

Glossary

A

- abolitionist** one who wanted to free the slaves (10)
- absolute location** refers to a specific spot on Earth; often expressed in degrees of latitude and longitude (2)
- Acadians** French Canadians or descendants of French Canadians who migrated to Louisiana from Acadia (now Nova Scotia) in the eighteenth century (1)
- agriculture** farming (5)
- alluvial soil** soil that has been deposited by a river (2)
- anarchy** an absence of government or a state of lawlessness (11)
- Anglos** those with an English-speaking heritage (1)
- annex** to add territory to an already existing governmental unit, such as city, state, or nation (8)
- antebellum** the period before the Civil War (9)
- archaeologist** a scientist who studies the items left behind by ancient peoples to determine how they lived (5)
- artifact** an item left behind by ancient people and studied by archaeologists to determine how they lived; examples include bits of stone, bone, pottery, tools, cave paintings, weavings, skeletons, items buried with the dead, leftover trash (5)
- atlatl** a throwing stick with weights used by prehistoric people to throw spears with more force and for farther distances (5)
- attorney general** the primary legal officer for the state (4)

B

- Bailey's dam** a wing dam built by Union forces in 1864 in order to raise the water level in the Red River so that Union gunboats could sail downriver (10)
- bankruptcy** a legal judgment that allows a person or organization to eliminate some of its debts; the debtor's financial affairs must be administered to pay off those debts (16)
- barrier island** a sea island that protects the wetlands, estuaries, and bays from the direct impact of ocean waves (2)
- barter** trading goods and services without money (3)
- bayou** usually, a small and sluggish creek; may also be miles long and deep enough for navigation (2)
- bicameral** describes a legislative body made up of two bodies or houses (4)
- bill** a proposed law (4)
- biological resources** plants and animals; also called *flora* (plants) and *fauna* (animals) (3)
- Black Code** a series of laws passed by the legislature after the Civil War that restricted the freedmen's actions, movement, and conduct; the laws also required the freedmen to sign one-year labor contracts (11)
- blackout** a period when a city had to be completely dark at night so that enemy planes could not locate it during an air raid (14)
- blockade** to use naval forces to isolate a seaport and prevent any ships from entering or leaving the port (8)
- blues (the)** a music style based on black folk music, especially on the chants of the plantation workers (1)
- bounty** a one-time reward for enlisting (10)
- Bourbons** the name given to those Redeemer Democrats who held political power in Louisiana in the late 1800s; they supported states' rights and white supremacy and did not see the need for change (12)
- boycott** a refusal to deal with a person, store, or organization, usually to show disapproval or to force the acceptance of certain conditions (15)
- Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka** the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case that resulted in the ruling that segregation was unconstitutional (15)
- budget** a plan for receiving and spending money (4)
- busing** transporting students to schools out of their neighborhoods in order to create racially balanced schools (15)

C

Cabildo the governing body of Louisiana while it was a Spanish colony; the Cabildo made legal decisions, set policy for the colony, and advised the governor (7)

calumet a peace pipe (5)

campaign a military plan with a specific goal that may have several battles in more than one location (10)

canal a manmade waterway that connects other bodies of water, such as Louisiana's rivers and bayous (9)

capital the seat of government for a state or nation (8)

capital resources the money and property (factories, tools, bridges, machines, and so on) that are used to produce goods and services (3)

carpetbagger the term applied to a northern white who moved into the South to help carry out Congress's Reconstruction plan after the Civil War (11)

casket girls young women who came to Louisiana in 1728 to become wives of the settlers; the young women brought their trousseaus in a casket, or barrel-like chest (6)

censor to remove or suppress (13)

census an official count of the population conducted every ten years (4)

checks and balances a system whereby each branch of government can use its powers to keep the other branches from misusing their powers (4)

Citizen's Council an organization formed after the *Brown* decision to support segregation (15)

Civilian Conservation Corps a New Deal program that provided work for single young men between the ages of 18 and 25; the young men did soil conservation work and some road construction (13)

civil laws laws that deal with the relationships between and among individuals (4)

Civil Rights Act of 1964 a federal law that ended segregation by prohibiting discrimination in public facilities and in employment (15)

civil service system an employment system where workers take tests for government jobs and cannot be fired for their political views or party affiliations (14)

clan a group of people who believe themselves related by blood (5)

climate the average weather of an area over a long period of time, such as 25-30 years (2)

