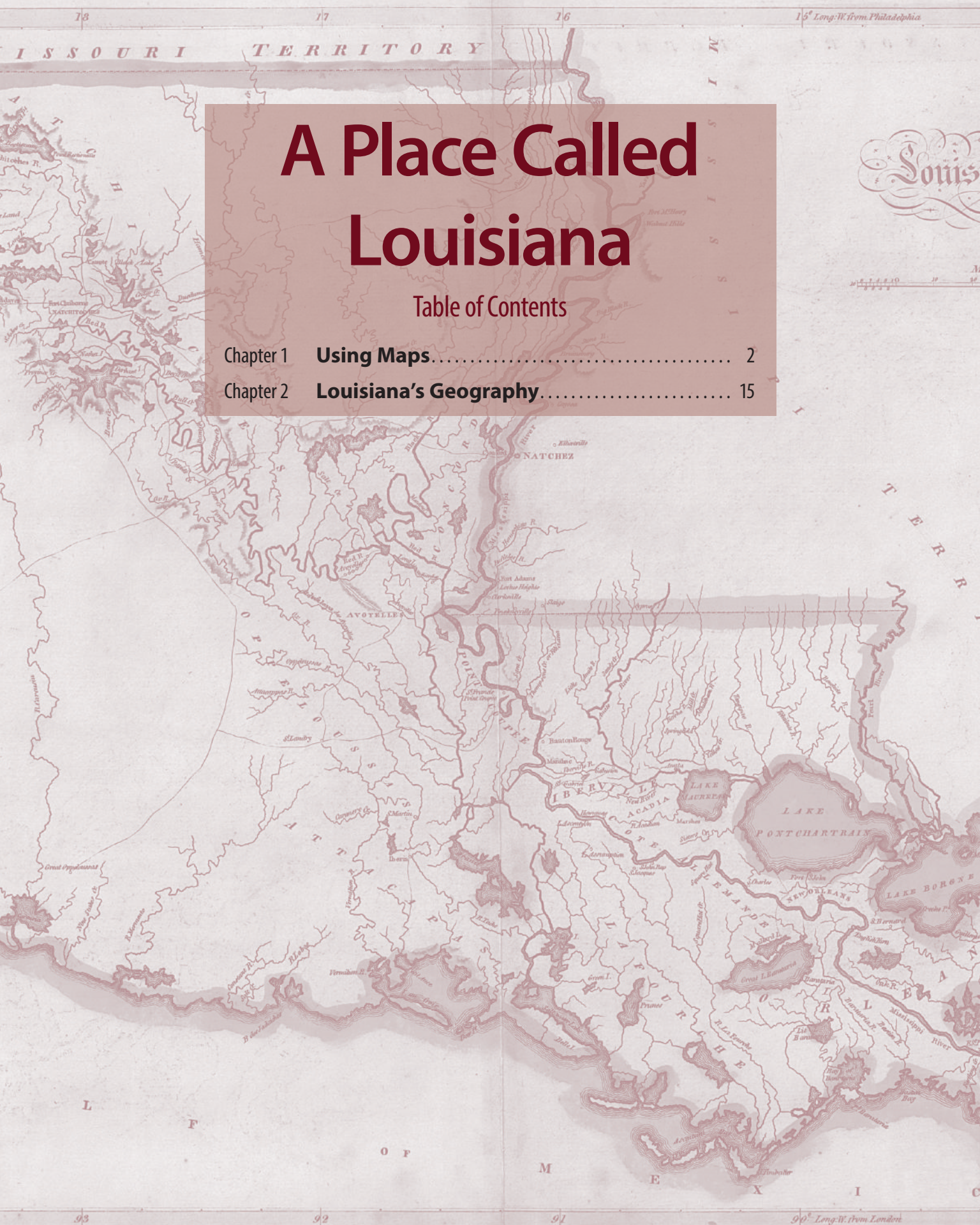
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A Place Called Louisiana

Table of Contents

Chapter 1	Using Maps	2
Chapter 2	Louisiana's Geography	15

Using Maps

One way to learn about a state, a country, or even the world is to look at maps.

A map is a drawing or image of a location. You can think of a map as a picture that shows you where things are.

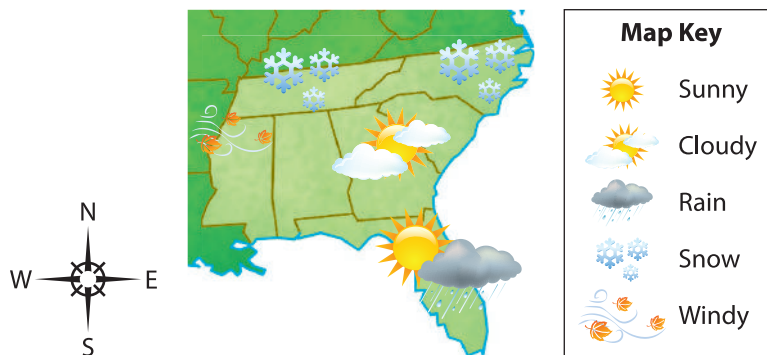


Maps show towns, cities, streets, and places of interest.



