Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

The Big Easy



EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn about New Orleans. Learn new adjectives and phrasal verbs.

Listening comprehension. New quotes and idioms.

Activity One: Discussion

1. Have you ever visited the south of the United States?
How do you think the south may be different from the North?

2. New Orleans is where voodoo was introduced to the USA.
Do you believe in things like voodoo and curses?

3. New Orleans is the most populated city in Louisiana despite the fact that it is affected by hurricanes every year. Could you live in a place that natural disasters often?



Activity Two: Nicknames

New Orleans is also known as The Big Easy because of its laid back lifestyle. Many states and cities in the USA have 'nicknames'. Try to match these states and cities with their nicknames or slogans.

Sin City	Miami
Motor City	Philadelphia
The sweetest place on earth	Las Vegas
The Windy City	San Francisco
The City of Brotherly Love	Hershey
Little Cuba	Detroit
Biggest little city in the world	Chicago
The city by the bay	Reno

Activity Three: About New Orleans

With a partner or your teacher, read the text below and answer the comprehension questions. How much did you already know about New Orleans and does anything surprise you ?

Situated on a bend of the Mississippi River 100 miles from its mouth, New Orleans has been the chief city of Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico's busiest northern port since the early 1700s. Founded by the French, ruled for 40 years by the Spanish and bought by the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, New Orleans is known for its distinct Creole culture and vibrant history. Significant battles of the War of 1812 and the Civil War were fought over the city. In its last hundred years the key struggles of New Orleans have been social (poverty, racial strife) and natural (hurricanes, floods and slowly sinking land).
During the first half of the 19th century, New Orleans became the United States' wealthiest and third-largest city. Its port shipped the produce of much of the nation's interior to the Caribbean, South America and Europe. Thousands of slaves were sold in its markets, but its free black community thrived. Until 1830, the majority of its residents still spoke French.
At the start of the Civil War, New Orleans was the largest city in the Confederacy, but it was only a year until Union troops, having captured its downriver defenses, took the city unopposed. During the Reconstruction era race became a potent political force, as emancipated slaves and free people of color were brought into the political process and, with the 1870s rise of the White League and the Ku Klux Klan, forced back out of it. Although the rise of railroads made shipping on the Mississippi less essential than it had been, New Orleans remained a powerful and influential port. After World War II, suburbanization and conflicts over school integration drew many white residents out of the city, leaving a core that was increasingly African-American and impoverished. Despite these social changes, the city grew as a tourist attraction, with hundreds of thousands of annual visitors drawn to its Mardi Gras festivities and to the culture that had inspired playwright Tennessee Williams, trumpeter Louis Armstrong and chef Jean Galatoire.



Comprehension questions
1. What is Luisianas connection to France?
2. What side of the cival war was Luisiana on?
3. What are some of the struggles in Luisiana?
4. Why is Luisiana such a tourist attraction?

Activity Four: Listening Comprehension

With a partner listen to the extract below and answer the comprehension questions