Code Noir a set of laws governing the conduct of the slaves during the French colonial period (6)

code of ethics a written description of the rules or standards under which an organization or profession should operate (15)

Cold War term used to describe the strained relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II; this "war" was mainly fought with words and diplomacy (14)

colony a group of people who settle in a distant land but who still keep their ties to their native land (6)

command economy an economy that is controlled by the government, which determines the answers to the four basic economic questions (3)

compromise a way to settle disagreements in which each side gives way a little on its demands (9)

Compromise of 1850 legislation passed by Congress by which California was admitted as a free state, part of Texas was given to New Mexico, the fugitive slave law was strengthened, and the issue of whether slavery would be permitted in New Mexico and Utah would be determined by a vote of the people living in those territories (10)

Confederate States of America the name of the government formed by the southern states when they seceded from the Union in the early 1860s (10)

Confiscation Act legislation passed by the U.S. Congress in July 1862 that enabled Union forces to seize the property of rebels (10)

conscription a draft; compulsory enlistment for military service (10)

constituents the people represented by an elected official (4)

constitution a document that explains the broad purpose of a government, describes its organization, and states its powers (4)

consumer one who buys or uses goods or services (3)

consumer price index a economic indicator; a monthly price survey for a list of goods and services (3)

contract a written legal agreement (11)

convict lease system a method to earn money for the state by renting convicts to private businesses; the convicts built bridges, levees, roads, and railroads and worked and lived under terrible conditions (12)

credit the ability to buy something now and pay for the item over a period of time (11)

Creoles those African French people who were born in the Louisiana colony instead of in Europe or Africa (1)

crevasse a break in the levee (13)

criminal laws those laws intended to protect society from the wrongdoing of an individual (4)

cultural diffusion the spreading of one's own culture (1)

culture a group's way of life and its own view of itself and other groups; elements of a culture include religion, music, food, clothing, language, architecture, art, literature, games, and sports (1)

D

demand the quantity of a good or service consumers are willing and able to buy (3)

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) the state government agency charged with protecting the environment and maintaining it for future generations (16)

depression a severe, continued downturn in the economy where sales and prices drop, manufacturing decreases, businesses close, banks fail, and people lose their jobs (9)

disfranchise to take the right to vote away from a person or group (12)

E

economic indicators economic information used to measure the economy; includes gross domestic product, consumer price index, inflation rate, and unemployment rate (3)

elevation the height of a place above sea level (2)

Emancipation Proclamation the 1863 proclamation by which President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the Confederate states (10)

enlist to volunteer to join the army (10)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the federal government agency charged with protecting the environment and maintaining it for future generations (16)

estuary the place where the river meets the sea; the mouth of a large river where its flow is affected by the tides (2)

ethnic group a group of people who share common traditions, beliefs, and patterns of living that include lan-

guage, religion, customs, and food (1)

executive branch that branch of government responsible for implementing the laws passed by the legislature, for operating the state government, and for overseeing state services (4)

exports goods sent or sold to another country (9)

F

faction a small group with common goals within a larger group (9)

factor a commercial agent who provides financial and business assistance to clients (9)

fais-do-do a Cajun dance; French for "go to sleep" (1)

Farmers' Union a farmers' organization started in 1888; the Union urged members to work together to keep their costs down (12)

federalism a system of government where the national and state governments share powers (4)

fraud deliberate deception for unfair or unlawful gain (11)

freedmen former slaves (11)

Freedmen's Bureau a federal government agency established in 1865 to provide food, shelter, education, health care, and employment for former slaves in the South (11)

free people of color those of African heritage who were free during the years of slavery; *gens de couleur libre* (1)

French Revolution an uprising that took place in France in 1789 (7)

fusion movement the name given to the cooperation of the Republicans and Populists in the late 1890s in an attempt to defeat the Democrats (12)

G

gaming legal gambling (16)

geologist a scientist who studies the origin, history, and structure of Earth (2)

goods physical items such as food, clothing, cars, and homes (3)

gospel music church music that blends elements of folk music, spirituals, hymns, and popular music (1)

government an organization in society with the authority to make, carry out, and enforce laws (4)

governor the chief executive officer of the state; head of the executive branch (4)

grandfather clause a clause in the 1898 state constitution that, to register to vote, excused a person from proving he owned property and could read and write if he had been able to vote on January 1, 1867; the clause virtually disfranchised blacks (12)