There are many different kinds of maps. There are physical maps that show mountains, lakes, rivers, and oceans.





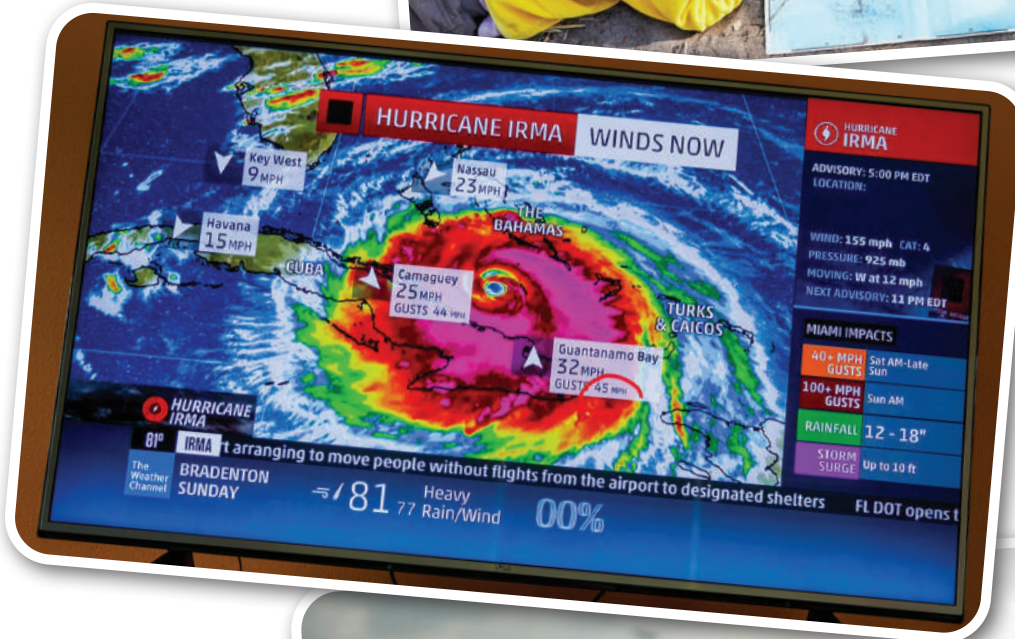
There are maps that show information about the weather.

Another kind of map is a political map. It can show countries, states within countries, counties or parishes within states, and cities or towns within counties or parishes.

Political Map of Louisiana



Maps show how to get from one place to another. Maps can be made of paper.

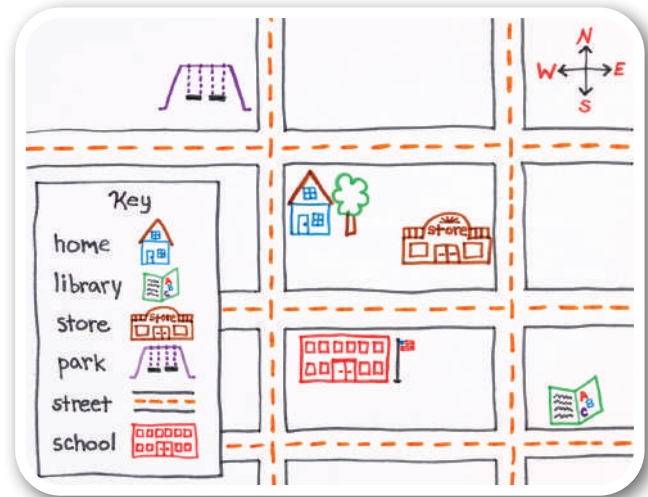


Maps can be shown on TV to warn people about the location of big storms.

Maps can be viewed on a GPS device or mobile phone in a car.

