

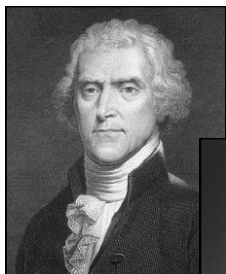
# Louisiana Purchase (1803) Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Mississippi River

Rivers were the highways of the 1700s and early 1800s. With no freeways or jet planes, waterways were the fastest way to ship cargo—and the Mississippi River was one of the biggest, longest waterways around. American farmers wanted to use the Mississippi to send their products to the port of New Orleans, where goods could be shipped around the world. There was just one problem: The land *west* of the Mississippi was the Spanish colony of Louisiana, and Spain controlled the river! Worried that America might have its eye on Spanish land, Spain didn't let Americans use the river. But by 1795, Louisiana wasn't turning out to be as profitable as Spain hoped, so Spain finally opened the river to American boats.



*In the 18th century, boats like these were used to transport goods by river.*



*Thomas Jefferson*



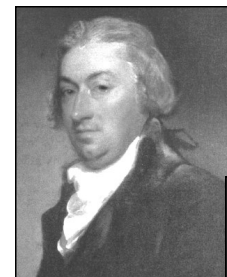
*Napoleon Bonaparte*

## Shh! It's a Secret

It was a short-lived win. Just five years later, Spain gave Louisiana to France in a secret treaty! Now *France* controlled the Mississippi. Unlike Spain, France had big plans for the Louisiana colony. The French leader, Napoleon Bonaparte, was excited about expanding the French empire. France had already colonized islands in the Caribbean, and Louisiana would be an important addition for making those colonies more profitable. But for the U.S. president, Thomas Jefferson, having France as a neighbor was a disaster. Who knew what Napoleon might do? But before France even took control of Louisiana, Spain did something even worse: It closed the New Orleans port to Americans.

## More Than They Bargained For

It wasn't long before the U.S. was talking about war. Some in Congress wanted to just take New Orleans and be done with it! But President Jefferson sent a man to France to find out if Napoleon might just sell New Orleans instead. The effort got nowhere. As the crisis heated up, Jefferson sent a second man to help convince Napoleon. The men were authorized to pay \$10 million to buy New Orleans (and Florida, while they were at it). What they didn't know was that because of some other issues, Napoleon didn't even want Louisiana anymore. The men were shocked when France asked how much the U.S. would pay for *all* of the Louisiana colony!



*Negotiator #2:  
James Monroe*

*Negotiator #1:  
Robert Livingston*



*The 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, also called the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, celebrated the 100 year anniversary.*

## But It Was On Sale!

Livingston and Monroe weren't authorized to buy the whole thing. With letters going by ship, it would take months to get permission. But between the crisis in New Orleans and a new war brewing between France and Great Britain, the chance to get rid of America's new French neighbor was too good to pass up. So in 1803, the men made a deal to buy Louisiana for \$15 million. When news reached the U.S., it caused a stir. The Constitution says nothing about the procedure for buying land. Jefferson even thought they might have to amend the Constitution! In the end, they treated it like any other treaty the president might make. The Senate approved the purchase treaty, Congress approved the \$15 million, and the deal was done.

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**A. Find Those Features.** Use the clues to label the following features on the map:

## Gulf of Mexico

Large body of water that lies south of the United States. Has a curved coastline.

## Mississippi River

River that was the western border of the U.S. in 1803. Empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

## Missouri River

River that starts in the Rocky Mountains and flows into the Mississippi River.

## New Orleans

City located on the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico.

## Lake of the Woods

Lake that sits at the northwest tip of the Indiana Territory.

**B. What Did We Just Buy?** Believe it or not, the U.S. bought Louisiana without knowing how big it was! France and Spain had never explored the entire colony, so nobody knew its boundaries. Here's what President Jefferson thought the purchase included:

"The unquestioned bounds of Louisiana are the ... Mississippi on the east, the [Sabine], or the Highlands east of it, on the west; then from the head of the [Sabine] gaining the highlands which include the waters of the [Missouri], and following those highlands round the head springs of the western waters of the Mississippi to its source or perhaps to the Lake of the Woods."

Got it? Now draw the boundaries on the map as Jefferson described. Use a dashed line like this:

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**C. Dividing the Unknown.** They may not have known the exact boundaries, but that didn't stop Congress from dividing the new territory. In 1804, Congress divided it into two parts.

Follow these directions to draw the dividing line and label the two new parts:

- Find the lines of latitude that are marked on the map. Find the lines marked  $32^{\circ}$  and  $36^{\circ}$ .
- Decide where the  $33^{\circ}$  line would be.
- Starting at the Mississippi River, draw a line west following the imaginary  $33^{\circ}$  line.
- Stop when you reach the boundary of Louisiana that you drew.
- Label the area south of the line "Territory of Orleans." Label the northern area "District of Louisiana."

