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# Los Adaes

## 1721 to 1773

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Middle School  
Social Studies  
Colonial Louisiana  
Barter

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### Overview

The PowerPoint presentation introduces the Spanish colonial fort of Los Adaes in Natchitoches Parish.

### Objectives

Students will learn that Los Adaes was on the eastern edge of the Spanish empire.

Students will learn that it was near Natchitoches, which was on the western edge of the French empire.

Students will learn that the Caddo Indians interacted with the people at Los Adaes.

### Activities

Student activities and worksheets include:

- Map
- Graphic organizer
- Timeline
- Review questions
- Individual creative writing activity
- Group oral activity

Teacher answer sheets are provided.

### Related Resources about Los Adaes:

[www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology)

(select **Interactive Exhibits**, then **Los Adaes**)

[www.texasbeyondhistory.net/adaes](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/adaes)

### Vocabulary

Archaeology  
Archaeologist  
Artifact  
Barter  
Capital  
Colony  
Cultural Exchange  
Documents  
El Camino Real  
Excavation  
Feature  
Fort  
Goods  
Government  
Governor  
Historical Records  
Interaction  
Military  
New Spain  
Site  
Timeline

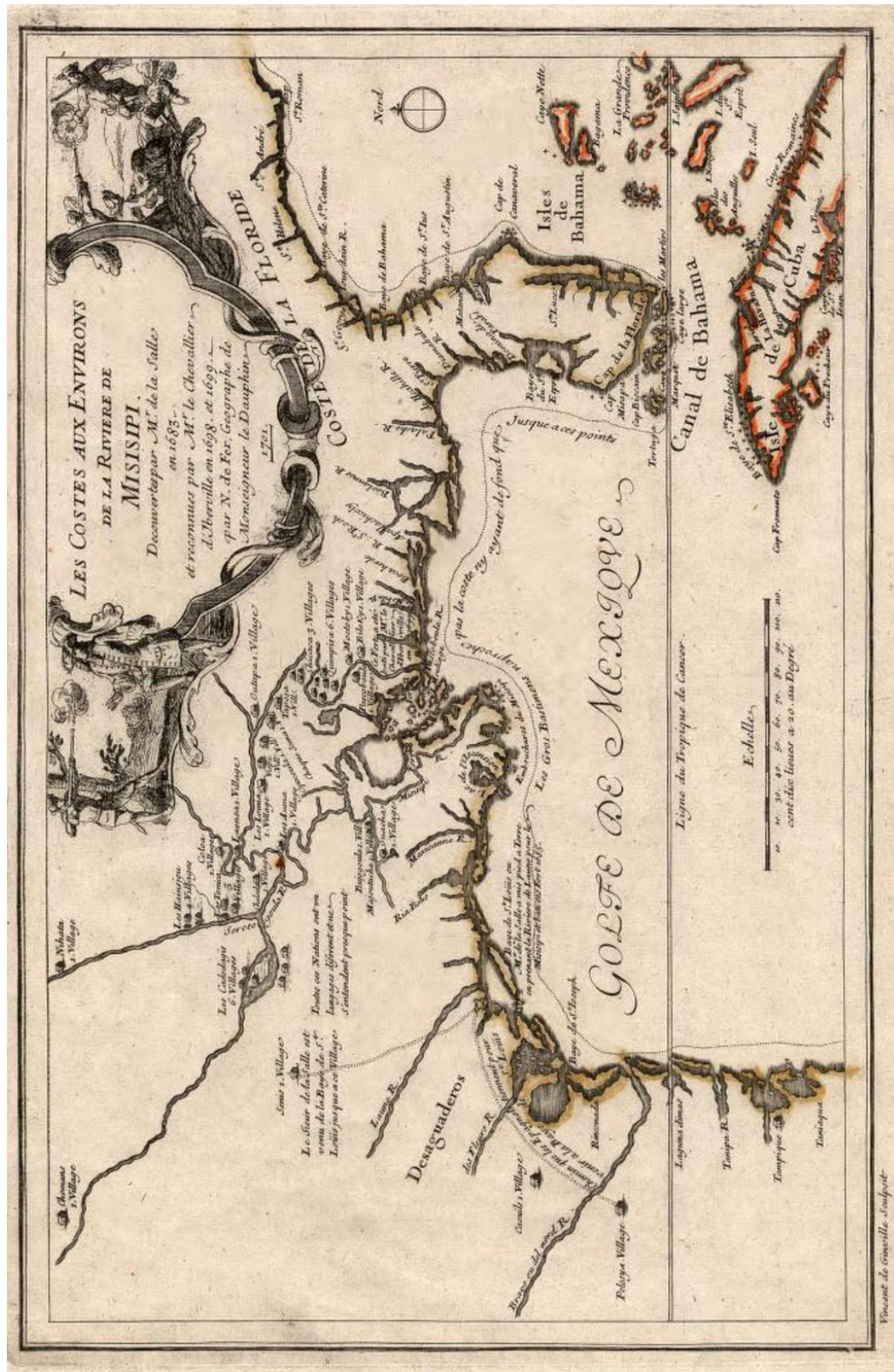
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Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Colonial map of the area around the Mississippi River. Can you outline Louisiana on this map? What other states can you outline and identify on this map (Library of Congress Catalog Number 2003623128)?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Course: \_\_\_\_\_

