

Addressing CCSS
with a
Pitot House Field Trip

Social Studies | Grade 3

The following items are taken from the Grade 3 iLEAP Social Studies Assessment Structure which is designed to assess the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) of the Louisiana Common Core State Standards. While there are four strands included in Louisiana's content standards, geography is the only one addressed here.

Geography—Physical and Cultural Systems: Students develop a spatial understanding of Earth's surface and the processes that shape it, the connections between people and places, and the relationship between man and his environment. The World in Spatial Terms

“Understanding The World in Spatial Terms” is a major focus of Geography. Using maps of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, students can compare the early development of New Orleans with its current development and observe how the physical landscape influenced this process.

Students will have experience:

G-1A-E1: identifying and describing the characteristics and uses of geographic representations such as various types of maps, globes, graphs, diagrams, photographs, and satellite-produced images
Activity: Describe characteristics and uses of various maps (e.g., physical, political, topographical, population)

G-1A-E2: locating and interpreting geographic features and places on maps and globes
Activity: Use a compass rose and cardinal directions to locate and interpret a map of New Orleans and Louisiana
Locate major geographic features of New Orleans on a map

G-1A-E3: constructing maps, graphs, charts, and diagrams to describe geographical information and to solve problems
Activity: Sketch a simple map of New Orleans or Louisiana from memory (mental map)

All of the benchmarks for Third Grade under the category “The World in Spatial Terms” are easily incorporated into a Pitot House visit.

Places and Regions

During a field trip to the Pitot House, students can sit on the pedestrian bridge overlooking Bayou St. John, and imagine the early settlers using this waterway as an approach to the city. Before the invention of the steam engine, Bayou St. John was the preferred route, because it shortened the distance from the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans and avoided the challenge of sailing against the strong current of the Mississippi River. The Lafitte Greenway follows the route of the Carondelet Canal which gave ships access to the back of the French Quarter.

Being there will help the students to achieve these skills:

G-1B-E1: describing and comparing the physical characteristics of places, including land forms, bodies of water, soils, vegetation, and climate *Activity: Describe and compare the physical characteristics of various regions of Louisiana*

G-1B-E1: identifying and describing the human characteristics of places, including population distributions and culture *Activity: Identify and describe the human characteristics of places in New Orleans*

G-1B-E3: describing how the physical and human characteristics of places change over time *Activity: Describe how the people and the physical environment have changed over time in Louisiana based on given information*

G-1B-E4: defining and differentiating regions by using physical characteristics, such as climate and land forms, and by using human characteristics, such as economic activity and language *Activity: Use maps, charts, and pictures to describe how places in Louisiana are different (e.g., land use, vegetation, **architecture**)*

This benchmark comes alive when the students tour the Pitot House and see how specific architectural features are designed to address local issues.

Physical and Human Systems

Because of the location of New Orleans at the mouth of the Mississippi River, it quickly became a major national and international port. As the entry port for peoples from all over the world, New Orleans developed a rich mixture of cultures which has endured through the centuries and still enriches the lives of its residents and visitors today.

G-1C-E2: describing and comparing the types of settlement and patterns of land use in local communities, the United States, and world regions *Activity: Locate, describe, and compare urban, suburban, and rural communities in Louisiana*

G-1C-E3: describing and explaining the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations *Activity: Identify and explain patterns of settlement in different time periods in Louisiana*

G-1C-E4: identifying and comparing the cultural characteristics of different regions and people *Activity: Identify and compare customs, celebrations, and traditions of various cultural groups*

A field trip to the Pitot House is a wonderful way to enrich your curriculum!
Please contact me if you would like to meet and design a field trip targeting the specific needs of your class.

During the months of October and November, the Pitot House will display 19th Century mourning attire.

