

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE DELTA REGION

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

River deltas are considered to be birthplaces. A delta is a triangular patch of land at the mouth of a river accumulated between two of its branches. They usually form far from the source of the river, as the river approaches its destination or mouth. The river deposits nutrient rich soil which makes the land perfect for growing food. Most historians believe that civilization began in the delta between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, and it continued to flourish in the Nile delta where the land was flooded and cultivated for thousands of years. The delta of the Mississippi River today flows through northeast Louisiana though the course of the river which began over 7,000 years ago (5,000 B.C.) has changed many times.

The Northeast Louisiana Delta region's first inhabitants, Native Americans who built mounds, such as Poverty Point, roamed the area even before that, probably 10,000 years ago (8,000 B.C.) The peak of the mound building was 1,000 B.C. By 600 B.C. the mounds culture no longer flourished, and the mound builders were gone. New Native American tribes came in and still live in the area. They have been joined by a diverse group people from all over the world, including Anglo Americans, African Americans, Italians, Mexicans, and Chinese. To more fully understand the people of the Delta, folklorists and others have written essays documenting the important areas of their lives; their work, homemaking, worshipping, music, play, and stories. *Delta Pieces: Northeast Louisiana Folklife* is a compilation of research conducted over a 20-year period by many different people and edited by Susan Roach and Maida Owens. By exploring this virtual book, anyone can learn about this fascinating area of Louisiana and the lives of some of its important people.

Visualizing information is difficult for many learners. Often they can memorize dates but have no way of putting them into context. Timelines are useful teaching tools that help students envision information in a new way and put it into perspective. Timelines can add another piece to a student's learning puzzle.



DELTA PIECES ESSAY

- Delta Pieces Introduction
http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles_Essays/Deltaintrosr.html

LOUISIANA VOICES LINK

- Louisiana Voices Educator's Guide Unit IV Lesson3: Sense of Place
http://www.louisianavoices.org/Unit4/edu_unit4_lesson3.html

OTHER RESOURCES

- Louisiana Traditional Cultures: An Overview
http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Maidas_Essay/main_introduction_onepage.html
- Extensive information about the Atchafalaya Basin area that the Delta is a part of can be found at:
<http://www.atchafalaya.org/page.php?name=Curriculum>

Two worksheets on the Mississippi Delta timeline are provided so that they can be used according to their appropriateness within each classroom: one with dates and one without dates. The goal of the worksheets is to have the students put some of the human activities of the Delta in context.

