



# Bayou Indians

## Focus/Overview

This lesson focuses on the Indians of the Bayou. Students will research crafts, life styles, customs of the Indians and create an object that reflects a part of their heritage.

## Learning Objective(s)

The learner will:

- Research the customs of the Indians along the Bayou
- Create an object that represents one part of the Indian culture

## Louisiana Grade Level Expectations

5:GLE-15	Explain and give examples of how Native Americans and Europeans adapted to living in a particular North American physical environment (G-1D-M2).
5:GLE-27	Identify and describe indigenous cultures and groups that existed in the Americas at the beginning of Europe exploration (H-1B-M1).
5:GLE-36	Identify instances of both cooperation and conflict between Indians and European settlers (H-1B-M3).
8:GLE-75	Describe the contributions of ethnic groups significant in Louisiana history (H-1D-M1).
8:GLE-69	Propose and defend potential solutions to past and current issues in Louisiana (H-1A-M5). HOUMA INDIAN RECOGNIZED

## Materials List

- Markers
- Construction paper
- Colors
- Toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- Beads
- String and yarn
- Pieces of branches and leaves
- Modeling clay
- Sack cloth

## BTNEP Connection

Cultural Heritage

## Grade Level

5, 8

## Duration

Two 45-minute classes

## Subject Area

History

## Extension Areas

Extension area detailed in the activity/lesson.

## Vocabulary

- Chitimacha
- Washa
- Houma

## Original Source (if applicable)

- Cally Chauvin

## Background Information

Read the section “Early Man in Louisiana.”

## Advance Preparation

- Print out pictures of [Louisiana Indian homes](#)

## Teacher Instructions

1. Ask the students, “What types of images do you see when I say the word “Indian”?”
2. Write down on the board or overhead, their responses.
3. Let the students know that Indians along Bayou Lafourche did not live in teepees as they might have assumed through the television programs. State that they will find out how they lived and some of their customs.
4. Hand out the “Indian Fact Sheet.”
5. Have them complete the questions, essay question, and then create an object.

## Blackline Master(s)

1. Bayou Indians
2. Fact Sheet

## Assessment

1. Complete the Bayou Indians Activity. The questions can be used as a grade, also the object that they have to create.

## Resources

- Lora Chanson, Houma Tribe. Lora is a dancer, works with the youth of her tribe and the International Council of Louisiana. She teaches and demonstrates contemporary beadwork and tribal dances. Contact her through the LA Wildlife and Fisheries Museum, Kenner, LA. (504) 468-7232.
- Janie Luster, Houma Tribe, Artist. Known for her garfish and redfish scale jewelry, Spanish moss dolls and palmetto baskets. She demonstrates basket weaving and teaches about the Houma tribe and artwork. Contact her through the LA Wildlife and Fisheries Museum, Kenner, LA. (504) 468-7232.

## Websites/References:

[www.biloxi-chitimacha.com/history.htm](http://www.biloxi-chitimacha.com/history.htm)

[www.dickshovel.com/chi.html](http://www.dickshovel.com/chi.html)

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[www.angelfire.com/realm/shades/nativeamericans/chitamacha.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/realm/shades/nativeamericans/chitamacha.htm)

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