Great Depression the depression that began in 1929 with the stock market crash and lasted into the 1940s (13)

gross domestic product an economic indicator; the total market value of all goods and services produced in the United States in a certain time period (3)

growing season the number of days between the last killing frost in spring and the first killing frost in the fall (2)

guerrilla a member of a small military group that harasses the enemy (10)

gumbo a traditional Louisiana dish; a hearty Creole soup made of seafood, chicken, okra, and other vegetables (1)

H

home rule the power of political subdivisions to govern themselves; local self-government (4)

human resources the people who produce goods and provide services (3)

hurricane a severe windstorm that originates over tropical ocean waters and whose wind speeds are at least 74 mph; hurricane winds rotate around an *eye* and get their energy from the warm, moist air (2)

I

immigrant one who moves into a new country in order to settle there (9)

immunity natural resistance to disease (5)

impeachment the process of bringing charges of wrongdoing against a public official while that official is still in office (13)

impressment the practice of forcing sailors into service against their will (8)

inflation an economic indicator reflecting a steady increase in the consumer price index (3)

interdependent refers to an economic system where producers and consumers rely on each other and on other economies to succeed (3)

internal improvements roads, bridges, canals, and other transportation needs (9)

interstate highways multilane, limited-access highways that extend through more than one state and are therefore part of the federal highway system (15)

Isleños Canary Islanders or those descended from Canary Islanders who were brought to Louisiana when it was a Spanish colony (1)

J

jambalaya a basic Spanish Cajun dish made with rice and some other ingredient such as ham, shrimp, sausage, or chicken (1)

jazz a kind of improvised music with strong rhythms and syncopation (accents in unexpected places); New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz (1)

jetty a wall of woven willows weighted with stone and held by heavy timbers that increased the flow of the river and removed river sediment (12)

Jim Crow laws laws that restricted the freedom of African Americans and required separate-but-equal public facilities for whites and for blacks (12)

judicial branch that branch of government that interprets and applies the constitution and laws of the state; consists of the courts (4)

jury a group of citizens chosen to hear evidence on a legal case and to make a decision based on the evidence presented (4)

K

Knights of the White Camellia a secret organization that operated in Louisiana during military Reconstruction and that used threats and physical violence to keep the freedmen from voting or to force them to vote for Democratic candidates (11)

Ku Klux Klan a secret, racist organization that used violence and intimidation against those, especially immigrants and minorities, whose behavior or actions it did not like (13)

L

labor union an organization of workers formed to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for workers (3)

land grant a parcel of land given to the directors of the Company of the West under the condition that they bring settlers to the colony (6)

latitude a system of imaginary lines that measure a location's distance north or south of the equator; also called *parallels* (2)

legislative branch that branch of government that is the law-making body (4)

lieutenant governor the official in the executive branch second in command to the governor; oversees the state Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (4)

lignite the lowest-quality coal; a soft, brownish-black coal that, because of its high water content, burns poorly (3)

lobbying the process of trying to influence a legislator about a proposed law (4)

longitude a system of imaginary lines that run from the North Pole to the South Pole and measure how far east or west a location is from the Prime Meridian, the arbitrary starting point at Greenwich, England; also called *meridians* (2)

Louisiana Lottery Company a private company that operated a lottery in Louisiana during the late 1800s; the lottery company held a great deal of political power because of the contributions it made to politicians (12)

Louisiana Purchase the 1803 purchase from France of almost 900,000 square miles of land in North America for \$15 million (8)

lowland South the Louisiana culture that developed along the Mississippi, Red, and Ouachita Rivers where plantations were established (1)

M

manifest destiny the belief by Americans that they were destined to spread out across the continent (9)

Mardi Gras "Fat Tuesday," the day before Ash Wednesday; the period before Lent celebrated with parties, balls, street dances, and parades (1)

market economy an economy in which individuals answer the four basic economic questions based on supply and demand (3)

marsh a wet, treeless prairie covered with water and grasses (2)

Medicaid a program that provides health care for the poor, funded partly by the federal government and

partly by the state (16)

mercantilism an economic policy under which a government strictly controlled its resources and its markets in order to acquire wealth (gold and silver); colonies were expected to provide the raw materials needed for manufacturing *and* ready markets for the mother country's products (3)

midden a garbage mound left by prehistoric people (5)

military Reconstruction the congressional Reconstruction plan that placed the South in five military districts, required much stricter loyalty oaths, and required the states to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment before being readmitted to the Union (11)

militia a military force composed mainly of citizen-soldiers (7)

mineral resources inorganic substances that were formed by Earth's geological processes; include oil, natural gas, salt, sulphur, and lignite (3)

