

Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 1: Louisiana's Geography

Internet Activity



In this lesson, you will explore websites to learn the location of your state and community using **absolute** and **relative location**. You will also check out information related to the climate of Louisiana.

Instructions: Click the links below and use the information from the websites to complete each item.

Part I: Location

Click here: <http://Louisiana.hometownlocator.com/maps>. Use this link to find **relative locations**, such as: *The United States is south of Canada.*

1. What states border Louisiana? Use the + and - buttons to zoom in and out, as needed.

2. Write a few sentences to explain the location of Louisiana *relative* to each state it borders.

Click the link **Overview Map of Louisiana Parishes**.

3. List the parishes that border your parish.

4. Find your parish on the map. Write a sentence that expresses its location relative to another parish.

Return to the previous map. Type the name of your town in the field "Search LA Address" and click the "GO" button.

5. Write a description of your town's location relative to three other towns on the map.

You have identified locations as they relate to another locations; that's **relative location**!

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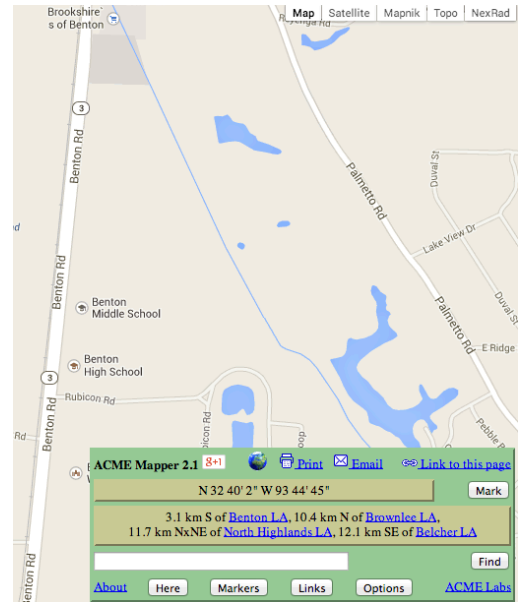
Let's find some **absolute locations**. Click here: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>. Enter the name of your school in the Feature Name field. Enter the state and parish (under "County"). Click "Send Query."

Once your school is located, click its name. You will get additional information about your school's location. This will help make sure you've clicked the right thing!

Latitude and longitude are given in decimal (DEC) form or degrees, minutes, seconds (DMS). For instance, in the example at right, the latitude is 32°40' 2" N and longitude is 93°44' 45" W.

Click the **ACME Mapper** link on the right. A map will open showing your school and information about your school's relative and absolute location. Click the **Options** button. Change the **Coords** (coordinates) setting to "NS d m' s" EW d m' s". Note, you may have to press the space bar to move to the bottom of the Options and click **Close**.

- Record the latitude and longitude of your school and three other cultural features in your community or state.



Cultural Feature	Latitude (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds)	Longitude (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds)
Our school		

Absolute locations don't depend on knowing what's nearby. When using absolute location, you'll always have a number of degrees *north* or *south* of the **equator** and a number of degrees *east* or *west* of the **prime meridian** to pinpoint an exact location.

- Give an example of when *absolute* location would be required and *relative* location would not be a good choice. Explain your thinking in your response.

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Part II: Climate

8. Click the link below. Then, click **Louisiana** on the map. You will see several weather stations. Click the station closest to where you live. Use information from the link to complete the following chart.

<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/usclimate/states.fast.html>

	<i>Weather Station Nearest My House: (list station)</i>	<i>Another Louisiana Weather Station: (list station)</i>
<i>Maximum Temperature (°F)</i>		
<i>Minimum Temperature (°F)</i>		
<i>Average Snowfall (in.)</i>		
<i>Average Rainfall (in.)</i>		
<i>Usual Coldest Month</i>		
<i>Usual Warmest Month</i>		

Finished Early? Go back to the link on page 2. Relocate the map of your school. Use the buttons at the top of the map to explore the area using the various maps such as Satellite or Topo. Drag the little yellow person icon onto your map to try Street View. Can you find the area around your house using these maps?

Consider these questions: How do these maps differ? How might people use these maps? What advantage does one map have over another? Explain your thinking in your response.
