



Delta PIECES

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

A Classroom Resource for Teachers

Provided by Lt Governor Jay Dardenne
and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism,
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Louisiana Division of the Arts Folklife Program

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BACKGROUND

Everyone has folk traditions—the expressive customs of people in everyday life—regardless of age, sex, or ethnic heritage. Incorporating folklife in the classroom educates, motivates, engages, and fosters the creative expression of students and, at the same time, connects them to their communities and their state.

The Northeast Louisiana Delta region is blessed with a broad spectrum of cultures and traditions. These diverse aspects of the region offer educators an exceptional opportunity to enrich their curricula.

The Educator’s Guide for Delta Pieces contains 12 units. Each unit relates to a unit within the *Delta Pieces: Folklife in Northeast Louisiana* essays found at <http://www.louisianafolklife.org/deltapieces>. Together these essays offer an intensive look at this fascinating region of Louisiana. The Educator’s Guide units are correlated to the Common Core State Standards, particularly those in English Language Arts and are for grades 3-8.

Links are provided to the award-winning Louisiana Voices Folklife in Education Project. Located at louisianavoices.org, Louisiana Voices offers a set of free, online, interdisciplinary student units, collectively known as the Louisiana Voices Educator’s Guide. These activities can also be adapted and used in any classroom.

The goal of this unit is to help teachers:

- Involve parents and community members as resources,
- Engage multiple intelligences and foster critical thinking,
- Authentically address cultural diversity and tolerance for others,
- Motivate students through familiar and interesting content,
- Help students meet the Common Core State Standards in innovative ways, and
- Improve the connection of students to their tradition bearers.

Folklife can be explored, shared, presented, and enjoyed!

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“ The Delta is still a strange, wonderful place. ”
— Hiram F. “Pete” Gregory

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The Louisiana Division of the Arts Folklife Program is mandated to identify, document, present and preserve Louisiana's folk artists, practitioners, communities and landscapes. These activities are sometimes called "cultural conservation," since "preservation" is more readily applied to concrete materials such as historic houses or artifacts in museums. Conserving a living cultural tradition means encouraging and helping people and communities carry on the best of their traditions, from Cajun and zydeco music to blues and gospel, or from deer-hide chair making to wooden boatbuilding. This approach supports a cultural continuity that bridges Louisiana's past to its future.