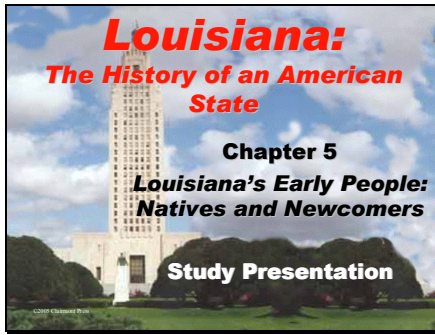


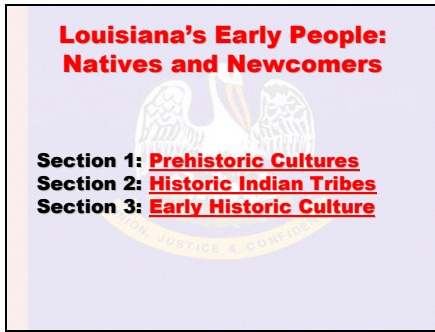
Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers
Study Guide

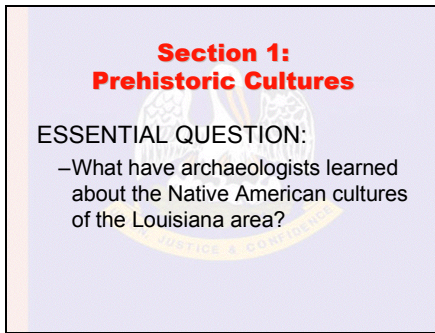
Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3





Louisiana: The History of an American State

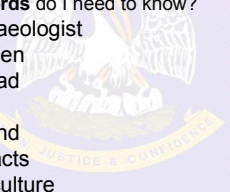
Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers
Study Guide

Slide 4

**Section 1:
Prehistoric Cultures**

What **words** do I need to know?

1. archaeologist
2. midden
3. nomad
4. atlatl
5. mound
6. artifacts
7. agriculture
8. temple mounds



Slide 5

**Timeline Facts
10,000 B.C. – 1600 A.D.**

- Paleo Indian Period
 - 10,000 B.C. – 6000 B.C.
- Meso Indian Period
 - 7500 B.C. – 2000 B.C.
- Early Neo Indian Period
 - 2000 B.C. - A.D. 800
- Late Neo Period
 - 800 B.C. – A.D. 1600
- Historic Indian Cultures
 - 1600s

Slide 6

**Prehistoric Cultures
(Introduction)**

- No written records of first people
- Only hints and clues at places of food preparation, tools made, shelters built, & ceremonial sites
- archaeologists: scientists who study items of ancient people
- **middens**: garbage dumps of past civilizations
- Radiocarbon dating: determines age of a site being studied (conclusions often up-dated)
- Four stages of Louisiana prehistory
 - movement, weapons & tools, food, & religious practices



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers

Study Guide

Slide 7

Paleo Indians

- paleo: word for "ancient"
- Oldest known Indians in Louisiana
- Traveled in small groups
- Believed 1st people migrated to North America from Asia by way of an Alaska-Siberia land bridge (about 10,000 B.C.)
- Followed animals that provided food & clothing
- Gradually spread over North & South American continents by traveling east & south
- Many clues found (throughout Louisiana) supporting existence of early primitive tribes and their lifestyle

Slide 8

Meso Indians

- Smaller animals hunted – deer, rabbit, etc.
- New prehistoric period – the Meso Indians
- Nomadic lifestyle (stayed in one place longer)
- Natural environment gave wider range of foods
- Use of the **atlatl** (an added improvement for hunting) and items such as fish hooks & needles
- More permanent housing built
- **Mounds** built near houses (5000-3000 B.C.)
- Different kinds of artifacts left behind

Slide 9

Early Neo Indians

- Left evidence of pottery making with designs around 1000 B.C.
- Seasonal villages built
- Development of bow & arrow (c.500 A.D.)
- Mainstays for food: wild grapes, palmetto, fruits, pigweed, & amaranth
- More elaborate ornaments than earlier periods plus evidence of trading
- Artifacts – bracelets, animal tooth pendants, figurines, pottery pipes, shells (often buried with dead) in mounds



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers
Study Guide

Slide 10

Late Neo Indians

- Period about 800 A.D. until Europeans arrived
- Larger villages & located near waterways
- Waterways for travel & as food source
- More permanent houses of wattle and daub (woven sticks covered with mud)
- Switch in lifestyle from gathering to agriculture

Slide 11

Late Neo Indians

- Lived in one location year-round
- Planted harvest crops, i.e., maize (corn), beans, squash, & pumpkins
- Noted for intercropping (planting in same plot)
- Built temples atop **mounds**
- Open plaza (serving as ceremonial ground) built between two or more mounds

[Click here to return to Main Menu.](#)

Slide 12

**Section 2:
Historic Indian Tribes**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
–Which major tribes were living in Louisiana when the Europeans arrived?