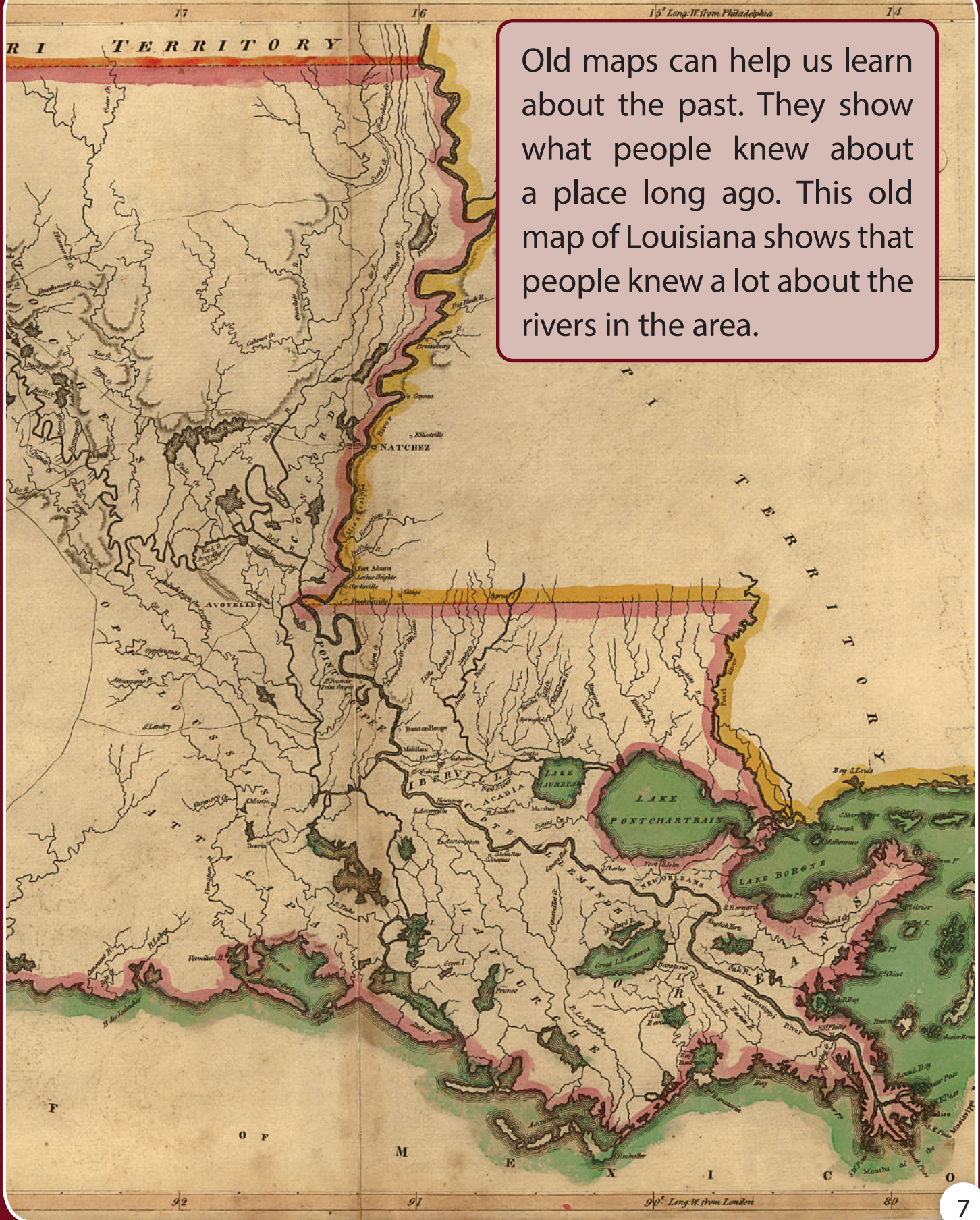


When you look at a map of your city or town, you can see where your school is and how to get there.

