In this booklet, you will investigate the changes that occurred during the colonial period and how those changes shaped the unique development of Louisiana.

- Why was control of Louisiana so important to France during the colonial era?
- How and why did the possession of Louisiana change over time?
- How did European colonization contribute to the development of Louisiana?
Colonial Louisiana: The Cajuns

In the last booklet, we learned about a group of people called the Creole, whose ancestors came from France or Spain. This week we are going to talk about a group of people called the Cajuns whose ancestors came from Acadia (Canada). Many people think that the Cajuns and the French are the same because of cultural similarities such as religion and language, but they are two separate groups of people.

How far did the people of Acadia travel?

1. Look at the map and find Acadia (Nova Scotia).
2. Using your finger, trace a line from where Acadia was to Louisiana.
3. Draw a line to show how to get from Acadia to Louisiana on a boat?

The Great Upheaval or in French Le Grand D’Érangement

The video will explain how many Acadians fled to Louisiana. The word upheaval means disruption or great change. If someone is fleeing, it means they are leaving or running from a place very fast. When the Acadians fled their homes, they were being forced to leave by the British. They ended up settling in many places including Louisiana.
Let’s watch a video called “The Cajun Experience” on www.vimeo.com. While we are watching the video take notes and see if you can answer the following questions:

1. Why did the Great Upheaval occur?
2. Why did the Acadians settle near the Atchafalaya Swamp?
3. What happened to the Acadians after Louisiana Purchase?
4. What are some Cajun traditions and icons of American culture?

Can you answer the above questions now that we’ve watched the video?

1. Why did the Great Upheaval occur?
   A. The Acadians wanted to move to a new place.
   B. Great Britain was at war with France and believed the French settlers were a risk.
   C. There were so many resources in Louisiana that they wanted.
   D. Great Britain wanted the Acadians to leave Canada so they could be neighbors.

2. Why did the Acadians settle near the Atchafalaya Swamp?
   A. The Atchafalaya Swamp was beautiful to look at during the night.
   B. The Atchafalaya Swamp was a good place to swim.
   C. The Atchafalaya Swamp allowed settlers to raise livestock, hunt, farm and fish.
   D. The Atchafalaya Swamp made it hard for bad guys to take over Louisiana.

3. What happened to the Acadians after Louisiana Purchase?
   A. The Acadians became US citizens after the Louisiana Purchase.
   B. The Acadians went back to Acadia, Canada.
   C. The Acadians left and moved to France.
   D. The Acadians dug out the Atchafalaya Swamp and made the Gulf of Mexico.

4. What are some Cajun traditions and icons of American culture? (Choose 2 answers)
   A. Cajun traditions include snowboarding, skiing, scuba diving, and video games.
   B. Cajun traditions include farming, hunting and fishing.
   C. Cajun icons include eyeglasses, iPhones, ipods, and eye color.
   D. Cajun icons include cuisine, language and music.

The video mentioned some of the Cajun traditions and icons. Do you agree that those traditions and icons are a part of Louisiana? Is there anything else that reminds you of and makes you think of Louisiana?
Colonial Louisiana’s Landscape

Did you notice that the video started with a quotation by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow? Longfellow said, “This is the forest primeval.” Primeval means ancient or earliest in ages. Longfellow wrote a poem called Evangeline, a poem about a young Acadian girl and explains what Louisiana looked like when the Acadians first settled.

If *primeval* means ancient or old, why would Longfellow call a forest ancient?

If the forest is ancient, do you think many things have changed about the forest? yes no

The forests/swamps in Louisiana still look like they did when the Acadians arrived. There are still some connections in our Louisiana culture to the culture of those who settled in Louisiana hundreds of years ago. We have several bayous and swamps right here in our area. How would you describe Louisiana’s swamps?

When the British forced the Acadians to leave Canada the Acadians didn’t know where they would go. When they landed in Louisiana, they were happy to see that Louisiana was a great place to settle. Everyone has 3 main needs that have to be met in order to survive: food, clothing, and shelter. Look at the image on the left. Do you think Louisiana met all the Acadian’s needs? Food? What could they eat? ___________________ Clothing? Made of what? ___________________ Shelter? What did they build their houses with? _______

Let’s look at our timeline and locate 1755 which indicates when the mass migration of Acadians began moving to Louisiana. Highlight 1755 and what happened that year.
Colonial Louisiana: Les Acadiens Video

Now we are going to watch a YOUTUBE Video called “Les Acadiens” to gain background knowledge on the Acadians. The video is narrated in French, so you will need to read the captions or view the video with the sound muted while you read the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Video Analysis Worksheet</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet the video.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you see in the video?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle all that apply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do the video have a title?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If so, what does the title tell you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use it as historical evidence.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Let's get into pairs and discuss what you learned about the Acadians in the video.

_______________________________________________________________________________________
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Write a brief summary of the information from the video.

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_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
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Colonial Louisiana

Let’s take a look at the United States and trace the journey of the Acadians all the way down to Louisiana.

Now we are going to read something titled, “The Acadians in Louisiana” to explore exactly where the Acadians came to settle in Louisiana and learn how they used the land and resources to meet their needs.

