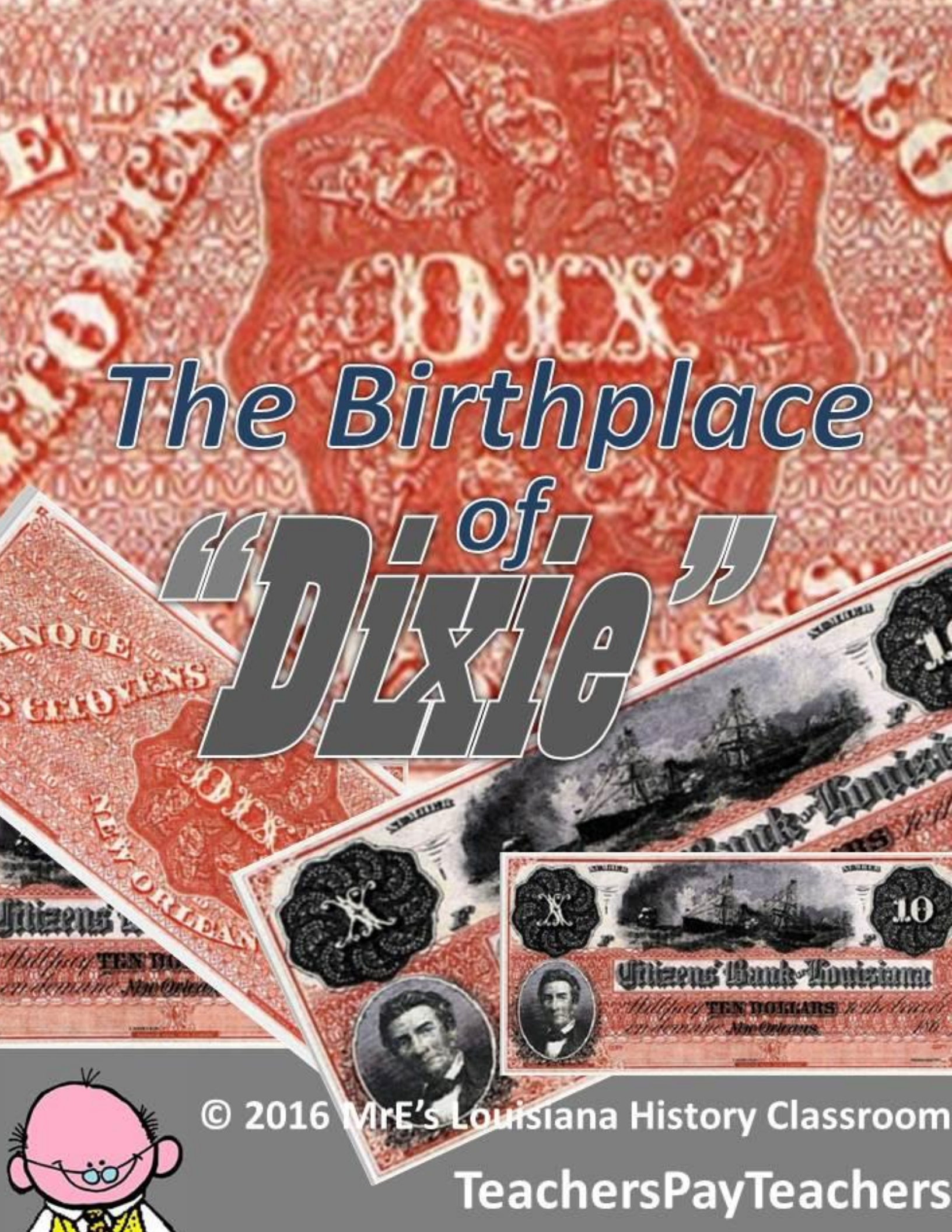


# The Birthplace of "DIXIE"



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TeachersPayTeachers



# The Birthplace of “Dixie”

When it comes to “Dixie” (a name referring to the South and from its geographic connection to the song of the same name), everything is controversial. From the meaning of the word to the song's authorship and perceived associations, there is no firm agreement. There seems to be various theories as to the origin of the word “Dixie”, and the most promoted of these