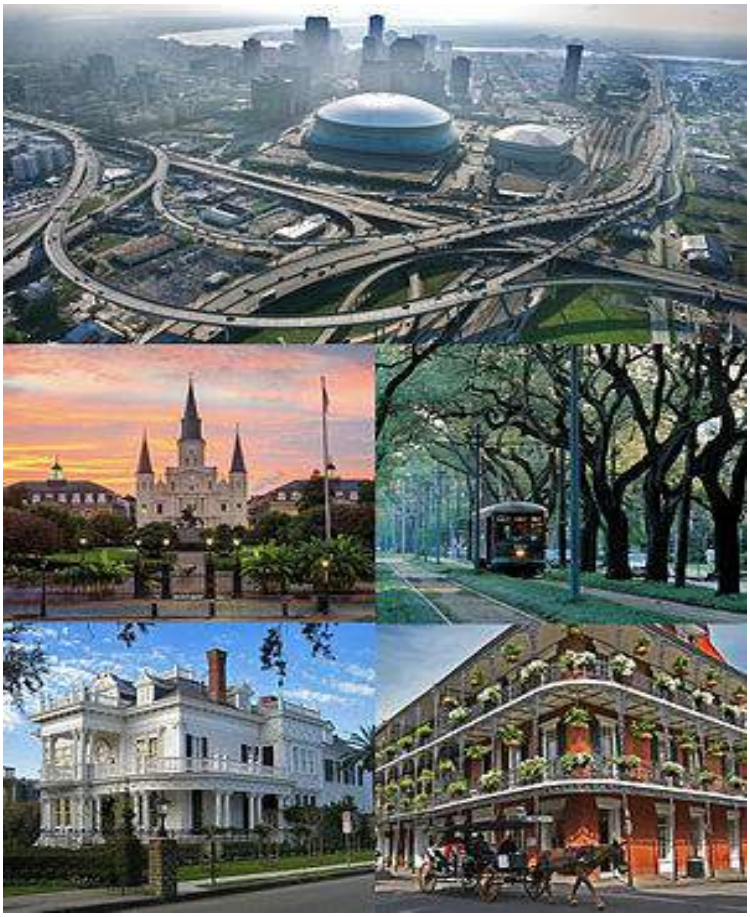
Mardi Gras is the most important holiday for Louisianans. Watch this video about the holiday and answer the following comprehension questions:
http://www.history.com/topics/new-orleans/videos/history-of-mardi-gras

1. What are the origins of Mardi Gras?
2. What religious period does Mardi Gras proceed?
3. Why did the Spanish outlaw the masked balls?
4. What are the official colors of Mardi Gras?
5. Who is the king of Mardi Gras?

Activity Five: Adjectives

Here is a list of adjectives to describe places.
Which ones would you use to describe what you have seen of New Orleans?

Colorful/ Colorless
Ancient
Boring
Grimy
Modern
Picturesque
Charming
Bustling
Exciting
Breathtaking
Polluted
Noisy
Cosmopolitan
Touristy



Activity Six: Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal Verbs are VERBS+PREPOSITIONS that change the meaning of the original verb. For example: To think is different from to think of or to think up. Read the text and try to find the correct phrasal verb from the word bank.

Word Bank: Set Off, Advised against, Laid back, Ended up, Broke out, Get up, Touched Down, End up, Brought Up, Walked up

We _____ in New Orleans around 11 am. I _____ the plane and found a Taxi to take me to my hotel in the French Quarter. I had originally wanted an AirBnB but my mother _____ it. She _____ some good points about staying in a stranger's house. Although New Orleans is known for its _____attitude, you can still _____ in dangerous situations. I _____for the famous Karaoke bar on Bourbon Street, The Cat's Meow. I _____to the bar and started taking shot after shot. I finally had the courage to _____on stage, and I _____into song.

Activity Seven: Song

Watch this song from the Disney Film The Frog Princess which is set in New Orleans. Find the missing words
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYq-l8ytdto

In the South Land there's a city
_____ _____ on the river
Where the women are very pretty
And all the men deliver
They got music
It's always _____
Start in the day time, go all through the night
When you hear that music playin'
Hear what I'm saying, it make you feel alright
Grab somebody, _____ ____ _____
Bring your paintbrush, we're paintin' the town
Oh there's some sweetness goin' 'round
_____it down in New Orleans

We got magic, good and bad
Make you happy or make you real sad
Get everything you want, lose what you
_____
Down here in New Orleans
Hey _____, don't be shy
Come on down here and give us a try
You wanna do some livin' before you die
Do it down in New Orleans
Stately homes and mansions
Of the Sugar Barons and the Cotton Kings
Rich people, old people, all got dreams
Dreams do come true in New Orleans

Activity Eight: Name the New Orlean's Native and match them with their quote!

· People always ask me, 'Were you funny as a child?' Well, no, I was an accountant.
· I believe that music is another form of news. Music is another form of journalism to me so I have to cover all the areas with my album.
· Being a Southern person and a blonde, it's not a good combination. Immediately, when people meet you, they think of you as not being smart.
· What I play is Life
· TV is the best babysitter
· I don't care what anybody says about me as long as it isn't true.





