

EXPEDITION TO THE TEXAS COAST

EXPLORING THE WRECK OF THE FRENCH SHIP LA BELLE

Lesson	The Age of Exploration
Subject(s)	Social Studies Extensions: Science, Language Arts, Mathematics
Grade	4 th and 7 th
Duration	45 minutes

Overview

This geography lesson provides an opportunity for students to read an essay and examine maps to compare and contrast three regions of 17th Century French exploration and settlement in North America: the Northeast, the Mississippi River, and the Texas Gulf Coast.

Essential Questions

How does geography affect history?

Why were the French determined to establish permanent settlements in North America?

Objectives

Students will:

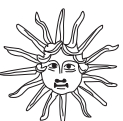
- examine the circumstances of the 17th Century Age of Exploration to understand the French determination to establish permanent settlements in North America and the challenges they encountered.
- analyze maps to interpret data from the three regions of exploration and settlement by La Salle.
- identify physical characteristics of climate, landform, bodies of water, and possible food sources in the regions of settlement by La Salle.
- speculate on how basic human needs of food, clothing and shelter were met in each of the three regions.

Teacher Preparation (Steps 1- 4)

1. Review *Tips for the Teacher* regarding strategies for delivering lessons and using the resources from the Data and Image Bank.
2. Materials
 - Reproduce (one per student) the following materials from the Data Bank: 1) *The Age of Exploration* essay; 2) *Student Data Collection and Activity Guide*; and 3) *People and Places*.
 - Reproduce (one per student) the following materials from the Image Bank: two maps: *The French Settlement 1686*, and *La Salle's Mississippi Journey 1682*.
 - Reproduce (one per student) teacher selected images of North American landscapes.
 - A world map and a wall map of North America
 - Glossary
3. Content

Geography of North America, emphasizing the Northeast, the Mississippi River, and Texas Gulf Coast regions; and French exploration and settlement in the 17th Century

 - Read the lesson essay *The Age of Exploration* and complete the *Student Data Collection and Activity Guide* prior to presenting the lesson.
 - Select images of landscapes of the Northeast, the Mississippi River, and Texas Gulf Coast regions of North America.
 - Review vocabulary words for this lesson in the Glossary.



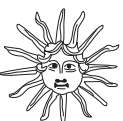
4. Student Skills
 - Use social studies terminology such as landscape, region, scale, elevation, and relative and specific location.
 - Analyze to interpret data on maps as a means of drawing conclusions about why the French chose particular locations for settlements.
5. Product
 - Completed *Student Data collection and Activity Guide*
6. Assessment
 - Determine the criteria for assessing the student product.

Lesson Delivery (Steps 1- 6)

1. Focus
 - Use a world map to locate Europe, then specifically locate France, Spain, and Portugal.
 - Indicate to the class the journey of the La Salle expedition from France to the Gulf of Mexico.
 - Use a wall map of North America to point out the three regions in the lesson.
 - Show the selected landscapes images of the three regions where La Salle explored and ask students to compare and contrast these landscapes.
2. Content
 - Project images of maps of *The French Settlement 1686*, and *La Salle's Mississippi Journey 1682* from the Image Bank; review the three general regions of North America that he explored.
 - Briefly present the story of La Salle's expedition in the Age of Exploration. Remind students that, during this period, expeditions were conducted not only by France, but also Spain and England, for three primary reasons:
 1. Economic: to gain natural resources such as gold, silver, animal pelts, etc.
 2. Political: gain or retain power as a nation, including acquiring new land
 3. Religious: to Christianize; priests were members of both French and Spanish expeditions
3. Guided Practice
 - Distribute *The Age of Exploration* essay and as a class, read it orally, discussing key ideas.
 - Distribute the *Student Data Collection and Activity Guide*, *People and Places*, and the two maps: *The French Settlement 1686*, and *La Salle's Mississippi Journey 1682*.
 - Review the instructions and solicit answers to the first two questions of the activity.
4. Independent Practice
 - Students will work independently or in pairs to complete the activity using *The French Settlement 1686*, and *La Salle's Mississippi Journey 1682* maps and *People and Places*.
5. Assessment
 - Completion of *The Age of Exploration Student Data Collection and Activity Guide*.
6. Closure
 - Use a wall map of North America, briefly review the three regions where La Salle expeditions traveled.
 - Point out the location of New Orleans, where La Salle hoped to establish a settlement. Remind them of his plan to keep the Spanish from entering the Mississippi River. Remind students that other French people settled New Orleans and that French culture remains strong in Louisiana.
 - Conclude with the statement that next year they will study the middle one-third of the United States in American history, and they will learn about the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Vocabulary

