

**TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES AND THE LOUISIANA DIGITAL LIBRARY**

**Louisiana Gumbo Lesson Resource**

Louisiana Gumbo: A Recipe for Empowerment Project is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Grant partners include the State Library of Louisiana, the LOUISiana Digital Library, the Louisiana State Museum, and The Historic New Orleans Collectio

---

**The LOUISiana Digital Library: An Introduction**

**Abstract**

The LOUISiana Digital Library is a valuable classroom resource that introduces students to a wide spectrum of primary source artifacts. This lesson helps students learn how to locate and examine primary artifacts using the search, viewing and enhancement features of the LOUISiana Digital Library.

**Objectives**

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Use effective search strategies to locate artifacts housed in the LDL;
- Examine metadata and artifact content as important sources of content information;
- Save images and documents to a My Favorites collection;
- Compare and contrast digital images using My Favorites; and
- Complete a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast images.

**Overview**

Students work with a partner to explore the LOUISiana Digital Library. Activities help student learn to navigate the Digital Library, use appropriate search terms, understand image metadata, and access images using the My Favorites, document viewer, and image enhancing functions of the Library.

It is suggested that this lesson be completed prior to launching class projects and independent research assignments that utilize the LOUISiana Digital Library.

**Grades** Middle and High School

**Time** 1 50-minute period

---

## The LOUISiana Digital Library: An Introduction

### Introductory Activities

The LOUISiana Digital Library contains thousands of images of photographs, documents, paintings, audio recordings and maps that contain information about Louisiana and the United States. Although the original maps, documents and photographs are stored in museums and archives throughout the state, you can search the digital images and documents to learn about the geography, literature, art, language, customs, and history of our state and nation.

Before searching for items in the LOUISiana Digital Library, you will need to understand some important search terms. You will also need to be familiar with several important viewing features. The following activities will help you learn to search and navigate the LOUISiana Digital Library.

#### **PART I. Search Terms.**

Together with your partner, think about the meaning of each of the following phrases. Use the chart below to record your definitions.

| <b>Term</b>                          | <b>Definition</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Primary source                       |                   |
| Artifact                             |                   |
| Visual artifact                      |                   |
| Document                             |                   |
| Search all Collections               |                   |
| Basic Keyword Search                 |                   |
| Browse Collection<br>Images by Title |                   |
| Collection Description               |                   |

(Your teacher will lead a discussion in which the class agrees on a common definition for the terms.)

**PART II. Searching the Collections**

- A. With your partner, go to the LOUISiana Digital Library site (<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org>). Select “Collections.” Use the Collection page to find the following:

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | The name of the collection that includes pictures of German prisoners of war that were housed in a World War II-era Louisiana prisoner of war camp. |
| 2. | The name of the collection that contains information about Louisiana’s “Share Our Wealth” program.  |
| 3. | Collection that records the history of “The South’s Finest Theater” located in Shreveport, Louisiana  |
| 4. | Photograph collection that records the history of Louisiana’s “German Coast” of the Mississippi River   |
| 5. | Collection that contains information about the military history of Louisiana and the United States.   |

**PART II. Search Results and Metadata.** The following activity will help you learn to search the [LOUISiana Digital Library](http://louisdl.louislibraries.org).

- A. Open the [Robert S. Maestri Collection](#). Use the basic keyword search function to search for “drinking fountains.” Record your results on the chart below.
- B. Return to the [LOUISiana Digital Library](#) home page. From the top toolbar, select “search.” Leave the “Search all collections” tab checked. Use the “all of the words” feature to search for “drinking fountains.” Record your results on the chart below.

| Search Category                                | What are the titles of the artifacts that you found? |
|--|--|
| Robert Maestri Collection Search Results       |  |
| Search all collections advanced search results |  |

C. Open the first item listed on the search results (*At ice cream parlor. . .*) by double-clicking on the image. Scroll down to the print located below the picture. This information is called the image's **metadata**. The metadata lists information about the image, including the title of the photograph, when the photograph was produced, and the search terms related to the image. Find the metadata heading "**Source.**" **Source** provides the name of the museum, library, or special collection that digitized the image for storage in the LOUISiana Digital Library. Use the metadata for each of your search results to locate the **source** and **date** of each photograph. Record the information on the chart below.

E. The metadata heading "**Relation**" tells you which digital collection contains the photograph. This information can help you search for related photographs and documents. Click on the link beside the "Relation" heading for each photograph. Use the chart below to record the digital collection that opens. Note that the "Children with Mayor Maestri" photograph did not include a date for the picture. Open the "Relation" heading for this photograph to find out which collection contains the picture. Read the collection description to find an approximate date for the picture. Record the approximate date on the chart below. Was this picture taken before or after the "At ice cream parlor at Carson, La." picture?

| Title                              | Source (Lending Institution) | Date of the photograph (if given) | Digital Collection that contains the photograph |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| At ice cream parlor at Carson, La. |                              |                                   |   |
| Children with Mayor Maestri        |                              |                                   |   |

#### PART IV. My Favorites

The LDL allows you to save images to a collection entitled My Favorites.

##### Adding images to My Favorites.

1. Return to the [LOUISiana Digital Library](http://louisdl.louislibraries.org) home page and search across all collections for "drinking fountains." Locate the two images *At ice cream parlor at Carson, La.* and *Children with Mayor Maestri*.
2. Check the box to the left of each of the thumbnail images. At the bottom of the page, select "add to favorites."
3. **Viewing My Favorites.** To view the images you saved, select **My Favorites** from the top toolbar.

4. **Comparing Images.** To compare the two images, you will need to view the two pictures side-by-side. Select “**Compare**” and the numbers of the two pictures. Press “compare.” Compare and contrast the two pictures and record your results on the **Venn Diagram** below:

**Note:** Venn Diagrams are used to compare and contrast two items. **Directions:** Under each picture’s title, write how each picture is different or unique from the other picture. Use the heading “Similarities” to record what the two pictures have in common.

