

200 YEARS IN THE MAKING

8 Pick Your Passion Student and Family Projects

Join the fun as we mark the bicentennial anniversary of Louisiana's statehood. This bicentennial year, you can learn interesting facts about Louisiana by participating in one or more of our bicentennial project ideas or by designing your own project!

Passions ▼

Culinary

Culture

Music

Outdoors

Popular

TOP 100
reasons to visit Louisiana

Pick your passion and make Louisiana your favorite learning adventure!

The Bicentennial Commission is sponsoring a variety of education projects and learning experiences for families and schools. Our major community-based projects are listed below. The following pages provide ideas for family and classroom Bicentennial projects.

Read about our community projects, download our project guides, and join the celebration. Project information and guides are available at www.crt.state.la.gov/education.

COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION PROJECTS

- **Bicentennial Legacy Trees**—Learn about Louisiana's 200+ year old cypress trees, the significant role cypress trees have played in Louisiana history, and how you can help protect Louisiana's old growth forests; take a GPS tour or virtual tour to view one or more of Louisiana's legacy trees.
- **Louisiana Waterways: Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Project**—Experience the wonder of "America's Foreign Country," the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area—one of the most culturally rich and ecologically varied regions in the United States.
- **ULL's B.I. Moody College of Business Administration Louisiana Tourism Project**—Plan and develop a media campaign to promote your community; learn how and why tourism is important to our state.
- **George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts Bicentennial Poster Contest**—Eleventh and twelfth grade students compete for an opportunity to work with Louisiana artist George Rodrigue in developing the official Louisiana Bicentennial Poster.
- **A Bicentennial Tale: We Want to Be Authors School Project**—Students use their history knowledge and the four-square writing method to develop a bicentennial-related children's book.
- **Celebrate Louisiana School and Community Concerts**—Plan an April 2012 Bicentennial school or community concert (band and choir) that features Louisiana music.
- **Louisiana Explorers School and Family Project**—Take a GPS tour to explore some of Louisiana's historic sites; follow one of Louisiana's heritage trails, such as the Heroes and Heritage Trail or the African American Heritage Trail.



K-W-L FAMILY TRIP PLANNING GUIDE

Student Worksheet

Name _____

Directions

Are you and your family planning a trip to a Louisiana destination? Use our K-W-L trip planning guide to help your family make the most of their Louisiana adventure.

1. Make a snack and gather all family members around a table or in one room. Select your family destination.
2. Brainstorm together to make a list of information your family knows about the destination; enter that information under the K (What we know) column.
3. Next, think about the things your family would like to know about the destination; write those items in the W (What we want to know) column. Ask your family members to help gather that information during your family trip.
4. When your family returns from the trip, gather the pictures and mementoes from your trip and brainstorm about what was learned during the trip; place that information under the L (What we learned) column. Did your family find information for each of the items in the W column? Plan a family trip to the library to find more information about your destination.

Destination _____

K What we know.	W What we want to know.	L What we learned.

LOUISIANA NATURALISTS

Louisiana is well known for its rich ecology, diverse environments, and abundant natural resources. Residents and visitors alike rely on that natural abundance to make Louisiana a great place to live, work, and play. Learn about some of the Louisiana naturalists who have documented Louisiana's wildlife and natural environments as well as efforts to conserve our state's bountiful natural resources.



John James Audubon, American Naturalist , 1820s

John James Audubon was one of the most famous nineteenth century American ornithologists and naturalists. He is known for both his romantic life and the beautiful watercolor prints he created. Audubon's most famous publication, *The Birds of America*, is a book containing 435 life-size images—portraits of every bird then known in the United States.

Audubon's life spanned one of the most remarkable periods of American history. Arriving in America in 1803, Audubon witnessed many significant events that shaped the young United States, including the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812. Through his journeys, Audubon was fortunate to meet many of the men who shaped this period of American history. In 1821, he spent four months at the Oakley Plantation in St. Francisville, Louisiana. During this time, he recorded notes and sketches about Louisiana's birds and their habitats.



Caroline Dormon , Louisiana Naturalist , 1920s

Caroline Dormon was born 1888 near Saline, Louisiana and was instrumental in the establishment of Kisatchie National Forest. She collected and studied wild irises and other native plants and was employed as a beautification and landscape consultant for several state and private gardens. Ms. Dormon died in 1971 near Shreveport. She dedicated her family home, Briarwood, as a nature preserve for all to enjoy.