ballast, bow, draft, expedition, global positioning system, hull, landfall, landscape, latitude, longitude, man-of-war, nocturnal, priest, region, wilderness



Resources

1. *Tips For the Teacher*
2. Glossary
3. Data Bank: *The Age of Exploration* essay and *Student Data Collection and Activity Guide; People and Places*
4. Image Bank: two maps: *The French Settlement 1686* and *La Salle's Mississippi Journey 1862*.

TEKS	4th Grade	7th Grade
Social Studies	2B, C; 6B; 7A-C; 11A; 22A, B; 23B; 24	2B, C; 8A; 9B, C; 21A-D, H; 22A-D
Science	2C; 3A-C; 6A	C; 3A; 4B
Language Arts	15A; 19F, G	17; 18; 20
Mathematics	5B; 16B	2F; 3A, B; 9

Extensions

Science

- *Navigational Instruments Now and Then*: Research 17th Century navigational instruments to compare and contrast with 21st Century navigational instruments.
- *A Day in January*: Write a weather report for a January day along the Texas Gulf Coast. Include projected temperature, small craft warnings, and high tides.

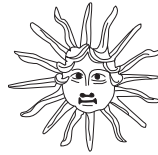
Language Arts

- *The Sights and Sounds of My Journey*: Choose a La Salle journey below to create a journal of at least eight entries to share your point of view of an expedition. Include details of the climate and weather, terrain, natural resources of both plants and animals, personalities of those you meet and your fellow-travelers, and other observations you make.
 - a) Journey in the Great Lakes region to establish fur trading partners with the Native Americans,
 - b) Journey down the Mississippi River to where the Illinois settlement, Fort St. Louis, was established,
 - c) Journey from France, via the Caribbean to the Gulf Coast.

Mathematics

- *How Far did They Travel?*: Estimate, then calculate, distances of each portion of La Salle's journey from France to the Gulf Coast.





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Name _____

The Age of Exploration Student Data Collection and Activity Guide

Use *The Age of Exploration* essay, the Glossary, and *People and Places* to complete this activity.

1. Name four European countries that sent explorers on expeditions to North America in the 17th Century.

2. Name the country that La Salle represented when he led expeditions. _____

3. List three regions of North America that La Salle explored.

_____, _____, _____

4. Why did La Salle want to build a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi River?

5. Match the following people and places with their descriptor.

a. Louis XIV	c. Fort St. Louis	e. Henri Joutel	g. Nika
b. Talon	d. Louisiana	f. <i>La Belle</i>	h. Matagorda Bay

- _____ This was the place where *La Belle* lay underwater for 300 years.
- _____ This man was king of France in 1862.
- _____ This was the name of the first French settlement in Texas.
- _____ This was the name that La Salle gave the land he claimed for France that was located in the middle of North America.
- _____ This is the name of La Salle's smallest ship.
- _____ This man was La Salle's companion and guide for many years.
- _____ The children of this family were kidnapped by the Karankawa.
- _____ This man kept a journal on La Salle's last expedition.

6. Imagine that you traveled with La Salle. Write a 40 to 60 word journal entry. Begin your entry with the date and location. Include a description of the weather, what you saw, and what you did on that date.

7. Define each term below, then use the term in a sentence.

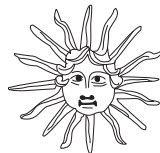
a) landfall _____

b) landscape _____

c) nocturnal (instrument) _____

d) wilderness _____

8. Sketch one of the North American landscapes where La Salle explored. Include a caption to identify the location. (Example: Matagorda Bay on the Gulf of Mexico)



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The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum * www.TheStoryofTexas.com

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