Louisiana: The History of an American State

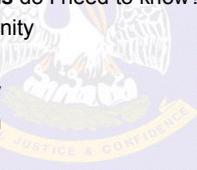
Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers
Study Guide

Slide 13

**Section 2:
Historic Indian Tribes**

What **words** do I need to know?

1. immunity
2. tribe
3. treaty
4. totem
5. clan



Slide 14

**Section 2:
Historic Indian Tribes
(Introduction)**

- Early beginnings: arrival of Europeans in North America; written records kept about Indian life
- Language & customs of American Indians ("The People") often misunderstood
- Early 16th century: European diseases brought by Spanish caused many deaths to Indians
- Early 18th century: arrival of French in Louisiana
- Mobilian-Choctaw: trading language used by Louisiana Indians (basis for many place names in Louisiana)
- **Tribes** identified by French explorers & trappers

Slide 15

Atakapa

- Lived a primitive lifestyle in the Calcasieu Parish area
- Described as cannibals
- In Choctaw: Atakapa or "eaters of flesh"
- Cannibalism most likely a ritual or ceremony
- Displaced by colonists: First the French & then the Spanish



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers Study Guide

Slide 16

Natchez

- Primary village of the Natchez people (called Grand Village)
- Village located near present-day Natchez, Mississippi (eastern bluffs of Mississippi R.)
- Taensa & Avoyel (tribes on west bank of Mississippi R.)
- Natchez social structure: unusual, consisting of common people (stinkards), nobles, & chiefs
- Tattoos (showing status) worn by everyone
- Ruler ("Great Sun") serving as both a king & religious figure
- Tribe (overtaken by French & Choctaw) driven from region

Slide 17

Caddo

- Name (Caddo or Kadohadacho) applied by French to entire group of tribes
 - Included the Natchitoches & the Ouachita
- Caddo area – center of land disputes
- Caddo Lake & Caddo Parish named for 1st occupants
- After Louisiana Purchase, American trade regulations accepted
- 1853: land sold to United States from Caddo
 - One million acres for \$80,000 (cash & trade goods)
- Present Caddo home: a reservation in Oklahoma

Slide 18

Choctaw

- 2nd largest tribe in southeastern U.S. when Europeans came
- Occupied area: included present-day Georgia, Alabama, southern Mississippi, & Louisiana
- Lifestyles: farmers living in permanent towns
 - Had extensive trade routes
- Built some roads (still known as Choctaw roads)
- Fought against the British in American Revolution
- 1830s: ceded most lands to US
- Today most live on Oklahoma & Mississippi reservations



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers

Study Guide

Slide 19

Houma

- Late 1600s: greeted early French explorer Robert Cavalier de La Salle
- Primary village (about 140 cabins) near Angola in West Feliciana Parish
- Driven into swamp & marsh (learned to hunt, fish, & trap)
- Adopted crawfish as tribal symbol of kinship & protection
- Istrouma (another symbol – tall red pole): boundary marker between hunting grounds of Houma and the Bayougoula

Slide 20

Houma

- Marker called baton rouge (French for "red stick")
 - Later name of Louisiana's capital city
- Intermarried with the Bayougoula, Acolipissa, & Atakapa
- Not recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Federal recognition still sought by tribe
- Present home: Terrebonne & Lafourche parishes
- Community center at Dulac maintained by Houma
 - Old ways of weaving & woodcarving emphasized

Slide 21

Tunica-Biloxi

- Prior residence in Mississippi
- Lost ancestral home to the Chickasaw
- Biloxi driven out by French
- By late 1780's Tunica-Biloxi – settlement in Avoyelles Parish
- Spanish land grant to tribes – power gained by trading
- Tribe governed by war & peace chiefs
- Totem (tribal symbol): rattlesnake
- 1980s: tribal recognition by US government
- Present reservation (near Marksville in Avoyelles Parish) – own court & police system



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers *Study Guide*

Slide 22

Chitimacha

- Chitimacha, meaning "people altogether red"
- By 1650: over 4,000 in villages along Bayou Teche, Grand Lake, Butte LaRose, & the mouth of Bayou Plaquemine
- Ruled by one male chief – inherited
- Women (political power – served as healers)
- Conflicts with French – eventual peace

Slide 23

Chitimacha

- By 1905: much land lost
- Court struggle – part of ancestral homeland regained
- Intermarriage of Chitimacha & Acadians – French (common language)
- 1971: received federal recognition
- Present residence: St. Mary Parish (almost 300 acres)

Slide 24

Coushatta

- Left home on Tennessee River due to de Soto's force to give gold they didn't have
- Late 18th century: settled in south central Louisiana, departing from Georgia & Alabama
- Avoided conflicts between Spain & the US
- Lived in clans made up of many families
- Lifestyles: craftsman, hunters, farmers
- 1884: bought land near Bayou Blue in Allen Parish
- 1973: Federal recognition of tribe
- Active tribe – organized government & vital, thriving community

[Click here to return to Main Menu.](#)



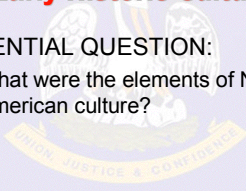
Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers
Study Guide

Slide 25

**Section 3:
Early Historic Culture**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
–What were the elements of Native American culture?

