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# History of the Louisiana Purchase

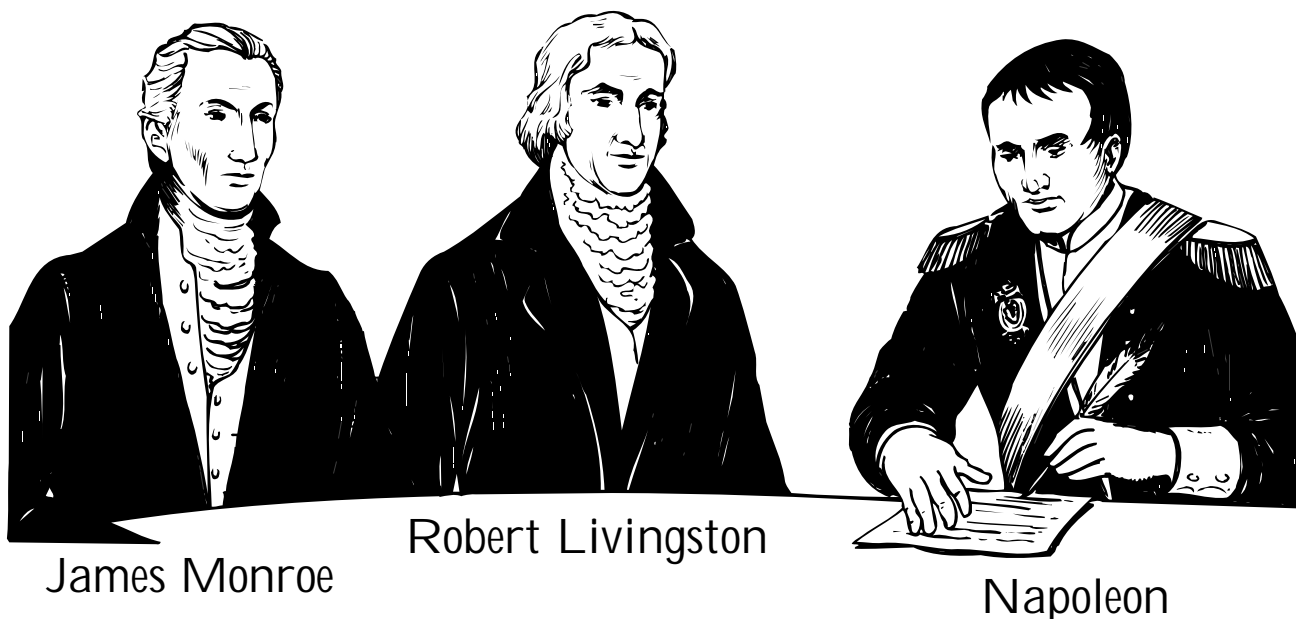
The United States was originally more interested in the port of New Orleans, in what is now the state of Louisiana, than it was in the whole Great Plains that made up the Louisiana Territory. Farmers in the lands that were to become the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee faced the barrier of the Appalachian Mountains in trying to get their farm products to the eastern coast to sell in the United States or overseas. It was much easier, faster, and cheaper for these farmers to send their goods on boats down the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers onto the Mississippi River. The Mississippi flowed into New Orleans, where the farmers' products could be sent by ship to the eastern coast of the U.S. or to Europe.

The difficulty with this plan of sending goods through New Orleans was that the U.S. did not own that city. As New Orleans passed from French to Spanish and back to French ownership, neither of those countries wanted the U.S. to use their territory for shipping. In 1795, the U.S. made a favorable treaty with Spain—then owner of New Orleans—for what was called the right of deposit. The right of deposit meant that the U.S. could store its goods (deposit them) in warehouses in New Orleans until ships could pick up those goods and sell them elsewhere. Pinchney's Treaty with Spain was a great achievement for the United States.

Five years later, Napoleon—the leader of France who was conquering all of Europe—pressured Spain into giving the Louisiana Territory, including New Orleans, back to France. Now what was the United States going to do if its right of deposit in New Orleans was taken away?