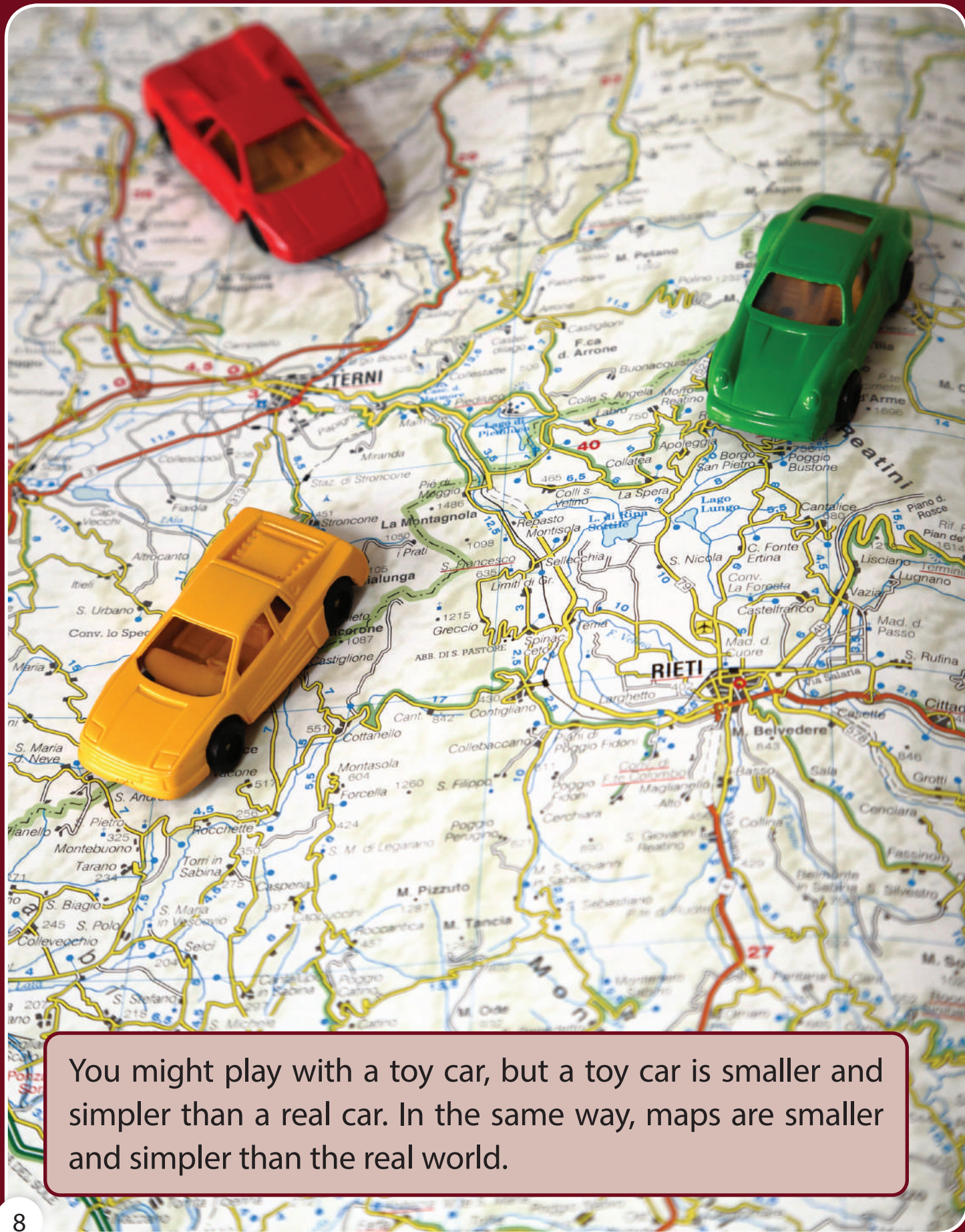


Maps can even show you places you have never been, like other continents or the North Pole. You can use maps to learn about new places like Africa.





Old maps can help us learn about the past. They show what people knew about a place long ago. This old map of Louisiana shows that people knew a lot about the rivers in the area.



You might play with a toy car, but a toy car is smaller and simpler than a real car. In the same way, maps are smaller and simpler than the real world.

Symbols are used to show important information on a map. The symbols make it easier for us to understand the information. There are symbols for towns, capital cities, mountains, rivers, highways, railroads, and much more. A map key tells us what the symbols mean.

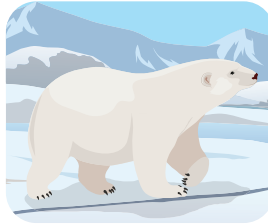
Louisiana Physical Map



A map scale helps us understand how far apart things are in the real world. Can you find the map scale on this map?

How do we know which way to go? We can follow the four main directions. The four main directions are north, south, west, and east. Maps usually have a compass rose to point out these directions.

North



West



East



South

There are about two hundred countries in the world. Some countries are islands, but most are found on large areas of land we call continents.



There are seven continents on Earth. Do you know which continent you live on?

Much of Earth is covered by oceans and seas. The oceans are the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, the Arctic, and the Southern.