Mississippi Bubble the collapse of the French investment company, the Company of the West (6)

Missouri Compromise the 1820 agreement by Congress that Missouri would enter the Union as a slave state and Maine as a free state and slavery would not be allowed in any states formed north of a line even with Missouri's southern border (10)

mound a raised area created by prehistoric peoples and thought to be used for ceremonial and burial purposes (5)

municipality city or town (4)

N

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) an organization formed in 1909 to work for equal rights for African Americans (15)

natural resource a gift of nature, part of the natural environment; includes the air, the soil, water, and minerals (3)

navigable describes water that is deep enough for safe travel by boat, canoe, pirogue, or skiff (2)

neutral not taking sides in a disagreement (7)

New Deal the name given to the programs enacted by Congress during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first two terms to deal with the problems and hardships caused by the Great Depression (13)

nomad a wanderer (5)

nonrenewable refers to natural resources not replaced by nature once they are extracted from the environment (3)

O

open primary an election in which all candidates compete for a position regardless of political party; voters can choose any candidate regardless of political party (4)

opportunity cost the value of the second choice in a decision-making situation (3)

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) an international organization founded in 1960 to coordinate the petroleum policies and prices of its member states (16)

P

parish a political subdivision within the state of Louisiana (4)

pirogue a dugout made by Native Americans and the French; cypress logs were partially burned and the burned section scraped out (5)

plantation a large estate or farm (6)

police jury the form of government used in most of Louisiana's parishes; has five to fifteen elected members (4)

Populist a member of the People's Party (12)

precipitation any form of water — liquid or solid — that falls from the atmosphere and reaches the ground; includes rain, hail, sleet, and snow (2)

president of the senate the official elected by the members of the Louisiana senate to preside over its sessions (4)

privateer a privately owned ship that was armed and, with the backing of a government, expected to capture the ships of the government's enemies (8)

private goods and services goods and services produced in a market economy (3)

producer the person or business that uses resources to make goods or provide services (3)

profit the amount left after costs are subtracted from the selling price (3)

progressive movement a series of movements whose members believed that government was best equipped

to correct the ills of society; progressives wanted government to fight poverty and improve the living conditions of citizens, to break up large corporations and regulate business, and to ensure that voters had more influence in government (12)

prohibition forbidding by law the making and selling of alcoholic beverages (13)

propaganda information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause (10)

proprietorship a system that gave an individual a charter (or contract) to operate a colony as a business (6)

public goods and services goods and services provided by the government (3)

Public Service Commission a state commission whose job it was to regulate transportation and communication companies; originally called the Railroad Commission (13)

pulpwood smaller, softer trees (mostly pine) that are shredded into pulp to be made into paper (3)

R

radical one who holds extremist views or wants drastic changes (11)

ratify to approve or make valid (11)

ration to limit the consumption of scarce resources or supplies (14)

reactionary one who strongly opposes progress (12)

reapportionment the process of revising the boundaries of legislative districts in order to achieve relatively equal populations (4)

recession a temporary downturn in economic activity or prosperity (16)

Reconstruction the steps taken to restore the southern states to the Union and to rebuild the South after the Civil War (11)

region an area defined by similar features, which usually include common climate, landforms, and economic or recreational opportunities (1)

relative location refers to where a place is in relation to another place or places (2)

relief the difference between the highest and lowest elevation in a given area (2)

renewable refers to biological resources that replenish themselves over time (3)

right of deposit during the Spanish colonial period, the ability to store (“deposit”) goods in warehouses in New Orleans before loading them onto ocean-going ships (7)
right-to-work law a law that allows workers to get and keep jobs without having to join a union (14)
rural country (1)