Napoleon had hoped to reconquer an empire in North America. To do this, he needed the island of Santo Domingo as a supply base and entry into the North American continent. His plans were ended, however, when slaves in Santo Domingo rebelled under the black leader Toussaint L'Ouverture. L'Ouverture and the deadly yellow fever defeated Napoleon's soldiers on the island. Napoleon could no longer use the Louisiana Territory, and he needed money for a new fighting campaign in Europe, so he decided to sell.

Jefferson was still interested in owning New Orleans, so he sent ambassadors Robert Livingston and James Monroe to Paris to buy that city and part of West Florida for \$10 million. Napoleon surprised everyone by offering the entire Louisiana Territory to the U.S. for \$15 million. Although Jefferson wasn't sure that it was constitutional to buy the land, his advisors persuaded him to snap up such a great deal. Livingston and Monroe signed the treaty on April 30, 1803, and the U.S. occupied Louisiana shortly thereafter.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# *History of the Louisiana Purchase Questions*

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1. Explain in your own words why the port of New Orleans was so important to farmers in the western United States. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the right of deposit? Explain why the United States could not trade in New Orleans without the right of deposit. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was the island of Santo Domingo important in Napoleon's plan to reconquer North America?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What two factors defeated Napoleon's armies in Santo Domingo? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How much money was the U.S. willing to offer to buy New Orleans and part of Florida? What price did Napoleon set for the entire Louisiana Territory? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Thought Question: What are two possible reasons why the United States was willing to buy the Louisiana Territory even though Jefferson had no idea what was in that land? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did Jefferson hesitate to buy the Louisiana Territory? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Research Question: What power granted to the president by the Constitution made it legal for Jefferson to buy the Louisiana Territory? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# *The Louisiana Purchase*

## *Treaty Between the United States of America and the French Republic*

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The President of the United States of America and the First Consul [Napoleon Bonaparte] of the French Republic in the name of the French people desiring to remove all source of misunderstanding . . . and willing to strengthen the union of friendship which at the time of the said Convention was happily re-established between the two nations [the U.S. and France] have respectively named their Plenipotentiaries to with the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the said states; Robert R. Livingston Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States and James Monroe Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy extraordinary of the said States . . . ; And the First Consul in the name of the French people [has appointed] Citizen Francis Barbe Marbois Minister of the public treasury who after having respectively exchanged their full powers have agreed to the following articles.

### **Article I**

“His Catholic Majesty [King of Spain] promises and engages on his part to cede to the French Republic six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations herein relative to his Royal Highness the Duke of Parma, the colony or province of Louisiana . . . .”

And whereas in pursuance of the Treaty and particularly of the third article the French Republic has an incontestable title to the domain and to the possession of the said Territory—The First Consul of the French Republic desiring to give to the United States a strong proof of his friendship doth hereby cede to the United States in the name of the French Republic for ever and in full sovereignty the said territory with all its rights and appurtenances as fully and in the same manner as they have been acquired by the French Republic in virtue of the above mentioned Treaty concluded with his Catholic Majesty.

### **Article II**

In the cession made by the preceding article are included the adjacent islands belonging to

*The President of the United States and the First Consul of France wish to clear up any misunderstandings between the two nations. They also want to strengthen the friendship that was reestablished earlier. To do these two things, the President has named his ambassadors (with the advice and consent of the Senate). These ambassadors are Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe. The First Consul has named Barbe Marbois as his ambassador from France. These three ambassadors have agreed to the following articles.*

*The King of Spain promises to give Louisiana to the French Republic six months after the agreements about the Duke of Parma have been carried out.*

*The French Republic will then have complete control of the Louisiana Territory. The First Consul of France, to show his friendship toward the U.S., will then grant the Louisiana Territory to the United States. The U.S. ownership of the Territory will then be complete, just as the transfer of ownership from Spain to France was complete.*

*The transfer of ownership to the U.S. will include all the islands near Louisiana; all public lots;*