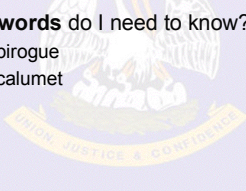


Slide 26

**Section 3:
Early Historic Culture**

What **words** do I need to know?

1. pirogue
2. calumet



Slide 27

The Village

- Community life organized around a tribe or a clan, headed by a chief or chiefs
- Kinship important, caste system used
- Membership in clans determined through mother's side of the family
- Children's growth & behavior (under adult care) – discipline mild



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers

Study Guide

Slide 28

The Village

- Access to higher groups through marriage
- Children's play – imitation of adult work
- Games – important part of village life
- Wrestling, racing, & archery – part of competitive matches

Slide 29

Clothing

- Louisiana Indians
 - Simple clothing from available materials, based on climate & season
 - Breechcloths worn by men (buckskin)
 - Simple skirts worn by women
- Natchez women
 - Garment of cloth made from mulberry bark
- Choctaw women
 - Long skirts of buffalo wool or mulberry bark
- Women in other tribes
 - Skirts made of woven palmetto leaves, Spanish moss, plant fibers, buckskin

Slide 30

Clothing

- Caddo Indians
 - Buckskin or fur ponchos (women)
 - Pierced noses for ornaments
- Children
 - Simple dress: often no clothes in summer
- Footwear
 - Moccasins from skins of deer, bear, bison
- Special Occasions
 - Feather cape (woven net covered with turkey, duck, or swan feathers)
- Body ornaments, tattooing (common to all groups)
- Pierced ears (popular)



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers

Study Guide

Slide 31

Work

- Environment of suitable plants & animals
- Various types of making a living due to proximity to certain areas
- Teamwork of men to clear land, construct houses, built boats
- Teamwork of women to weave baskets, make pottery, craft utensils
- Items not needed traded for additional supplies

Slide 32

Shelter

- Houses built from available materials, adapted to climate
- Rectangular log cabins & round summer house of woven grass (Caddo)
- Simple wood frame plastered with a clay-and-moss mixture, thatched with palmetto leaves (Choctaw)
- No window openings – small door to the east for good luck
- Houses quite large (in some tribes – housing several families)

Slide 33

Food

- Food sources: acorns, hickory nuts, mayhaw, blackberries, many other plants, and some 250 kinds of roots
- Farmers successful
 - Cultivated local plants (sunflower, amaranth, tobacco)
 - Traded with Mexican tribes (corn, beans, squash)
- Granaries built high off ground
 - Protected corn supply
 - Stored food for survival in hard times



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers

Study Guide

Slide 34

Food

- Corn used as mainstay of meals
- Sagamite (dish with ground corn)
- Dried corn ("pinole" – Spanish) ("cold meal" – British)
- Eventually became southern dish of grits
- Ground into meal – baked into bread
- Tamale-like dish using meat filling (Caddo, Choctaw)

Slide 35

Religion

- Based on their concept of the world, preserving balance & harmony
- Everything a part of a sacred whole
- Light of the sun (a sacred power)
- Annual celebrations (corn & harvest festivals)
- Dance & music
 - Specific meaning for both
 - Imitated animals to tell a story / teach lesson
 - Instruments used (drums, cane flutes)
- Some practices misunderstood
 - Human sacrifice (cruel & evil to some Europeans)
 - Acts bringing honor to family (to some Indians)

Slide 36

Government

- A war chief (military leader) and a peace chief in charge of tribe (handled tribal matters)
- Chiefs inherited positions, others selected
- Smoking peace pipe (calumet) – an agreement to avoid war
- Variety of reasons for going to war
- Employed secrecy, surprising enemy
- Depended on hand-to-hand combat, using knives & war clubs
- Severe punishments for wrong doers



Louisiana: The History of an American State

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Early People: Natives and Newcomers
Study Guide

Slide 37

Contact with Europeans

- Indians' way of life affected forever by interactions with British, French, & Spanish
- Interfered with internal Indian affairs
- Relocated many Indians
- Involved Indians in conflicts
- Enslaved Indians
- Instrumental in change from hunting & agricultural society to one dependent on trade

[Click here to return to Main Menu.](#)

