

Louisiana Culture Conference (virtual)

September 25, 2021

Swamp

What is a swamp?

Compare to a forest, a desert, a marsh. Designate three areas in your classroom – e.g. forest, desert, swamp. Ask each child: If you were an alligator, where would you live? Kids each walk to the correct area. If you were a scorpion where would you live? If you were a squirrel you might live in a forest or a swamp.

Show images of a swamp on screen. Contest! College-Bowl style replies: buzzer, bell, clicker, horn, etc. Identify which of the three pictures is a swamp. Which of these animals lives in a swamp.

Physical tie-in: Similar to Simon Says, “Stand on one foot if you think that swamps have trees.” Or clap your hands or stomp your foot or say, “Yee haw!” Or designate an area as the “true” area and another that is the “false” area. Walk to the correct area based on the statement – “swamps have trees.”

Pick the letters of the word, “swamp” that spell out a dog’s foot (paw). Do the same thing for a picture or drawing of a certain area on the surface of the earth (map). Show a “map” of the Atchafalaya swamp on a Louisiana map.

Show pix of houses and houseboats in an actual swamp. Ask students to list what would be good about living in a house or houseboat in the swamp and also list what would not be good about living there.

Alligator

Draw an alligator. Draw a thought cloud over the alligator’s head and tell me what it is thinking.

Make a paper tube alligator or an alligator hat.

What’s the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?

Contest: An alligator is what kind of animal? A. Amphibian B. Reptile C. Mammal

Contest: In one minute, your team has to write down as many reptiles as it can think of.

Contest: Do true false contest as per above

Insta-gator ranch in Covington, LA website has good video of gators hatching

How many words can you make from the word alligator?

Pirogue

Show a picture of a pirogue. A pirogue is a kind of A. Boat B. Car C. Animal

Show other kinds of boats: canoe, dugout, kayak, rowing skull, gondola, sampan

Discuss the cultures that use each of those boats

Sing Row, Row, Row your boat (pirogue, kayak, gondola) gently down the stream

Cajun

Cajun people were kicked out of Nova Scotia (Acadia). Show Nova Scotia on a map.

The word “Cajun” is a corruption of the word, “Acadian.”

Cajun food

Boudin - Sample tasting in class?

Roux - Make a video of you making a roux. Sample tasting?

Jambalaya

English words with French origins:

Ballet, Café, Croissant, Leotard (Jules), Baton Rouge

Gumbo is an African Bantu word for okra. Research Bantu language. More than 350 million people speak Bantu – that’s equivalent to the entire population of the U.S.

Indian/Native American tribes

Show a map of the different tribes in Louisiana

Invite a tribe member to come to your class

Compare burial mounds in NE Louisiana (Poverty Point) to Egyptian and Mayan pyramids. More than 700 mounds in LA.

Contest: How many mounds in LA?

A. Less than 200 B. Between 200 and 700 C. More than 700

Did you know that there are two native American burial mounds on the campus of LSU that are older than the pyramids?

When you accumulate lots of facts and factoids, have the kids (individually, as a small team or as a class) create a non-fiction book titled, "LOUISIANA FUN FACTS. Amazing facts about Louisiana." Be sure the book is illustrated by a student/s.

Compare, contrast, connect, cartoon

Six degrees of separation. Kevin Bacon connection.

Contest!

Connect Captain Shreve to Andrew Jackson

Henry Shreve – inventor and steamboat captain. On one of his first trips as a steamboat captain, he brought guns and ammunition from Pittsburgh down the Ohio and MS rivers to New Orleans to supply Andrew Jackson in his battle against the British. The city of Shreveport is named after him.

Connect Louisiana Indian tribes to the name Baton Rouge.

Two tribes- the Houma Indian Tribe and the Bayougoula Indian Tribe. To settle a border conflict between them, the tribes used a cypress pole to mark the boundary dividing their hunting grounds. The pole was red from the blood of animals that the tribes had hunted. D'Iberville and his men saw the red stick when they were traveling on the Mississippi River, so they named that area Baton Rouge.

Petite Rouge is the story of Little Red Riding Hood set in a Cajun culture. Same with Three Little Cajun Pigs and Jacques and de Beanstalk. What other stories could be adapted to Louisiana culture? Stone Soup could become Seashell Gumbo. Have students take a familiar folk tale and put a Louisiana twist on it. PETITE ROUGE - Little Red Riding Hood Stories Around The World (Italy, Taiwan, Germany, Africa)

Draw a cartoon of the state of Louisiana. Have the state tell you about itself. If kids are too young to draw a picture of the state, you can pre-draw the outline of the state and have the kids add eyes and mouth and add the captions of the state telling you about itself.