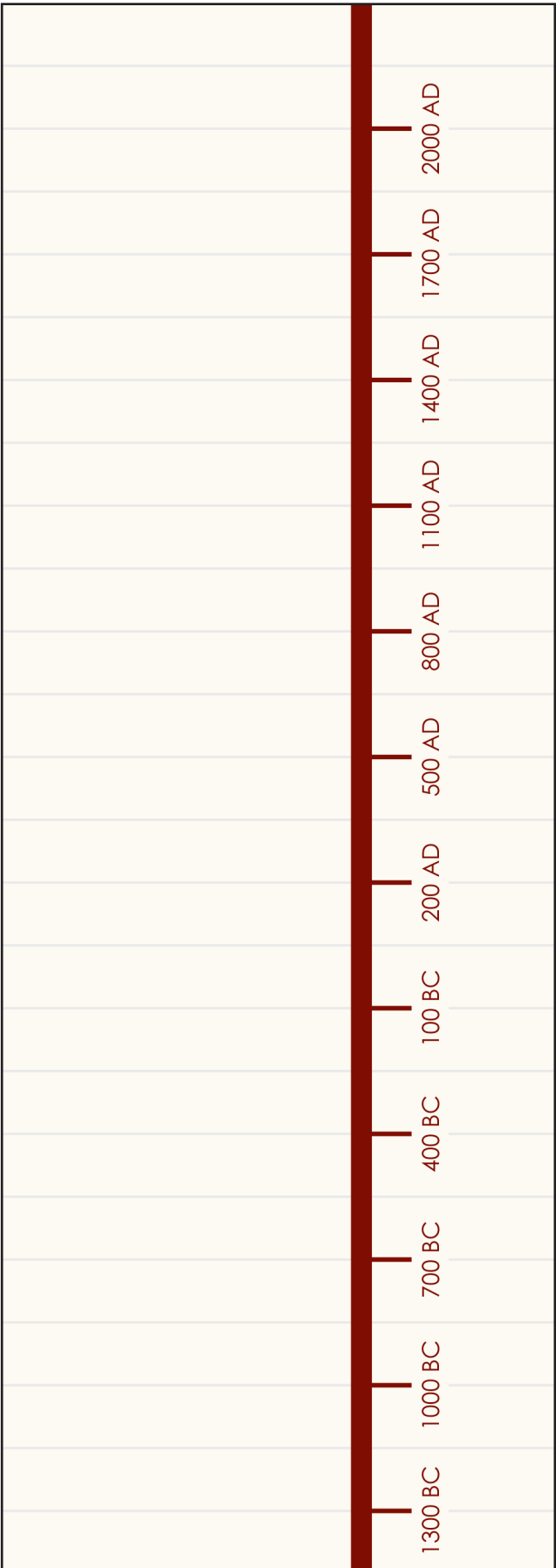


ANSWERS: DELTA TIMELINE ACTIVITY

Please add any dates you wish to the following:

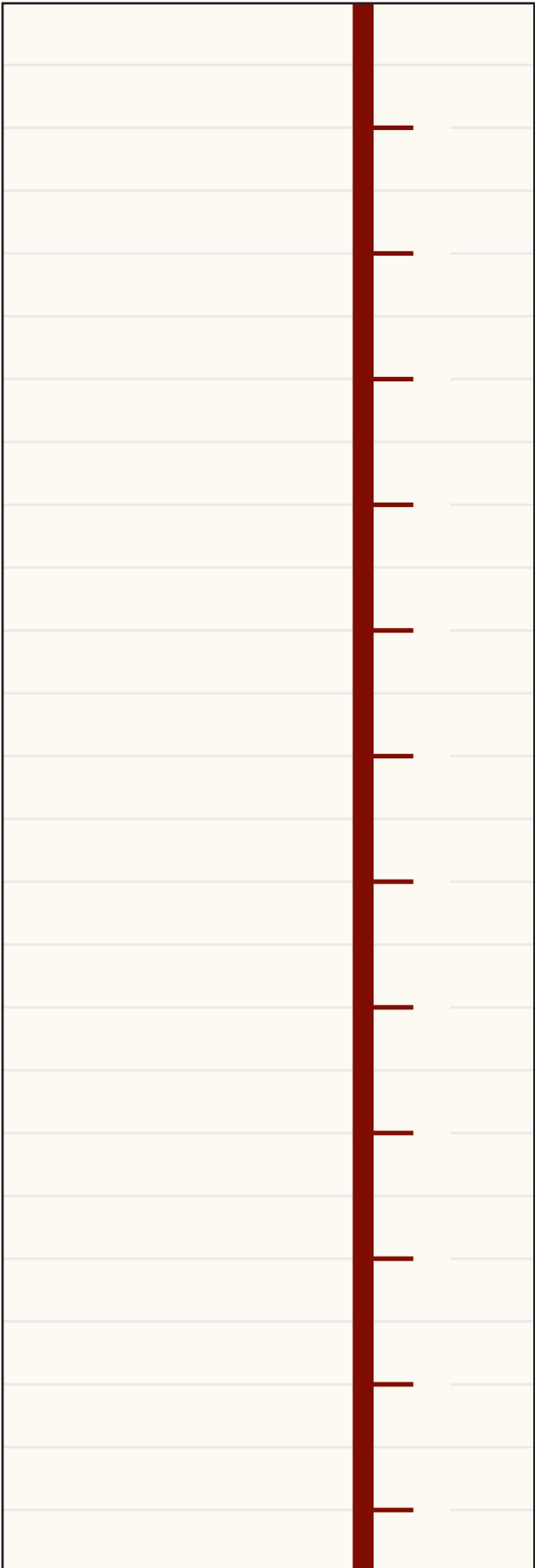
1. 1000 BC Poverty Point built
2. 1541 AD DeSoto arrives
3. 1770s AD French settlers arrive in area
4. Early 1900s AD Industrialization affects plantations
5. 1920 AD Delta Dusters begins in Tallulah and develops into Delta Airlines
6. 1927 AD Massive flood of the Mississippi River
7. 1950s-60s AD Mennonites move to the Delta to level land for soybeans
8. 1974 AD First woman judge is elected in Louisiana

LOUISIANA DELTA TIMELINE



Name _____ Date _____

LOUISIANA DELTA TIMELINE



Name _____ Date _____