

Clues on Common Ground:
The Fort St. Louis Archeological Project

Lesson 3: Learning from Maps and Timelines

Time Travel

By Susan Wolter

Lesson Overview: Students will use chronological information to learn about important events which led to each group's arrival at the Fort St. Louis site and the fate of La Salle and the colonists. Students will create a timeline for each group by placing the events in the correct chronological sequence.

Objectives: Students will:

- Utilize timelines to sequence events
- Utilize timelines to organize events for an informative narrative

TEKS:

- Technology 4.21 B
- Social Studies 4.22 B, 4.22 C, 4.22 A, 4.23 D

Materials:

- Transparency of a North American Map
- Transparency of French primary source map
- Copy of the Event Handout for each Team (each Event Handout should be copied on distinctly different colored paper so that team contributions to the bulletin board in Lesson 7 will be evident)
- Long strip of adding machine paper tape

Activity:

Step 1: To emphasize the impact of the sequence of events, provide the following background information: According to European customs, La Salle could claim all of the land that drained into the river for France because he was the first to record his journey from the Great Lakes to the mouth of the Mississippi River. The king of France, Louis XIV, decided to finance La Salle's proposal to create a French colony near the mouth of the Mississippi River. La Salle and about 300 French colonists sailed from France in four ships heading for the mouth of the Mississippi River. Instead they landed in Matagorda Bay, Texas.

Display the transparency of French primary source map. Have students compare a present-day map of the United States with the French concept of North America in La Salle's time. Explain to the students that La Salle was not able to calculate longitude because the necessary timepiece for ocean travel was not invented until 1745. In addition, the location of the mouth of the Mississippi River on the French map is where Matagorda Bay is in Texas. The real location of the Mississippi River was several hundred miles to the east.

Step 2: Each team creates a Timeline Strip as follows: Give each team an Event Handout for their cultural group. Have students take turns reading each event. Then

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have them cut out the events, place them in order, and glue the events on to the strip of adding machine tape.

Closure: Have each team review and discuss the importance of the events from the perspective of their culture.

Student Product: Student teams create a timeline from a list of key events important to their culture's presence in Texas.

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Lesson 3: Transparency of Primary Source Map

French Map of North America in 1684



2. French conception of North America in La Salle's time. (Le Clercq, *First Establishment of the Faith in New France*)

Lesson 3: Karankawa Team Handout
Karankawa Events

<p>10,000 AD Paleoindians arrived in Texas.</p>	<p>August 1685 La Salle's men gave hatchets to several Karankawas in exchange for two canoes. A few days later they traded knives for deerskins.</p>
<p>500 AD Karankawa Indians lived along the coastal land that is now called Texas. They were hunters and gatherers, traveled and fished in canoes, lived in lean-to structures and made pottery decorated with asphaltum (tar).</p>	<p>March 5, 1685 Frenchmen entered the Indian camp with their weapons, and the Indians left. The Frenchmen took blankets that had washed ashore from the shipwrecked <i>L'Aimable</i> as well as canoes. The Karankawa believed war has been declared and killed several Frenchmen.</p>
<p>1528 Cabeza de Vaca, two other Spaniards and an African slave named Estevanico were captured when their raft ran ashore near Galveston Island. They were kept as slaves for several years. Cabeza de Vaca wrote about his life with the Karankawa and his journey through what today is Texas.</p>	<p>May 1685, The Frenchmen fired shots in the air which frightened the three Karankawa that had approached their fort. They aimed a cannon shot at the rest of the hunting group.</p>
<p>January 19, 1685 La Salle and several Frenchmen came ashore near Matagorda Island. Several Karankawa visited aboard the <i>Belle</i>.</p>	<p>January 1688 Karankawa Indians captured Fort St. Louis. According to Jean Baptiste Talon, the Indian women felt sorry for the children and carried them away on their backs. The children were treated with great kindness.</p>

