

# LOUISIANA SPEAKS: OUR VOICE. OUR PLAN. OUR FUTURE.

A LONG-TERM COMMUNITY PLANNING INITIATIVE OF THE LRA



## CLASSROOM ACTIVITY



(ACTIVITY FOR GRADES 8 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.)

### Challenge:

How would you rebuild a Southeastern or Southwestern Louisiana neighborhood or community that has been damaged by hurricanes and flooding?

Recovery involves rebuilding homes, communities or cities, and regions to be smarter, safer and stronger. Living environments must be accessible, enhance the quality of life and cohesiveness of the community, and stimulate economic growth while preserving the historic quality of the area and providing protection from environmental challenges.

### Process:

Divide students into small groups.

- Visit the Louisiana Speaks Web Site <http://www.louisianaspeaks.org/> to learn about the community planning initiative. Read the questions and answers in the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Vision* questionnaire and complete the online poll.
- Review the Pattern Book at the Louisiana Speaks web site <http://www.louisianaspeaks.org/static.html?id=39>
  - o Read “Community Patterns” which describes how the geography, climate, and culture influence the development of buildings and communities. Read about the requirements of zones from rural to urban. Use the “Urban Assembly Kit” to establish the framework of a community.
  - o Read the “Louisiana Vernacular” to learn how settlers developed unique architecture to meet the physical demands of the area.
  - o Review “Architectural Patterns” which describes building styles and architecture that preserve the historic quality of the area. Students can learn more about “Victorian,” “Classical,” “Arts & Crafts,” and “Modern” styles in those sections of the Pattern Book.
  - o Read “Landscape” to learn how to use nature to cultivate the unique quality of Louisiana.
- Select a region—Southeast or Southwest Louisiana—to rebuild.
- Use Google Earth to view an area to rebuild. Google Earth is free and can be downloaded at <http://earth.google.com/>.
- Identify the distinguishing characteristics of the selected area.

(continued)



[www.lpb.org/lps](http://www.lpb.org/lps)

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- Describe how the location and physical features have influenced historical events (i.e. how the location and levee system contributed to the flooding of New Orleans)
  - Explain how or why specific regions are changing as a result of physical phenomena.
  - Identify factors that affect how the region is used.
  - Analyze the benefits and challenges of the region.
  - Design a model home appropriate to the region following the steps on page four of the Introduction, *How to Use the Pattern Book*:
    - 1) identify location,
    - 2) identify neighborhood type and character,
    - 3) identify appropriate building type(s) with appropriate modifications to prevent flooding,
    - 4) place the building on the site,
    - 5) identify appropriate architectural style and appropriate landscaping.
- or
- Design a model neighborhood community or city. Identify the types of zone within the selected region: natural, rural, sub-urban, general urban, urban center, or urban core as described in the Transect section in "Community Patterns." Incorporate an urban framework in your design as described in the Urban Assembly Kit in "Community Patterns."
- **Submit plans to Louisiana Speaks**  
 by email to: [laspeaks@c-pex.org](mailto:laspeaks@c-pex.org)  
 or by mail to: **Louisiana Speaks Regional Vision**  
**721 Government Street, Suite 103-230**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

## GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS:

### Grade 8 Geography:

GLE #                      GLE Text and Benchmark

#### Places and Regions

5. Describe and analyze the distinguishing physical and/or human characteristics of Louisiana regions (G-1B-M1)
6. Describe ways in which location and physical features have influenced historical events in LA and the development of the state (e.g., Mississippi River/swamp in the Battle of New Orleans) (G-1B-M2)
7. Explain how or why specific regions are changing as a result of physical phenomena (e.g., changes in the coastal wetlands) (G-1B-M3)
8. Identify and describe factors that cause a Louisiana region to change (e.g., natural occurrences, disasters, migration) (G-1B-M3)
9. Explain ways in which goals, cultures, interests, inventions, and technological advances have affected people's perceptions and uses of places or regions in Louisiana (G-1B-M4)

#### Environment and Society

15. Analyze the benefits and challenges of the Louisiana physical environments on its inhabitants (e.g., flooding, soil, climate conducive to growing certain plants) (G-1D-M2)
16. Analyze the distribution and uses of Louisiana's natural resources (G-1DM3)
17. Identify a contemporary Louisiana geographic issue, and research possible solutions (G-1D-M4)