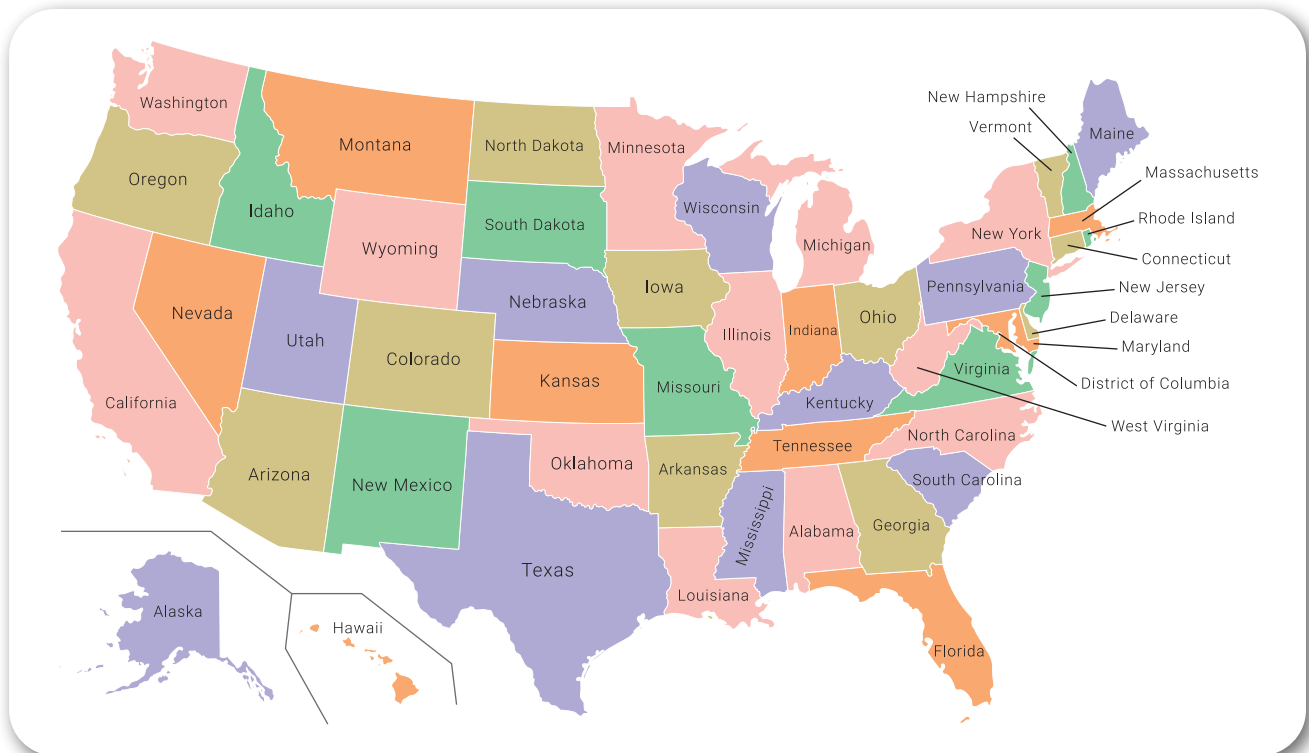


We sometimes show Earth as a round globe because Earth is a round planet! On a globe, the center or middle of Earth's surface is marked by an imaginary line called the equator. Earth's northern half is called the Northern Hemisphere, and the southern half is called the Southern Hemisphere.



The farthest northern point is the North Pole. The farthest southern point is the South Pole.

You live in the United States of America. The United States is a country on the continent of North America.



You live in the state of Louisiana.
Can you find Louisiana on
the map above?



Louisiana's Geography

Louisiana is one of the fifty states that make up the United States of America. It is in the southeastern part of the country.

The United States of America



Louisiana shares a border with three states around it—Texas is to the west, Arkansas to the north, and Mississippi to the east. The Gulf of America is south of Louisiana. It connects to the Atlantic Ocean. The state of Louisiana has a beautiful coastline.

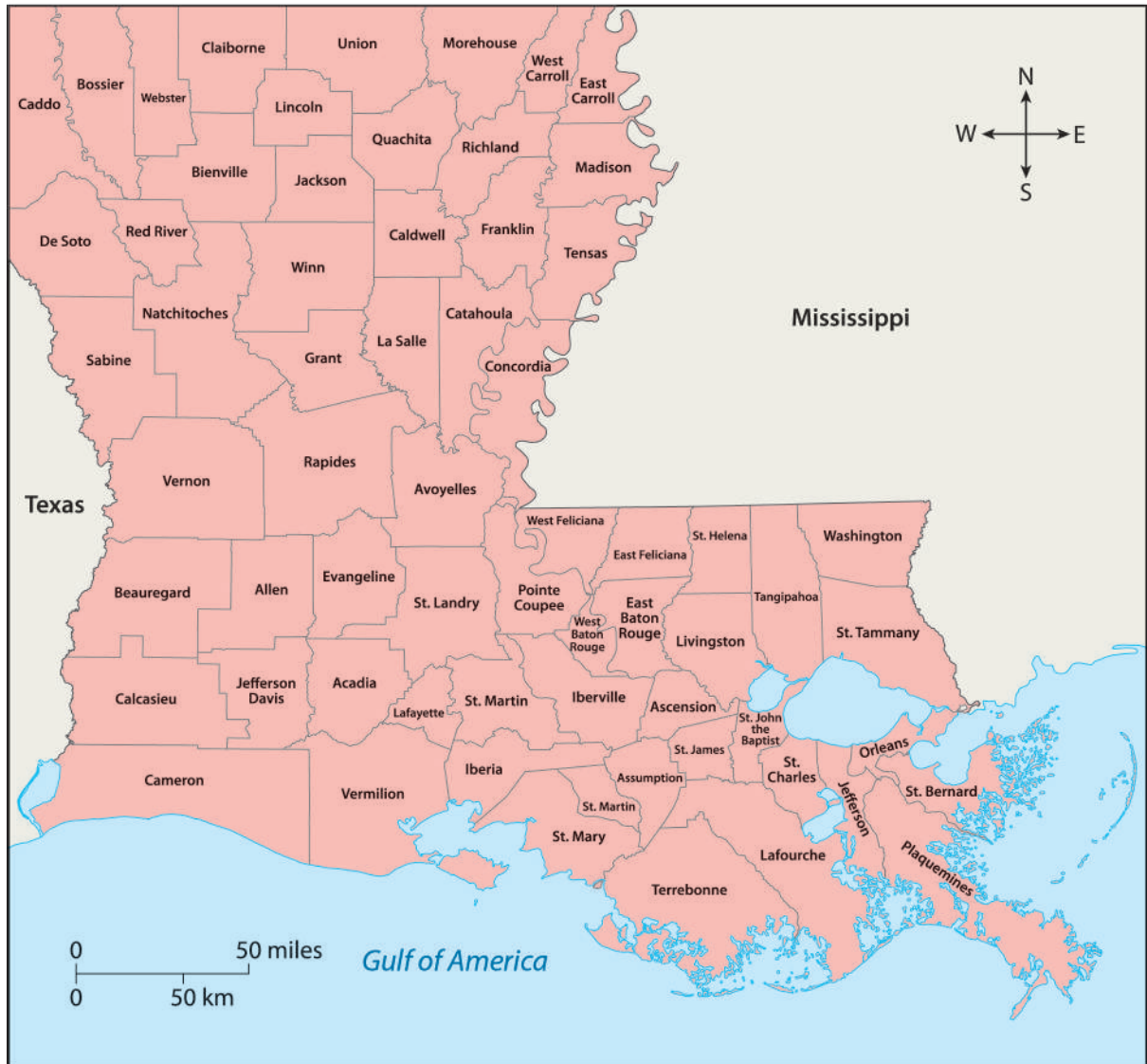
Now that you've found Louisiana on the map of the United States, can you find it on the globe?