The Acadians in Louisiana

“The Legacy of Cajuns”

“Welcome to Cajun Country” is a phrase you have probably heard before. But who are Acadians and how did they become Cajuns? How did this group end up in Louisiana? Where did their story begin? We will answer a few of those questions as we learn more about “The Acadian Odyssey”. The Acadians, who would later become known as “Cajuns” began their journey from the rural areas of the Vendee region of western France. Around 1604, some French men and women began settling in “Acadie,” (now Nova Scotia, Canada) and they were called Acadians.

Route traveled from France to Canada.

After the French Acadians settled in “Acadie,” ownership of the colony changed hands between the English and French several times. The Acadians tried to remain neutral and were called “French Neutrals.” Each wanted ownership of the area. After a century, in 1713, Great Britain acquired permanent control of “Acadie.” A group of Acadians moved to other areas controlled by France. The British felt a need to colonize the area with British subjects. The British believed that they should get rid of the Acadian people. The forced removal of Acadians was cruel and is now called ethnic cleansing or genocide. After being in “Acadie” for 150 years, the Acadians were faced with a cruel and major upheaval. On July 28, 1755, Charles Lawrence, the British governor of “Acadie” ordered what many call the “The Great Upheaval” Other terms used are Great Expulsion, The Deportation, the Acadian Expulsion, or to the deportees, Le Grand Dérangement. The British began the forced removal of the Acadians from their homeland in 1755. To prevent their return, houses and farms were burned.
The Acadians in Louisiana (cont.)

Acadians were taken into custody by British officers and then herded onto British ships and were exiled. Some Acadians escaped. Le Grand Dérangement dispersed the Acadians to British colonies along North America’s eastern coast. Some places refused to receive them and they were sent to England. Acadian families were separated and shipped to various destinations including the following seven British American colonies:

- Connecticut
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- South Carolina
- Georgia

After the war, some were sent to French Caribbean, while others went back to France. Many families were separated as men and boys were imprisoned. Many Acadians under twenty-one years old were made servants to farmers in Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania. Others were shipped to South Carolina and Georgia. Of those sent to South Carolina, reportedly only one in ten survived.

Exiled Acadians numbered more than 12,000. Some historians estimate that close to fifty percent of these people died. In 1764, after the war, more Acadians began moving to Louisiana, mostly from the French West Indies and Maryland. These Acadians were led to Louisiana by Joseph Broussard. Some exiled groups were unhappy and decide to move. Some found their way to south Louisiana and began settling in the rural areas west of New Orleans. By the early 1800’s, nearly 4,000 Acadians had arrived and settled in Louisiana. Acadian settlement locations included:

- St. John Parish
- St. James Parish
- Attakapas region (St. Martin Parish)
- St. Gabriel, Louisiana
- Vidalia (old location)
- Natchitoches (settlers relocated to Opelousas)
- Bayou Lafourche area

Some moved beyond the Atchafalaya Basin onto southwest Louisiana’s prairies to raise cattle and rice. Through the years, the French language changed as did their architecture, music, and food. Cajuns today are known for their unique culture, music, food, and traditions. Over time the Acadians in Louisiana became known as "Cajuns" (which is an English word) as they adapted to their new home and its environment.

The immigration to Louisiana of different cultures created a different culture; however the Cajun culture remained dominant. Cajuns are credited for starting the cattle industry. Cajuns had the first cattle brand registered in Louisiana’s official brand book. During 1785 on seven ships, the next major wave of 2,000 Acadians arrived in Louisiana from France. By 1785, three Catholic parishes had been established for Cajuns. In 1843, Alexander Mouton was elected the first Acadian governor of Louisiana. He was Louisiana’s 12th Governor. Cajun rice cultivation grew to be one of Louisiana’s main industries. In 1867, Cajuns established the first shrimp canning operation. Shrimp continue to be the Cajun's major fishing industry.
The Acadians in Louisiana (cont.)

So who are Cajuns?
Cajuns are an ethnic group of the descendants of the Acadian exiles. Today, the Cajuns make up a significant portion of south Louisiana's population. Their Cajun and Acadian legacy has undoubtedly had an impact on the state's culture. Many changes have occurred, but one thing has remained constant in the Acadian heritage: Their pride in their roots. A legacy that will forever lie in their ancestor’s struggles for survival.

Now that we have learned exactly who the Acadians were, let’s add them to our Louisiana Cultural Influences Diagram.

We have learned about several groups who have helped to make Louisiana unique. Louisiana’s Native Americans, the French, and the Spanish have all contributed pieces of their culture to Louisiana and now we know Louisiana also has Acadian influence.

We are going to watch a Youtube video called, “History of the Most Cajun Place on Earth” to learn more about the Acadians, a few more ways that Acadian culture can be seen in Louisiana today, and how their influence contributes to the unique culture of Louisiana.

While you watch the video see if you can answer the next questions/conversation stems:

1. Where is the most Cajun place on Earth?

2. What is unique about culture in the area described in the video?

3. How have the Acadians changed Louisiana?
This brochure is all about the Acadians. In class, we watched a video called “Music and Culture in the Most Cajun Place on Earth” and “Music & Cajun French in the Most Cajun Place on Earth”.

Here are my video notes:

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Page 3
Settling in

How did the Acadians come to Louisiana?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Where did the Acadians settle?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What aspects of Acadian culture can be seen in Louisiana today?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

These elements of Acadia culture contribute to the uniqueness of Louisiana?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

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