

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Department of the Interior

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve



Home Sweet Habitat



Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve has developed a traveling trunk, "Home Sweet Habitat," to share the wonder of our Mississippi Delta home with your students. This traveling exhibit brings the world to your classroom with hands-on experiences designed to engage your students, and make your lessons about Louisiana an enjoyable and unforgettable adventure for everyone. Replica artifacts and biofacts facilitate and enhance learning and recall for tests. All lesson plans are cross-curricular, and tied directly into Louisiana State and Federal education standards and grade level expectations. The lesson plans are designed to be presented together to give your students an overview of the interdependence of the forces at work in the delta; however, each lesson is complete and can stand alone.

Host institutions pay only a small maintenance fee and shipping charges. Loan dates must be arranged through the park. Upon receiving the traveling trunk please check the contents against the inventory sheet provided in this introductory packet. If any items are missing or damaged contact the loaning Park facility:

French Quarter (New Orleans) 504-589-3882

Chalmette Battlefield (Chalmette) 504-589-3882

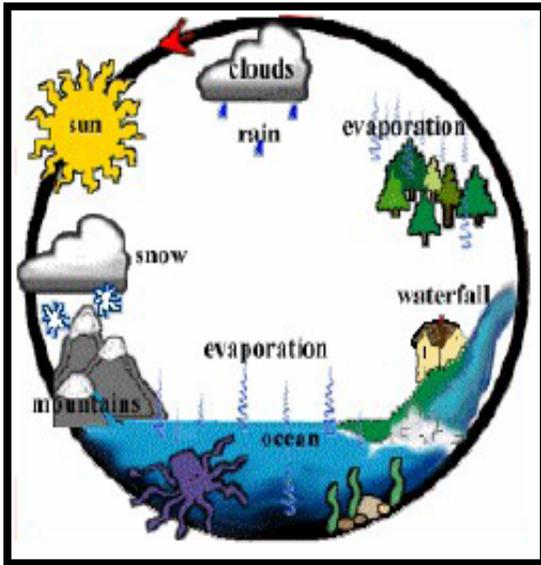
Barataria Preserve (Marrero) 504-589-2330

Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center (Thibodaux) 985-448-1375

Acadian Cultural Center (Lafayette) 337-232-075

Prairie Acadian Cultural Center (Eunice) 337-457-7700

1. THE BEGINNING: THE WATER CYCLE

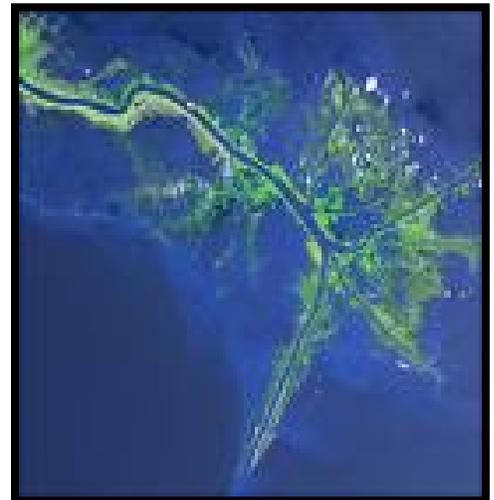


From the land we stand on to the food we eat, life in South Louisiana begins and ends with the Water Cycle. The Water Cycle shows water in three states: solid, liquid, and gas. The Mississippi River drains the nation and carries with it sediment that builds the land in South Louisiana as well as flooding the bayous and swamps with water creating perfect habitats for animals of all kinds. Water, evaporating from the bayous and swamps in its gaseous state, forms clouds and causes humidity. Eventually it falls again in its liquid state as rain and occasionally in its solid state as snow.

- ❖ Includes curriculum on CD with background information, activities, and detailed directions to bring learning alive. All course materials are integrated into Louisiana State and U.S. Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations.

2. MAKING DELTAS OUT OF MOUNTAINS

With the creation of the delta the water cycle flows smoothly into the rock cycle. The Mississippi river carries with it sediment made from soil and rocks eroded from the mountains. The flow of the Mississippi slows as it reaches level land near its end at the Gulf of Mexico allowing the sediment in it to settle out. Over time the sediment builds up and the layers compact forming sedimentary rock. Through plate tectonics the submerged rock is eventually pushed up to the surface where it is slowly eroded away.



- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, a stream table, plastic tubing, and plastic grid sheet



3. PICTURE OUR WORLD

Maps provide insight into our world helping us define it and understand our place in it. Some maps show the dimensions of a single building, others are of cities, some show weather patterns but all of them have helpful information. There are many different types of maps and knowing how to read them can give you a new perspective on the world around you.

- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, an award-winning wetlands poster (our gift for you to keep), and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve brochures.