When we look at the globe, we see that Louisiana is part of the continent called North America.

Louisiana has sixty-four parishes. A parish is an area of local government. What people in Louisiana call a parish, other states call a county. Which parish do you live in?

Louisiana Political Map



Within parishes are towns or cities. These are communities where people live. What town or city do you live in?

Louisiana has many important natural resources. Forests in Louisiana are a rich source of timber, including woods like oak and pine. This wood is used for construction, paper manufacturing, and furniture production.



The many bodies of water across Louisiana—such as the Gulf of America, rivers, and lakes—provide seafood. Shrimp, oysters, crawfish, crabs, and many types of fish found in these waters are sold across the world.



Louisiana also produces oil and natural gas. You might be surprised to learn that oil is used to create many things we use every day, such as clothing, toys, crayons, and even umbrellas!

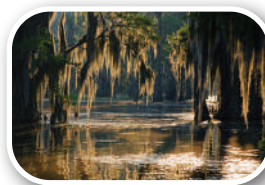
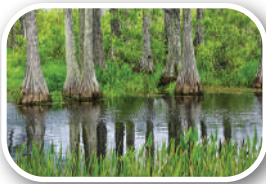
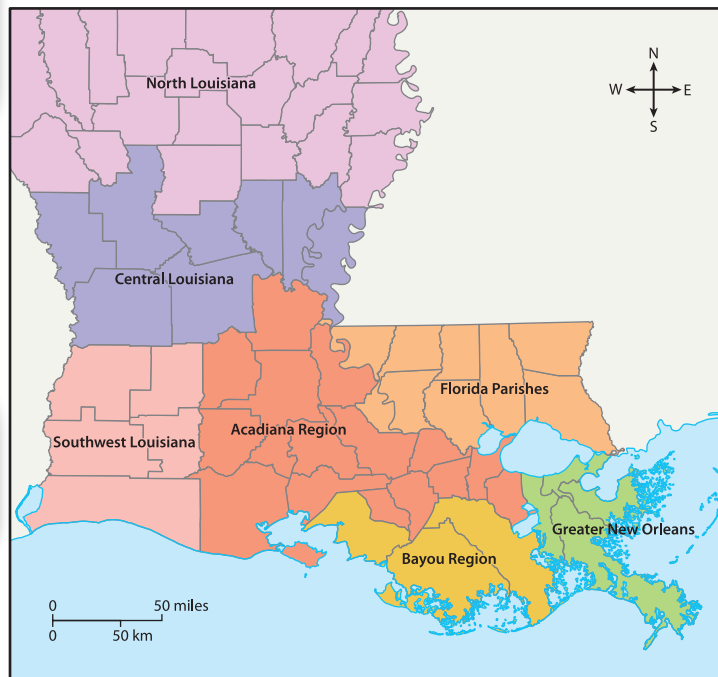


Louisiana is made up of seven different regions. A region is an area of land with common features, or things that are similar. Regions may have a common physical feature like mountains or rivers. Or the people living in a region may share things, like the same language, culture, or traditions.

Which region do you live in?



