

tions. The site is very colorful, well designed, and easy to navigate. The "Kids" section uses whimsical fonts and children-friendly terminology (e.g. "cool"). All images are in high resolution, making for sharp visuals, which is not always the case with websites.

Finally, the *Texas Beyond History* homepage includes a useful map of Texas marking the locations and names of select cultural resources. Dragging a cursor over each resource activates a preview of what lies beyond the hyperlink, and double clicking on that link takes the reader to detailed information on that resource. By presenting a modern map of Texas, readers not familiar with Texas and its geography can peruse the exhibits based on their area of interest.

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1. A list of the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory's partners is available online at <http://www.texasbeyonhistory.net/aboutbhp/partners.html>.

Los Adaes: Life at an Eighteenth-Century Spanish Outpost

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/siteexplorer/>

Los Adaes State Historic Site, Louisiana Office of State Parks; maintained by Louisiana Division of Archaeology; accessed August 27, 2005.

In every region of the United States there are historic sites dedicated to settlement. These sites, whether they are found in Massachusetts, South Carolina, Louisiana, Missouri, or California, all have similarities. But it is the regional flair and historical details that make them unique. The website for Los Adaes State Park in Louisiana does an excellent job in providing a regional view of a national past. Through its high-quality visuals, ease of navigation, and wealth of information, the web-

site succeeds in creating an interesting and exciting experience for the online visitor.

Located in western Louisiana, Los Adaes has had a long and varied history. Archeological evidence shows that the cultural traditions of the Caddo Indians began over 1,000 years ago in an area that includes parts of modern day Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The name *adaes* is the Caddoan word for "place along a stream." Even today, descendants of the interaction of Caddoans and French and Spanish settlers, known as *Adaesena*, still influence the area.

According to the website, the Caddos were a powerful group that viewed both the French and Spanish as trading partners and peers. At the request of the local population, a Spanish mission was established in 1716. Two years later, a new mission and a presidio were built a few miles away. Los Adaes not only served as a religious and military center, but it was also the capital of the Province of Texas from 1729 to 1770. The settlement was short-lived, however; by 1773, the presidio and mission had closed.

Today, the Louisiana Office of State Parks manages the site as Los Adaes State Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark. While only 5 percent of the entire site has been excavated, archeological evidence has provided a wealth of information on the locations of several structures and the techniques used in their construction. Produced by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, the website highlights artifacts and other archeological evidence in an online exhibit. Images of Caddoan pottery, French trade kettles, Spanish lead seals, and artifacts relating to religious, military, domestic, and agricultural life reinforce the significance and diversity of Los Adaes.

The website is divided into three sections. "At the Edge of an Empire" tells the story of colonial settlement. Those familiar with settlement patterns

in colonial North America will recognize the common elements of competing European countries, the interactions of settlers and Native Americans, and the establishment of trade routes. "Life on the Frontier" vividly portrays the variety of the colonial experience, including military, religious, domestic, agricultural, and economic activities. "Los Adaes Today" highlights the legacy of the Caddo Indians and the value of archeological research and historic site preservation.

The website's designers have skillfully combined content and a navigational system that does not overwhelm the reader. Pop-up windows containing images of artifacts and other illustrations enliven the text. The site serves the casual browser and the serious researcher equally well: The former can quickly and easily gain an understanding of the main points, and the latter will appreciate the involved discussion of the history of Los Adaes.

The website provides two options for viewing the online exhibit: a "multimedia" version and an "accessible" version. It is the multimedia version that makes the website such a success. As one explores "At the Edge of Empire," the background map moves and refocuses on a new area of the Southwest with each panel that comes into view. In "Los Adaes Today," users can listen to the oral history of *Adaesena* Rhonda Gauthier. High-resolution images can be magnified with clear and crisp detail. Overall, the multimedia components make *Los Adaes: Life at an Eighteenth-Century Spanish Outpost* a fun and informative website.

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Florida Folklife Program

<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/preservation/folklife/>

Florida Folklife Program, Office of Cultural and Historical Programs, maintained by Florida Department of State; accessed August 25–September 2, 2005.

The Florida Folklife Program (FFP) is a component of the Florida Office of Cultural and Historical Programs. The FFP is responsible for documenting and presenting "folklife, folklore and the folk arts of the state," and it "coordinates a wide range of activities and projects designed to increase the awareness of Floridians and visitors alike about our traditional culture." The FFP excels in meeting this goal, recording and archiving more than 70 years of Floridian music, teaching schoolchildren about the traditional culture of Florida, and conducting a folklife apprenticeship program to ensure that traditional folk art and folkways are not lost.

Although difficult to find, the Florida Folklife Program website proves to be a diamond in the rough and complements the FFP's activities. The simple, straightforward design employs clean lines, easy-to-read fonts, fast-loading graphics, and a judicious use of color, all of which enable viewers to focus on the content. Simultaneously, it exploits the Web's multimedia capabilities to connect visitors to FFP's extensive audio archives of Floridian music and biographies of past Folk Heritage Award winners and folk-art masters and apprentices.

The growing list of folk artists who have died, as indicated by an asterisk in the FFP listings, emphasizes the importance of preserving and sharing this cultural legacy before it is too late. That is the goal of the Folklife Apprenticeship Program, which allows participants to spend up to nine months learning from master folk artists. The website describes the program and past apprenticeships, which have included learning fiddling techniques, Seminole basket making, and Cuban *guajiro* singing. Other features of the FFP website include

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship

Volume 3 Number 1 Winter 2006



CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship
Winter 2006
ISSN 1068-4999

CRM = cultural resource management

CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship is published twice each year by the National Park Service to address the history and development of and trends and emerging issues in cultural resource management in the United States and abroad. Its purpose is to broaden the intellectual foundation of the management of cultural resources.

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CRM Journal is produced under a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

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