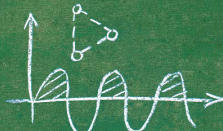


# Opening The Windows Of Curiosity

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## WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

# Louisiana

Louisiana is well-known for its scenic bayous, diverse wildlife and rich history — millions of tourists and sports enthusiasts visit the state every year. The city of New Orleans is a popular destination, famous for its food, architecture, jazz and festivals.

The state bird is the **eastern brown pelican**.



Fleur de lis



The state flower is the **southern magnolia** (also known as bull bay), an evergreen with large, white, fragrant flowers.

### In a word

René-Robert Cavalier named Louisiana (La Louisiane) in honor of the French king Louis XIV. Louisiana has earned many nicknames, such as the Pelican State, the Bayou State, the Sugar State and the Child of the Mississippi. The state motto is "Union, Justice and Confidence."

Louisiana is the only U.S. state that calls its counties **parishes**. **Creoles** are descendants of the original settlers, and **Cajuns** came from Acadia (Nova Scotia, Canada).

### Louisiana Purchase

President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana territory from Napoleon in 1803. (The original Louisiana territory is now divided among 15 states.)

### Famous foods

Two basic styles of southern Louisiana cooking are **Creole** and **Cajun**. Some well-known dishes include **gumbo** (a sea-food soup), **jambalaya** (rice mixed with sausage or chicken) and **etouffee** (a seafood stew served on rice).

If you have never tried alligator, Louisiana is the place to go; it is often served battered and fried. Many Louisianians enjoy French Market doughnuts, also called **beignets** (a pastry coated with powdered sugar), along with strong, dark-roasted coffee. Many folks from New Orleans flavor their coffee with chicory.

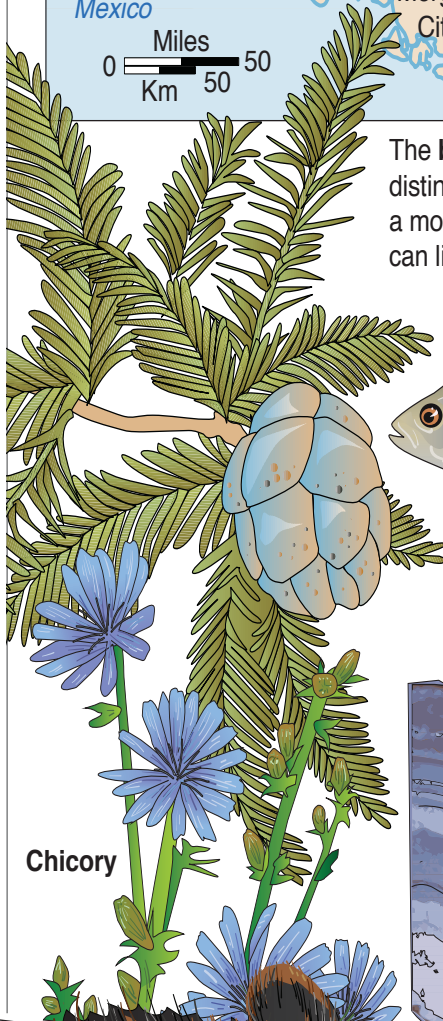


Louisiana's **egret** colonies are among the largest in the United States.

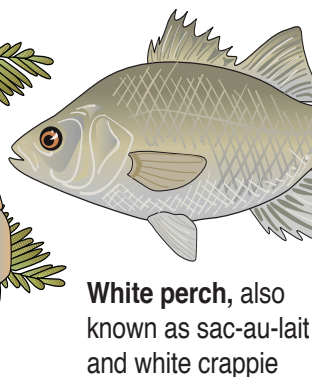


Louisiana's **state flag** was adopted in 1912. It depicts a nesting pelican with three young pelicans.

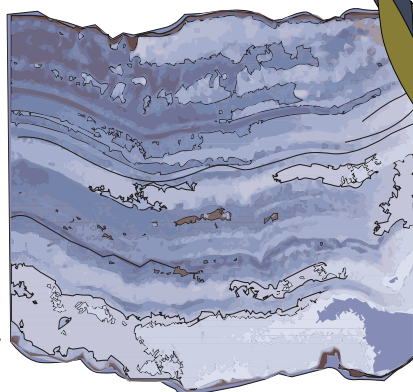
The **bald cypress** has a distinctive buttressed trunk and a moss-draped crown. This tree can live up to 600 years.



Chicory



**White perch**, also known as sac-au-lait and white crappie

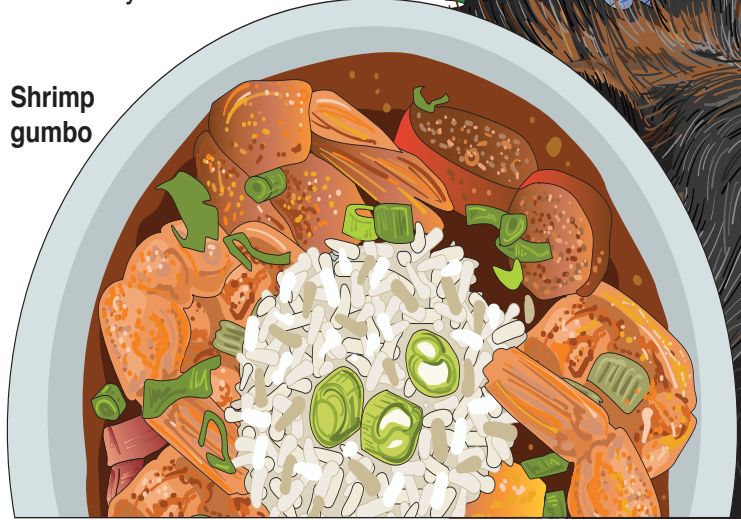


Agate



Green tree frog

The Louisiana **iris** is the state wild-flower. Its flowers come in rust, blue, purple, yellow, pink and white.



Shrimp gumbo



American black bear



Honeybee

### Just the facts

<b>Area</b>	52,070 sq. mi. (134,860 sq. km)
<b>Population</b>	4,600,000
<b>Capital city</b>	Baton Rouge
<b>Largest city</b>	New Orleans
<b>Highest elevation</b>	Driskill Mountain, 535 feet (163 m)
<b>Lowest elevation</b>	New Orleans, 5 feet (1.5 m) below sea level
<b>Agriculture</b>	Beef cattle, poultry, corn, cotton, milk, rice, soybeans, sugarcane
<b>Manufacturing</b>	Chemicals, fabricated metal products, food products, paper products, petroleum products, transportation equipment
<b>Mining</b>	Coal, natural gas, petroleum, salt, sand and gravel

### Did you know?

More **crayfish** are produced in Louisiana than in other U.S. state, supplying about 90% of the country's crayfish (called "crawfish" in Louisiana).

**Tabasco sauce** originated in Louisiana in 1868. It is made from the Mexican tabasco pepper.

Originally built as a small parish church in 1716, the **St. Louis Cathedral** in New Orleans is the oldest cathedral in continuous use in the United States.

Forests cover about half of Louisiana.

The Spanish built many of the colonial structures in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

The state has been governed under 10 different flags since 1541.

Fought two weeks after the War of 1812 had ended, the Battle of New Orleans (1815) made Andrew Jackson a national hero.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; https://www.louisiana.gov; https://statesymbolsusa.org; https://www.50states.com

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