

## Welcome To Louisiana

I live in Louisiana. It is a southern state. Louisiana is famous for crawfish, Creole and Cajun food, bayous, Mardi Gras, hurricanes, multiculturalism, music, and the Mississippi River! It is the 31<sup>st</sup> largest state and the 25<sup>th</sup> most populous, making it average in both categories. You might know some of the major cities, like New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Metairie, and Lafayette. The state capital is Baton Rouge. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Louisiana, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Louisiana is known for its people and culture. Located at the mouth of the Mississippi River, it was an important place for people to build. It was originally a French colony, although the Spanish visited it before them. Of course there were already Native Americans living there. Due to some complicated history, the French, the Spanish, and the English have owned parts of it. America eventually bought it, along with a lot of other land in what was called The Louisiana Purchase. The mixture of peoples in this territory, when combined with the slaves that were imported and Haitian immigrants, have made Louisiana a place of mixed cultures.

In business, fishing is probably the most important industry. Louisiana produces a lot of crawfish. It is the world's largest supplier of them! It also makes a lot of cotton, soybeans, sugarcane, dairy, rice, and poultry. Tourism is important, as are the oil and coal industries. They also have a growing film industry. You might have heard of Tabasco Sauce, which originated in Louisiana. There is also a large National Guard presence in Louisiana, with several thousand soldiers training in the state.

When you're looking for something to do in Louisiana, remember that we're pretty big on football. We produce a lot of pro NFL players in our colleges. The New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl just a couple years ago. We also have the New Orleans Pelicans, an NBA team. Our state is called the Pelican State for this same bird. There is good food to be eaten as well. With such a mixed population, you get some delicious Creole and Cajun food. I hope you brought your appetite! There's seafood, rice, beans, chicken, and spicy food to try. Then go ride in a horse-pulled buggy down the historic streets and past famous, spooky graveyards and old plantations. Or you could listen to some jazz music! There is just so much to do.

Now that you know a little more about Louisiana, are you thinking about visiting? There are many things to see and do. Hope to see you soon!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which of these countries did NOT have something to do with Louisiana's history?
  - A. England
  - B. Portugal
  - C. Spain
  - D. France
2. True or False: Louisiana is known as *The River State*.
  - A. True
  - B. False
3. Which of these M-words is Louisiana NOT famous for?
  - A. music
  - B. Mississippi River
  - C. Mardi Gras
  - D. Mozzarella
4. Which of these seafoods is Louisiana most famous for?
  - A. tuna
  - B. crab
  - C. crawfish
  - D. lobster
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Louisiana? Why or Why Not?

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