The Kisatchie National Forest consists of more than 604,000 acres and is spread across seven parishes in Louisiana. It is Louisiana's only national forest. *Photo is used with permission from the Cammie Henry Research Center at Northwestern State University.*



Louisiana Bicentennial Legacy Trees, 2012

The Louisiana Purchase Cypress Legacy is a volunteer campaign to identify landmark cypress trees (the Louisiana State tree) that are at least 200 years old—alive at the time of the Louisiana Purchase! The celebration of the Louisiana Bicentennial is an ideal opportunity to link the cultural and historic heritage of our state with its ecological inheritance. Visit www.crt.state.la.us/education for information on how you can participate in our Louisiana Bicentennial Legacy Tree family project.



Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, America's Foreign Country

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is among the most culturally rich and ecologically varied regions in the United States. It is home to the widely recognized Cajun culture as well as to a diverse population of European, African, Caribbean, and American Indian descent. Established in 2006, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area stretches across 14 parishes in south-central Louisiana.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: LOUISIANA NATURALIST FIELD EXPERIENCE

Become a Louisiana naturalist and enjoy Louisiana's natural environments responsibly

Louisiana naturalists, such as John J. Audubon and Caroline Dormon, studied Louisiana wildlife and plants in their natural surroundings. In addition to sketching plants, birds, and other wildlife, these naturalists kept field journals in which they recorded detailed notes about the environment. Be a Louisiana naturalist! Take a scenic walk through your neighborhood, a local park, or one of Louisiana's many state or local parks and enjoy Louisiana's beautiful natural environments. Take along your "field pack" and "capture" the experience through photos and sketches as well as audio and video recordings (where allowed). Remember to practice outdoor safety and the naturalist rule—"take nothing, leave nothing."

Neighborhood Naturalist Family Activity

As you tour your neighborhood, take notes about the birds, animals, plants, and geographic features you see. You can complete this activity in one day, or you can make your observations over a period of days. To observe a wider variety of birds and animals, vary the time of day that you walk. Remember to practice good outdoor safety, always walk with someone you know, and tell a parent or guardian where you are going!

Field Kit: Some Items You May Need

Before starting the journey, gather a few simple tools to record your observations.

Basic Kit

- Field journal (page 102) to record your observations and sketches
- Pen for writing
- Pencil for sketching

Optional Kit Items

- Binoculars to bring birds, animals, and plants "up close"
- Camera to capture pictures
- Field guide to identify types of birds and plants
- Audio recorder to capture sounds or to record your observations
- Compass to record the directions you walk
- Handheld GPS to record and then share or vary your path
- Water to prevent dehydration
- Granola or fruit for snack
- Container for your trash—leave the environment as you found it
- Mobile phone—for emergencies only
- A watch to record when events occur

Field Journal Tips

- Write the date, location, and time of day that you walk
- Be alert and look carefully
- Describe sounds, smells, feelings, sights
- Bring tracing paper to make a rubbing of a tree trunk, a rock, or other objects; identify and frame the rubbings and arrange them into a gallery exhibit; do not pick plants or pick up items you find
- Bring an audio recorder and record the sounds you hear; play the recording a few days later and try to identify the sounds; use simple audio software to combine your sounds into a natural symphony
- Choose one object or scene from your field experience and write a story describing it, telling why you chose to write about the object or scene, and why it appeals to you
- When you return home, use a field guide or the Internet to identify the plants, birds, and animals you observed; some research sites are listed below
- Use a camera to take pictures; create a poster or multimedia slideshow of your neighborhood plants, birds, and animals ([Glogster](#), [Flickr](#), [Mixbook](#), etc)

Searchable Databases and Field Guides: eNature.com Online Field Guide, <http://enature.com/home>; Birds of North America, <http://www.whatbird.com>; United States Department of Agriculture Plants Database, <http://plants.usda.gov>

Louisiana Naturalist Field Journal: What Do You See?

Name _____ Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m. Location _____

OBSERVATIONS

What Do You See?

(birds, animals, plants, insects, objects, shapes, colors, physical features, etc.)

What action do you see?

Notes and Sketches

REFLECTIONS

Questions and Notes:

Your thoughts and feelings:

BICENTENNIAL COIN

Color Louisiana's Bicentennial Coin

One way the Bicentennial Commission is helping Louisiana residents celebrate the birthday of their state is by issuing a special commemorative bicentennial coin.

The coins on this page show the design of the 2012 Bicentennial coin.



Bicentennial Coin Information

The 2012 bicentennial coin is based on the 1912 centennial celebration coin and will be available to the public in bronze, silver, and gold versions. For information about the bicentennial coin, please visit

www.louisianabicentennial2012.com



LOUISIANA STATE SEAL COLORING PAGE

The Great Seal of Louisiana was adopted in 1902. The Louisiana Secretary of State is the keeper of Louisiana's Great Seal. For help coloring the seal of Louisiana, please visit the Secretary of State's site at <http://www.sos.la.gov/tabid/656/Default.aspx>. Explore Louisiana.gov, http://louisiana.gov/Explore/About_Louisiana/, for information and pictures of the Louisiana state seal.