Lesson 3: French Team Handout
French Events

<p>November 21, 1643 La Salle was born in Rouen, France.</p>	<p>November 25, 1684 The three remaining ships sailed toward the mouth of the Mississippi.</p>
<p>1671-1682 La Salle explored the Great Lakes and Midwest regions. On April 9, 1682, La Salle discovered the mouth of the Mississippi. Half of the continent is formally claimed for France and King Louis XIV.</p>	<p>February 18, 1685 <i>Belle</i> safely entered Matagorda Bay so La Salle could search for the Mississippi on land.</p>
<p>November 1, 1682 La Salle sailed from Canada for France to gather support for his plan to reach the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico and start a permanent settlement.</p>	<p>February 29, 1685 <i>L'Aimable</i> ran aground trying to enter the narrow channel. Many of the supplies needed for the founding of the colony were lost.</p>
<p>April 14, 1684 Louis XIV commissioned La Salle to carry out his plan.</p>	<p>March 12, 1685 <i>Le Joly</i> left for France. About 180 people stayed to found the colony.</p>
<p>August 1, 1684 About 300 people departed from France aboard <i>L'Aimable</i>, <i>Belle</i>, <i>Le Joly</i> and <i>Saint-Francois</i>.</p>	<p>April 1685 Fort St. Louis construction began.</p>
<p>September 27, 1684 Most of fleet arrives at Santo Domingo. Spanish pirates had seized <i>Saint-Francois</i> a few days earlier.</p>	<p>January 1686 <i>La Belle</i> was wrecked in storm.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">January 12, 1687</p> <p>La Salle left for Illinois with 17 men to seek assistance, leaving only 20 people behind at the fort. Illness and hostile natives have already claimed the rest.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1688</p> <p>Six survivors of the colony traveled to Illinois and returned to France. Henri Joutel kept a diary of the French expeditions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 20, 1687</p> <p>La Salle was assassinated by some of his men.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">April 22, 1689</p> <p>Alonso de León's expedition found Fort St. Louis after it was destroyed by the Indians.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Eve 1688</p> <p>With colonists weakened by smallpox, Karankawas captured Fort St. Louis. A few children were taken captive and later rescued by the Spanish.</p>	

Lesson 3: Spanish Team Handout
Spanish Events

<p>October 12, 1492 Christopher Columbus reached the Caribbean Islands and claimed the land for Spain.</p>	<p>1680 - 1683 The first Spanish mission in Texas, Corpus Christi de la Isleta, was built near El Paso. Four other missions also were built along the Rio Grande.</p>
<p>1521 Hernando Cortés conquered and burned the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán and renamed the empire New Spain.</p>	<p>March 1689 Alonso de León along with Fray Massanet began an expedition in search of La Salle's colony. At this time the Spanish did not know very much about the land between the Rio Grande and the Mississippi River.</p>
<p>1528 Cabeza de Vaca along with two other Spaniards and an African slave named Estevanico survived a shipwreck near Galveston Island. They became slaves of the Karankawa. After six years they escaped. Years later Cabeza de Vaca wrote about his travels through the land now called Texas.</p>	<p>April 26, 1689 Alonso de León found Fort St. Louis which had been destroyed by the Karankawas. According to his diary, he buried eight cannons and burned the fort. Two Frenchmen were captured by the Spanish and told of La Salle's death. He continued to search for French settlers and Fray Massanet started two missions.</p>
<p>1539 Searching for cities of gold, Spanish Conquistador Coronado led 300 Spanish soldiers and 1,000 Mexican Indians north through Mexico into Texas. Later the Spanish did find silver which they mined.</p>	<p>May 1689 Alonso de León found 13 year-old Pierre Talon and another Frenchman who had been living with the Ceniz Indians (Tejas Indians). La Salle had sent Pierre to live with the Ceniz in 1687 so that he could learn their language.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">June 1689</p> <p>Alonso de León found Pierre Talon's sister, Marie Madelaine, and their two brothers, Lucien and Robert, who had been captured by the Karankawas during the attack on Fort St. Louis. The children were taken to New Spain.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1721</p> <p>The Spanish established Presidio La Bahia on the same site where Fort St. Louis had been built. In 1749 the presidio was moved to Goliad, Texas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1691</p> <p>General Terán led an expedition through Texas to search for Frenchmen or any other people from Europe. He returned to New Spain with Jean Baptiste Talon and another child, Eustache Bréman, who had been captured at Fort St. Louis.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1723 - 1795</p> <p>Sixteen more Spanish missions and eight presidios (forts) were built in Texas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1715 - 1722</p> <p>Ten Spanish missions and three Spanish presidios (forts) were built in Texas.</p>	