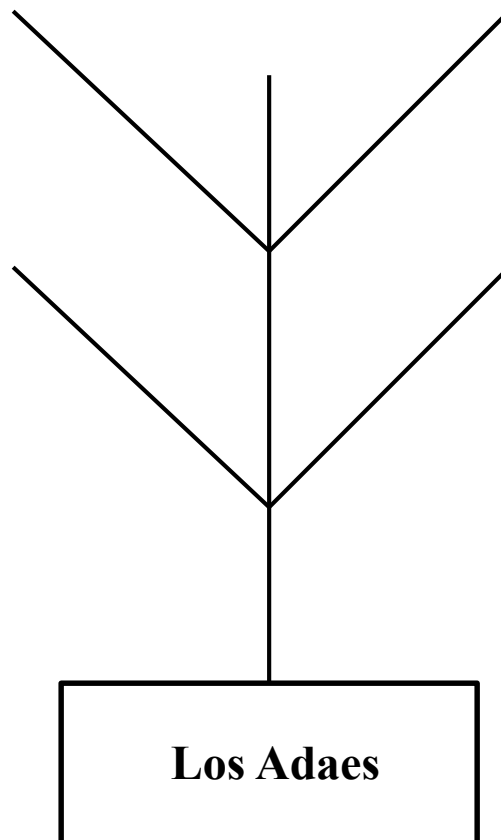
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### Internet Research and Graphic Organizer

#### Los Adaes

The Spanish built settlements and forts in the New World when they felt they had to protect their territory. The fort and settlement at Los Adaes was very far from the center of New Spain, which was located in Mexico City. This made supplying Los Adaes very difficult, and there were often long periods between supply shipments. The need for supplies was part of the reason for the interaction between the Spanish, the French and the Caddo Indians at Los Adaes. Why would Spain settle in an area that was so hard to supply?

Access the Los Adaes website at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology) (select **Interactive Exhibits**, then **Los Adaes**) to find out more about the history of Los Adaes. Fill in the graphic organizer below with possible reasons that Spain built this settlement.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Timeline

Create a timeline of events for Los Adaes from first settlement to its final closing. Access the Los Adaes website at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology) (select **Interactive Exhibits**, then **Los Adaes**) to find out more about the history of this site.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Review (True/False, Short Answer, Essay)**

Colonial forts and settlements in the New World were built to help Native Americans. True  False

Digging is the only way archaeologists find out what is underground. True  False

Artifacts can be used to confirm or question the historic record. True  False

How do archaeologists know that the Spanish, French and Indians traded at Los Adaes?

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If Los Adaes was a Spanish settlement, why was it located in Louisiana? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did archaeologists know where to start their excavations at Los Adaes? You will find helpful information to answer this question on slide #10 in the module and the article on this webpage <http://www.techbriefs.com/component/content/article/330-dr-marco-giardino>.

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## Creative Writing Exercise

### Individual Activity

Pretend you are a Caddo Indian living outside the fort at Los Adaes. Describe what your life is like interacting with the Spanish at Los Adaes and the French at Ft. St. Jean the Baptiste at Natchitoches. Be specific about what you do and how you live. You may want to access the Los Adaes website at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology) (select **Interactive Exhibits**, then **Los Adaes**). The website will help you find out more about each of these groups, and how they interacted. You may also want to refer to the artifact information presented in this module.

## **Discussion and Oral Presentation**

### *Group Activity – Cultural Negotiations at Los Adaes*

The class is divided into three groups: 1) the Spanish, 2) the French, and 3) the Caddo Indians.

My group is: \_\_\_\_\_

The event in this activity is imaginary, but it shows how nations form alliances. An alliance is a plan for groups to work together. The year is 1760. Your group has information that, in other places, the English and their Indian allies are trying to expand into French and Spanish territories.

Get together with members of your group to talk about what to do if the British threat reaches your area. What will you do if the English and their Indian allies want to run you out of this part of the New World?

The Spanish, the French and the Caddo Indians may have had differences in the past, but now you must work together to protect what you have. Discuss with your group what you will give to the alliance, and what you want in return. In other words, what are your demands in order to provide men and weapons for this conflict?

Elect two people to speak for your group. The representatives of each group will work out the terms of the alliance.

## **Discussion and Oral Presentation**

*Group Activity – Cultural Negotiations at Los Adaes*

### **After Presentations; with Adult Help**

Read the passage below to see what really happened at Los Adaes. You can find this information at [http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/archaeology/LosAdaes/html/3\\_01\\_00.htm](http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/archaeology/LosAdaes/html/3_01_00.htm).