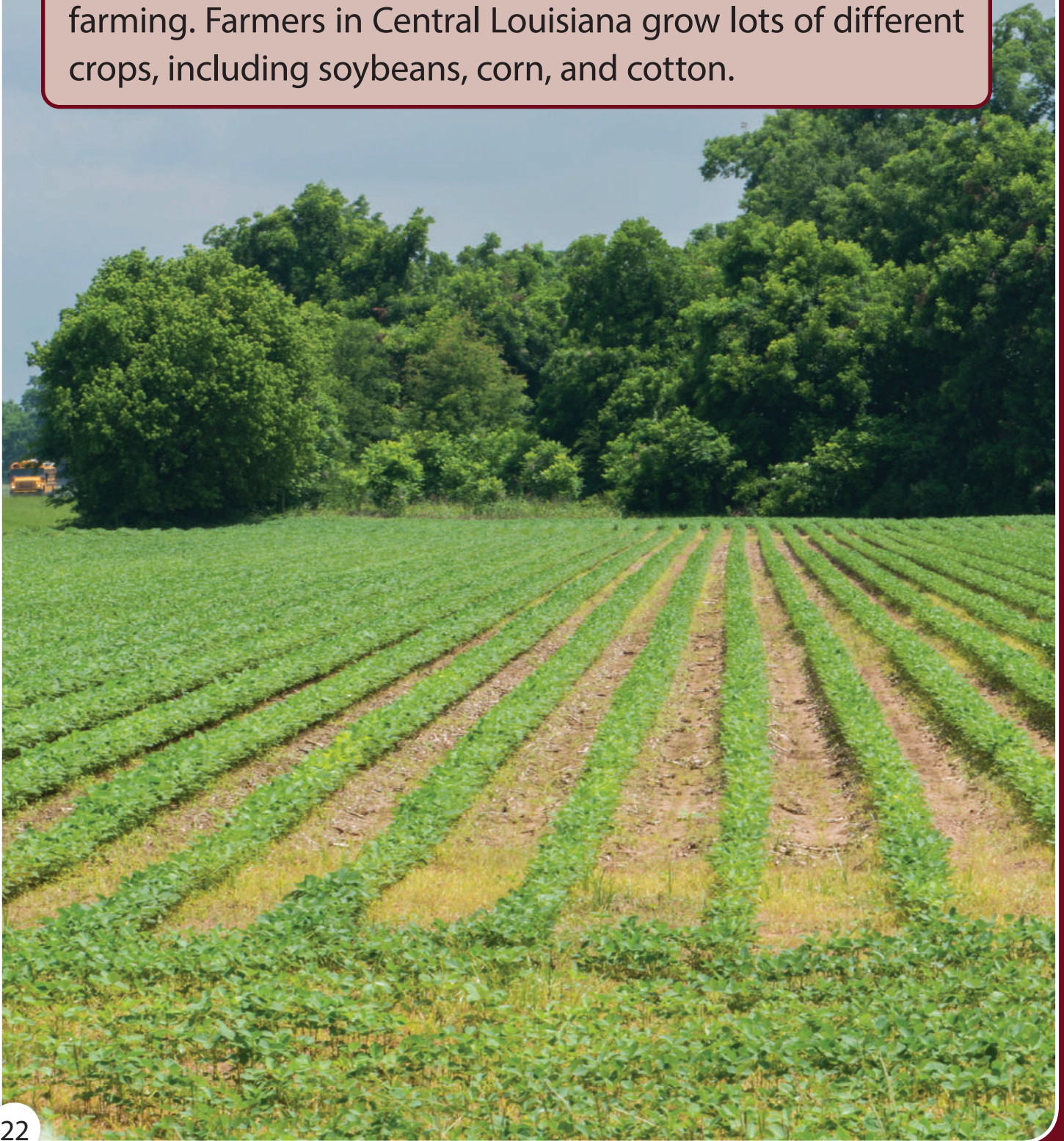
Regions of Louisiana



North Louisiana is known as Sportsman's Paradise. There are many places for camping, fishing, hiking, and birdwatching in North Louisiana. This region is also known for its large forests full of tall pine trees. People can use the timber from these trees to make lots of things, like furniture, paper, and houses.



Central Louisiana is also called the Crossroads of Louisiana. This region has hills on one side and large areas of flat land on the other. The fertile land makes the region great for farming. Farmers in Central Louisiana grow lots of different crops, including soybeans, corn, and cotton.



Southwest Louisiana has many prairies and marshes. The prairies can be flat or hilly with tall grass. The marshes are wet. Lots of plants and wildlife grow in the marshes. This region has many wildlife refuges. A wildlife refuge is a special place where plants and animals are protected.



The culture of Southwest Louisiana has been influenced by the French and Acadians who settled in the region long ago. Farmers plant rice and sugarcane in the prairies. You might eat spicy food or hear zydeco music here.



The Florida Parishes got its name because they were once part of Spanish Florida before they were part of Louisiana! The state capital, Baton Rouge, is in this region.

This region has many pine forests and farmlands. Farmers grow many crops, such as delicious strawberries and pumpkins, and raise farm animals, such as dairy cows and chickens.



The region of Acadiana is also called Cajun Country. Cajun, short for Acadian, refers to the culture of people who settled here long ago. This region has wetlands, prairies, and rivers. Farmers plant rice and sugarcane in the prairies.



The Atchafalaya River Basin, within the Acadiana region, is North America's largest floodplain swamp. This important wetland is home to many different animals and plants, such as alligators, fish, shrimp, birds, water tupelo, honeysuckle, and the purple passion flower.



The Bayou region is named for its many bayous and swamps. A bayou is a small, slow-moving stream. A swamp is an area of land always covered in water. Some people in this region make a living fishing in the many bayous and swamps.

Native Americans, such as the Chitimacha people, have lived in Bayou Country for more than a thousand years. The Chitimacha are known for their intricate basket weaving. Today, many Native Americans still live in this region.

Louisiana's last region is called Greater New Orleans. It is a region centered on New Orleans, the most populous city in the state. Over time, many different groups of people have migrated to New Orleans, making it a very diverse city. New Orleans is known for its Mardi Gras celebrations, unique food, and music.



New Orleans is built on the mighty Mississippi River. This river is not just beautiful; it's also useful! It helps ships transport goods. It also provides water for farming and other uses to nearby cities and towns.



Every place has challenges, and Louisiana is no different. The people of Louisiana have learned to adapt to their environment in many ways.