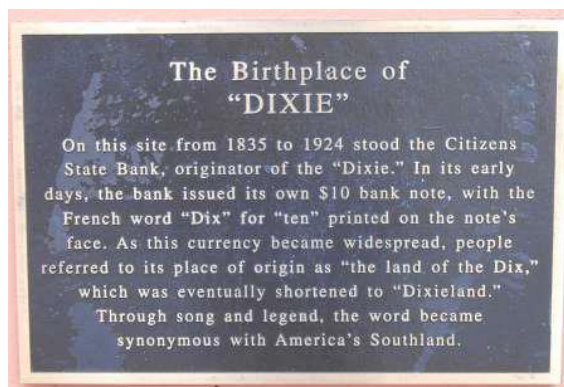


has its birthplace situated in New Orleans (on the corner of Iberville and Royal streets). That was the location of the Citizens Bank of Louisiana, and the word “Dixie” refers to currency issued from this bank in ten-dollar private bank notes, labeled “Dix” (French for “ten”) on the



reverse side. The bank was catering to a culturally diverse New Orleans with bilingual currency. The notes were known as “Dixies” by English speaking southerners, and the area in and around New Orleans came to be known as “the land of the Dix”, or “Dixieland”. The notes were used to pay for bales of cotton originally.

Eventually, usage of the term broadened to refer to most of the South itself. These notes are now highly sought-after by collectors. One can see the plaque for the Iberville-Royal site of the Citizens Bank of Louisiana affixed to the wall.



We see the word "Dixie" as most did two years after its creation — as the anthem of the Confederacy. And yet as phenomenally popular as it was, “Dixie” was slow to catch on in the South. Repeated performances of “Dixie” by Confederates confirmed its new status and labeled “Dixie” the “National Anthem of Secession.” So, as usual, the true story may never be known, but this may be the most likely one.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Birthplace of "Dixie"

1. Where did the term "Dixie" assume to have begun according to the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What caused the word to be used? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What were the 'notes' originally used for? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why was the 'typography' written this way? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Explain what the term came to be after a few years. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did the 'English' call the notes as they came in contact with them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What was the term "Dixie" labeled as? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Where can you find a plaque that tells the story of the word? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is written on the back of the bills? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How would you describe the story based on what you have read? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you believe the myth/story? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Who tries to get these notes today? \_\_\_\_\_

13. How would YOU tell a story about the name "Dixie"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Birthplace of "Dixie"

1. Where did the term "Dixie" assume to have begun according to the story?  
From the bank in ten-dollar private bank notes, labeled "Dix"
2. What caused the word to be used? labeled "Dix" (French for "ten") on the backside.
3. What were the 'notes' originally used for? to pay for bales of cotton originally..
4. Why was the 'typography' written this way? The bank was catering to a culturally diverse New Orleans with bilingual currency
5. Explain what the term came to be after a few years. the anthem of the Confederacy
6. How did the 'English' call the notes as they came in contact with them? known as "Dixies" by English
7. What was the term "Dixie" labeled as? broadened to refer to most of the South itself.
8. Where can you find a plaque that tells the story of the word? the Iberville-Royal site of the Citizens" Bank
9. What is written on the back of the bills? Banque De La Louisiane New Orleans Dix
10. How would you describe the story based on what you have read? varies
11. Do you believe the myth/story? varies
12. Who tries to get these notes today? collectors
13. How would YOU tell a story about the name "Dixie"? varies  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ***Teacher's Notes***

In my '*kaillion years*' of teaching middle schoolers, I have always found the story about the term "Dixie" to be very interesting. I know that they story may be just a myth but it does not stop me from at least passing it along.

In Louisiana there are millions of myths, tall-tales, ghost stories, etc. From Jean Lafitte to Marie Laveau to Chloe to Huey Long to the Loup Garou, they all speak of a 'story once told' which gives flavor to the history of Louisiana.

I have always been the "... the Story Teller! I love my state history and I love telling students the back-stories of how we got where we are" plus the stories 'behind' the stories, '*the rest of the story*' so to speak.

I want my students to make up their own minds as to 'do they believe or not', call me out if they don't believe then we get to have a nice long, in-depth discussion which lets me know they are really THINKING about what we are talking about.

History is not just what the book says. There is so much more, and I want my kids to understand to NEVER take everything on 'face value', there is always something behind that story.

# Louisiana History Teacher

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