4. and 5. SWAMP FEAST

This segment features an imaginative look into life in a swamp as it relates to life in a medieval castle. It comes with two books. One is designed for students in kindergarten through 2nd grades and the other, a little more detailed, is designed for students 3rd through 4th grades. Students will meet fantastic characters from the honey bee cook to the alligator king. Each character offers insight into that animal's adaptation to swamp life and the corresponding human's role in medieval court life.



- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, one **Swamp Feast** castle book for younger students, and one *Swamp Feast* castle book for older students.

6. PUPPET PLAY



Puppets allow children to interact with the world through imagination. Each animal puppet has a specific role to fill its individual habitat, but with a child's imagination the rabbit can become the top predator in the swamp and the alligator the meekest of prey. Puppets encourage a creative hands-on exploration of swamp life in South Louisiana.

- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, an Alligator hand puppet, a Tree puppet base, and finger puppets (Bat, Butterfly, Turtle, Duckling, Raccoon, Opossum, Marsh Rabbit, Fox, Blue Bird, Bear, Owl, Grey Squirrel, and Brown Squirrel) from Folkmanis Puppets, Inc.

7. IT'S NOT MAGIC - IT'S METAMORPHOSIS

Metamorphosis is defined as a process involving a conspicuous and relatively abrupt physical change in an animal's form or structure which is usually accompanied by a change of habitat. This definition describes the complex process that produces dragonflies, frogs, and ladybugs, just to name a few. Ladybugs go through four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Despite their gentle name, ladybugs are predators through most of their lifecycles and their favorite prey is aphids.



- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, a plastic model of the ladybug in the four stages of development: eggs, larva, pupa, and adult

8. IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS



What kind of animal was it? What did it eat? Where did it live? These questions can be answered by examining an animal's skull. Eye placement can tell whether the animal was predator or prey as well as if it lived in the trees, in the water, or on the ground. Teeth shapes and positions can help us determine whether the animal was an herbivore or carnivore and even what types of food the animal was adapted to favor.

- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, a coyote, nutria, raccoon, eagle, blue jay, dove/pigeon, hummingbird, and alligator skull; dragonfly sample; spiny spider sample; X-Rays: frog, box turtle, rattlesnake (pit viper), baby hawk, rabbit, crocodilian eggs

9. INVISIBLE WORLDS

The possibility of invisible worlds has always fascinated man. The ability to see into them is as recent as the discovery of the microscope. The first microscope had one glass lens giving it a magnification of 270x. Since then microscopes have gotten more sophisticated using multiple lenses. This type of microscope relies on light refraction to enlarge an image that is normally too small to see with the naked eye. The creation of the microscope led to the study of previously invisible worlds changing our view of medicine, the environment, and the world.



- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, a microscope, six pre-prepared microscope slides, an AC power adapter, and a selection of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve laminated newspaper sections.

10. A WORLD ALL THEIR OWN



For over 10,000 years, long before the French, British, or Spanish settled America the land was inhabited by the American Indians. Many of their unique cultures and traditions have been lost over the years but some tribes still exist. South Louisiana alone hosts twenty different tribes. Those tribes are working hard to regain their tribal identities and cultures. They practice the rituals, dances, and languages of their culture. Storytellers tell the old tales about great floods or individual animals like opossum.

- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, a raffia basket making kit, Louisiana Indian poster, and a selection of replica native American arrowheads

11. MAGICAL WORLD - THE LORAX

The Lorax is a book and movie by Dr. Seuss designed to teach children the importance of environmental stewardship. Lorax is the fictional creature acting as the voice of the trees being cut down by Once-ler. The tale explains how the destruction of the forest forced the animals to leave. At the same time it describes the pollution and devastation caused by the production of Thneeds, made from the trees. The story ends with the reformed Once-ler entrusting the last tree seed to a child passing by. This tale is Dr. Seuss's attempt to actively involve the audience in conservation.



- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, a copy of the book The Lorax and a VHS copy of the movie The Lorax



12. HOW ANIMALS SAVED THE OLD BALDCYPRESS TREE

This segment offers an in depth look at conservation and the animals of the swamp. It is designed as a play that allows children to take on the rolls of the animals using what they have learned in previous lessons while adding to that knowledge. The performing arts encourages students to be creative while building confidence, independence, and communication skills.

- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, material for nine cloaks, a hat, a map, a plastic ax, and (animal mask patterns)

13. SAVE OUR SWAMP

The focus of this segment is on the wetland's deterioration and current preservation efforts. The culmination of the traveling trunk's lesson plans calls for the students to become the teachers. Students are asked to create posters detailing what they have learned as it applies to South Louisiana's wetlands.



- ❖ Includes course materials integrated into Louisiana State and Federal curriculum standards and grade level expectations, a 1st place ribbon and certificate, as well as participation certificates.

Enjoy our World!