People in Louisiana build bridges to cross bodies of water. There are many bridges in this state. Some are small and made to cross streams. Others, like the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, are long. The causeway is the longest bridge completely over water in the world! It is twenty-four miles (39 km) long.



Another important way people in Louisiana have adapted to the environment is by building levees. Levees are like walls built next to rivers and other bodies of water. They help keep floodwater from spilling over into the land around the river.



Sometimes parts of Louisiana experience big storms called hurricanes. Hurricanes can create a lot of rain in a short amount of time. Rivers and bayous can overflow and cause floods.

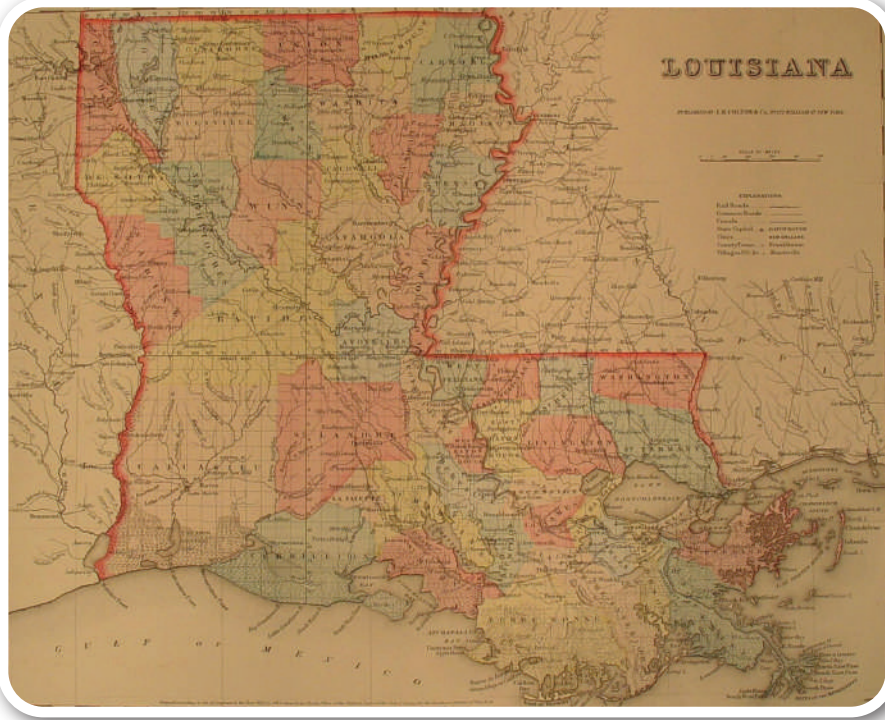


Louisianans prepare for hurricanes by gathering supplies. Some homes are built up very high. Sometimes people must leave their

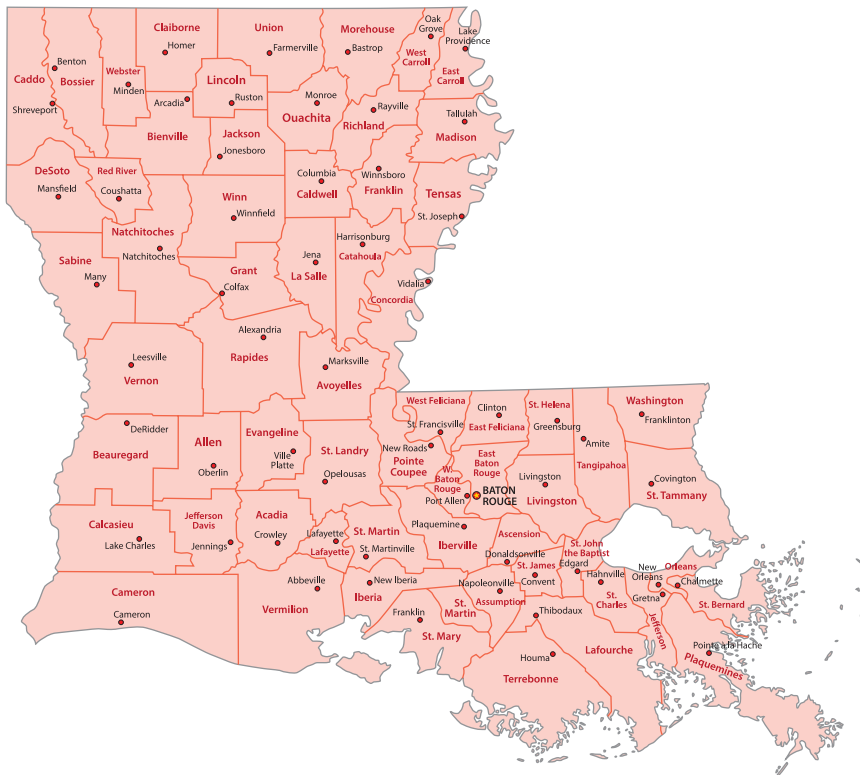
homes and go somewhere safer during a hurricane. After the storm, the people work together to clean up their towns and rebuild their homes.



Then



Now





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