S

sabotage deliberate damage or destruction (14)
salt dome a formation of layers of rock that have folded upward, rising above the surface of the marsh; contains valuable minerals such as salt, petroleum, and sulphur (2)
scalawag the term applied to a native white southerner who supported the Republican Party during Reconstruction (11)
scarcity the concept that there are not enough resources (natural, human, and capital) available to satisfy all needs and wants; as a result, choices must be made (3)
secession the withdrawal of a state from the Union (10)
secretary of state the chief election officer and keeper of the state’s official records (4)
segregation public and social separation of the races (12)
separate-but-equal concept the concept resulting from the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that permitted states to pass laws that made it legal to have separate public facilities for whites and blacks (12)
services activities people do for others for a fee; examples include medical treatment, education, equipment and car repairs, haircuts, and concerts (3)
severance tax a tax on resources taken from the land such as oil and gas (13)
Share Our Wealth program Huey Long’s economic program that would have eliminated poverty by giving every family a minimum income; the program also called for providing an old-age pension to elderly people (13)
sharecropping an agricultural system that developed in the South after the Civil War where a planter provided the land, the tools, and a cabin and the workers labored all year in return for a share of the profit when the crop was sold (11)
siege a situation that occurs when armed forces try to capture a fortified fort or town by surrounding it and preventing any supplies from reaching it (7)

sit-in a demonstration where a person or group enter a facility and refuse to leave until they are recognized or their demands are met (15)
slave a person who is bound to a life of service to others and who is considered property (6)
smuggling illegal trade (3)
speaker of the house the official elected by the members of the Louisiana house of representatives to preside over its sessions (4)
spirituals the sacred folk songs of African Americans (1)
states’ rights the belief that states could block or overrule the actions of the federal government (10)
strike a labor union tactic where workers refuse to work, usually over some grievance, until their demands are heard and addressed (12)
subsidence the process by which the coastal lands slowly sink (2)
suburbs neighborhoods on the outer edges of cities (15)
suffrage the right to vote (9)
sunshine law a law that requires all government meetings, involving both elected and appointed groups, be open to the public (15)
Superior Council a group existing during the French colonial period that was in charge of judicial matters and was presided over by the commissary commissioner (6)
Superport an offshore port in the Gulf of Mexico that was constructed to handle extremely deep ships; serves primarily the offshore oil industry and Louisiana’s oil refineries (3)
supply the quantity of a good or service offered for sale (3)
surveyor one who measures and marks off boundary lines to establish land ownership (7)
swamp a seasonally flooded forest (2)

T

tariff a tax on imports designed to keep out foreign competition (3)
taxes amounts charged citizens by their governments (federal, state, and local) to pay for services provided (4)
temple mound a mound built by prehistoric Indians and used for religious ceremonies (5)
time zone a segment of the worldwide system for standardizing time; there are 24 world time zones; the

United States spans seven time zones (2)

topography physical features of the land (2)

tornado a dangerous windstorm characterized by a funnel-shaped cloud; wind speeds, which move counterclockwise around a low pressure center, may reach as high as 300 mph (2)

totem a tribal symbol; an animal, plant, or natural object serving as a symbol of a clan or family (5)

traditional economy an economy in which customs, habits, and beliefs determine how the four basic economic questions are answered (3)

treason the crime of trying to overthrow the government of one's state or country (7)

treasurer the person in charge of the state's money (4)

treaty a formal agreement between two or more nations (5)

tribe a group of people who share a common ancestry, language, name, and way of living (5)

Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) A state program that pays tuition at state universities, community colleges, and technical schools for qualified high school graduates (16)

tutor a private teacher (9)

U

unemployment rate an economic indicator; the percentage of people who are out of work and looking for jobs (3)

Unionist a person who supported the Union during the entire Civil War period (11)

United Service Organizations USOs; organizations intended to provide a "home away from home" for those serving in the military (14)

upland South the hill country of North Louisiana plus the neighboring states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia (1)

urban of or like the city (1)

V

veto to refuse to approve legislation (4)

victory garden a garden planted by civilians during World War II to provide fresh vegetables (14)

Voting Rights Act a federal law passed in 1965 that outlawed literacy tests and poll taxes and that sent registrars into the southern states to register black voters (15)

W

weather the current conditions of the atmosphere: temperature, precipitation, and wind (2)

wetlands swamps, marsh, and other areas that have a natural supply of water and are covered or soaked with water at least part of the year (2)

White League an organization established in 1874 by the Redeemer Democrats to restore political power to the prewar white Democrats (11)

Women's Christian Temperance Union an organization that worked to stop the sale of alcoholic beverages (13)

workers' compensation a government insurance program for those killed or injured on the job (12)

Works Progress Administration a New Deal program that provided work for men with families; the men built schools, courthouses, parks, and other public buildings; the WPA also hired artists to paint murals on public buildings and writers to compile county information (13)

Z

zydeco the music of French-speaking African Americans of South Louisiana; the song is sung in French and musical accompaniment includes an accordion and the rub board (1)