ACTIVITY: GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE AND THE LOUISIANA STATE SEAL

Investigate the appearance of a pelican on the first Louisiana state seal. Can you explain the action portrayed on Louisiana's seal and what it symbolizes? Research URL: <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/1nation/1nation6.htm>



LOUISIANA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Make a birthday card to celebrate Louisiana's April 30 birthday.

Use the state outline below to design a birthday card for Louisiana. Glue or tape the image shown below on a card or sheet of paper. Use pictures or other items to decorate your card. For a Louisiana-shaped card, glue or tape two of the Louisiana images together along the left border of the image to open and close your card. Be creative with your decorating ideas!

Join the birthday celebration in Baton Rouge during April 2012 and bring your card to the Louisiana State Capitol. See the Bicentennial Internet site, www.louisianabicentennial2012.com, for information and the date of the April 2012 celebration.



LOUISIANA STATE SYMBOLS STUDENT AND FAMILY PROJECTS

Visit the Louisiana House of Representatives, <http://house.louisiana.gov/publicinfo/state.htm>, for a printable state symbols coloring book.

TYPE	SYMBOL	HOW YOU CAN CELEBRATE
State amphibian	Green Tree Frog	
State beverage	Milk	
State bird	Brown Pelican	
State colors	Blue, White, Gold	
State crustacean	Crawfish	
State dog	Catahoula Leopard Dog	
State fish	White Perch	
State flower	Magnolia	
State fossil	Petrified palmwood	
State fruit	Strawberry	
State gemstone	Agate	
State insect	Honeybee	
State jellies	Mayhaw jelly and Louisiana sugar cane jelly	
State mammal	American black bear	
State meat pie	Natchitoches meat pie	
State drink	Milk	
State motto	Union, Justice, and Confidence	
State musical instrument	Diatonic accordion, also known as the Cajun accordion	
State reptile	American Alligator	
State slogan	"Come Fall in Love With Louisiana All Over Again."	
State songs	"You Are My Sunshine" and "Give Me Louisiana"	
State song — environmental	"The Gifts of Earth"	
State song — march	"Louisiana My Home Sweet Home"	
State tree	Bald Cypress	
State vegetable and vegetable plant	Sweet potato and Creole tomato	

PLAN LOUISIANA’S BIRTHDAY PARTY!

No birthday celebration is complete without food!

Louisiana became a state on April 30, 1812. From September 2011 through December 2012, Louisiana residents will celebrate their state’s 200th birthday!

With your class, family, and/or friends, plan an April 30, 2012 Louisiana birthday celebration or a family birthday meal. Make Louisiana decorations, play your favorite Louisiana music, and work with your parents to plan and prepare a family or class birthday celebration.

Interview family members or your classmates to identify their favorite Louisiana dishes or recipes and music. Make or wear your favorite Louisiana hat, badge, t-shirt, etc. Take pictures during your celebration. See the Louisiana Bicentennial Internet site, www.louisianabicentennial2012.com, to learn how to share your birthday celebration stories and photos. For menu ideas, visit www.louisianatravel.com. For music ideas, visit <http://www.louisianatravel.com/music>.

BIRTHDAY PLANNING GUIDE

BIRTHDAY MENU

LOUISIANA SONGS TO PLAY

Song	Author	Singer(s) / Musician(s) / Band / Group
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

STUDENT AND FAMILY MONTHLY PROJECTS

MONTH	NATIONAL HERITAGE MONTHS	YOUR PROJECT IDEAS
January	Creativity Month Mentoring Month	
February	African American History Month Youth Leadership Month	
March	Irish-American Heritage Month Music in our Schools Month Women's History Month Youth Art Month	
April	Jazz Appreciation Month Landscape Architecture Month Poetry Month World Habitat Awareness Month	
May	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Get Caught Reading Month Personal History Month Preservation Month Young Achiever Month	
June	Accordion Awareness Month Dairy Month (Milk is our State Drink!) Rivers Month	
July	Family Reunion Month Recreation and Parks Month	
August	Children's Learning Month Family Meal Month Inventors' Month	
September	Civics Awareness Month School Success Month Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15 - Oct 15)	
October	Book Month German-American Heritage Month Go on a Field Trip Month Polish American Heritage Month	
November	American Indian Heritage Month Aviation History Month Family Stories Month Inspirational Role Models Month	
December	Universal Human Rights Month	