**D. Decisions At Last!** It wasn't long before the U.S. explored Louisiana. (Ever heard of Lewis and Clark?) Two later agreements formalized the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase. Follow the directions to draw the formal boundaries on the map. Use a solid line like this: \_\_\_\_\_

## Convention of 1818

(Treaty with Great Britain)

The northern boundary:

- Draw a tiny line straight down from the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods to the  $49^{\circ}$  line of latitude.
- Draw a line that follows the  $49^{\circ}$  line west.
- Stop when you reach the middle of the Rocky Mountains.

The western boundary:

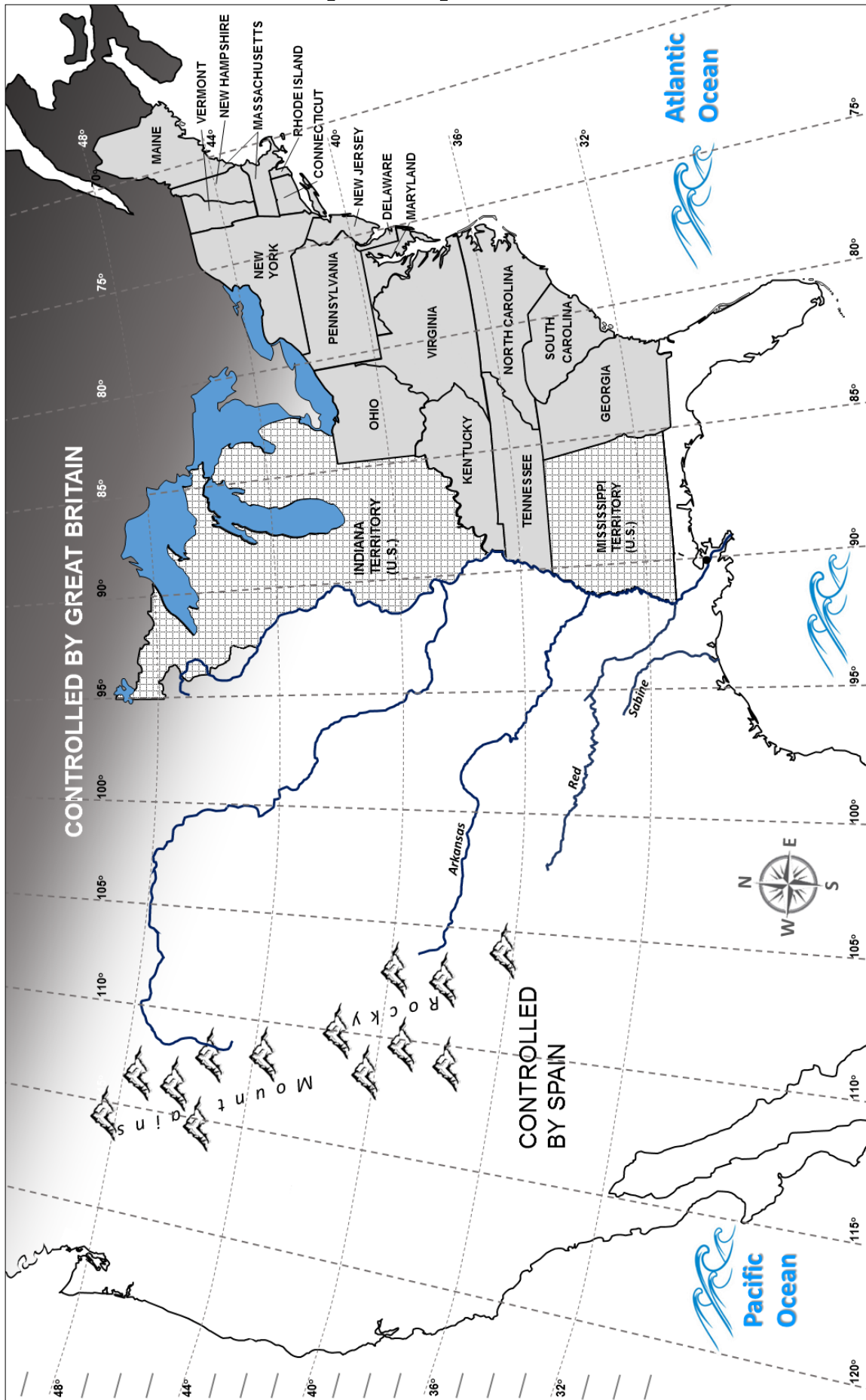
- Draw a line down the middle of the Rocky Mountains.
- (Stop when you reach the  $42^{\circ}$  line of latitude.)

## Adams-Onís Treaty (1821)

(Treaty with Spain)

- Begin on the Gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the River Sabine.
- Follow the Sabine River to the  $32^{\circ}$  line of latitude.
- From there, due north to the Red River, then follow the Red River westward to the  $100^{\circ}$  line of longitude.
- Go due north up the  $100^{\circ}$  line of longitude to the Arkansas River, then follow the river to its source.
- From there, go due north to the  $42^{\circ}$  line of latitude.
- Follow the  $42^{\circ}$  line of latitude westward to the Pacific Ocean.

# Louisiana Purchase (1803) Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Louisiana Purchase (1803)

Name: \*\* TEACHER GUIDE \*\*