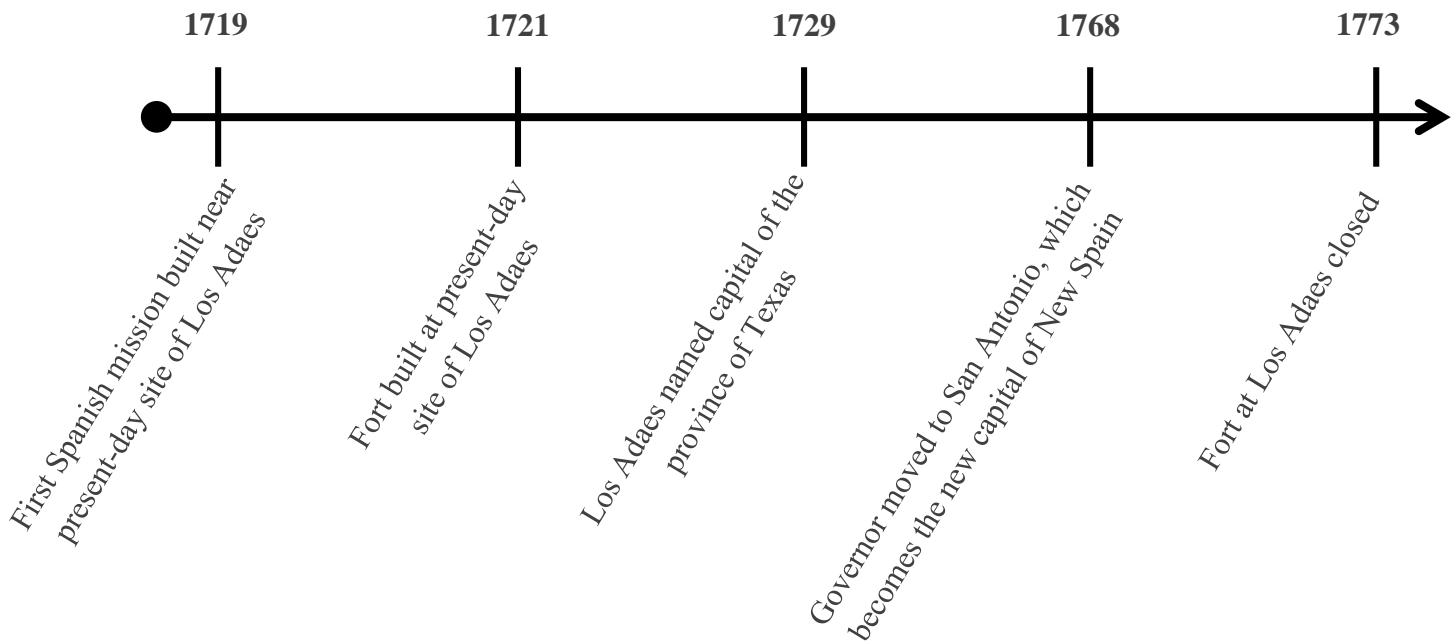
The French and Indian War—sometimes called the Seven Years War—directly affected Los Adaes. The French and their Indian allies fought the British and their Indian allies, and the Spanish sided with the French. When it became clear that the French were going to lose, France gave Spain the land west of the Mississippi River, so the British would not control the Mississippi River. This was done by secret treaty in 1762, before the end of the conflict in 1763. In 1762, then, Louisiana became Spanish. The Spanish started inspecting the presidios and missions of northern New Spain to determine which should remain open, now that the French threat was gone. Inspection of the presidio at Los Adaes was in 1767, and the mission inspection took place in 1768. Both inspections recommended closure of the facilities at Los Adaes. The governor moved his residence to San Antonio in 1768, and the capital was officially moved to San Antonio in 1770. The order was given to close Los Adaes in 1772, and in 1773, the fort and mission were abandoned.



**For the Teacher**  
**Answers**

**Timeline**

Create a timeline of events for Los Adaes from first settlement to its final closing. Access the Los Adaes website at [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology) (select **Interactive Exhibits**, then **Los Adaes**) to find more details about the history of this site.



## For the Teacher

### Answers

#### Review (True/False, Short Answer, Essay)

Colonial forts and settlements in the New World were built to help Native Americans. True  False

Digging is the only way archaeologists find out what is underground. True  False

Artifacts can be used to confirm or question the historic record. True  False

How do archaeologists know that Spanish, French and Indians traded at Los Adaes?

Archaeologists found French and Indian artifacts at Los Adaes, including dishes, weapons, and tools.

If Los Adaes was part of New Spain, why was it located in Louisiana? Los Adaes was part of New Spain, which included Texas and parts of western Louisiana.

How did archaeologists know where to start their excavations at Los Adaes? You will find helpful information to answer this question on slide #8 in this module and the article on this webpage <http://www.techbriefs.com/component/content/article/330-dr-marco-giardino>.

Archaeologists used ground penetrating radar (GPR). This technology can show disturbances underground. The disturbances recorded at Los Adaes were from the initial construction of the fort, and showed the archaeologists where to start their excavations.

# Los Adaes

## 1721 to 1773

This is one in a series of modules about Louisiana archaeology. Each module has a PowerPoint presentation and associated student activities. The series is called “Learn about Louisiana’s Past through Archaeology.”

The presentation is intended for educational use. Please use image credits where provided.

Please visit the Division of Archaeology website for additional teaching materials and educational resources at: [www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology).

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