



# OUR GEOGRAPHY LESSON >>>>



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Three of the cities in the United States with 100,000 or more people are located in the state of Louisiana. Baton Rouge is the 2nd largest city in Louisiana (New Orleans - 1st; Shreveport - 3rd).

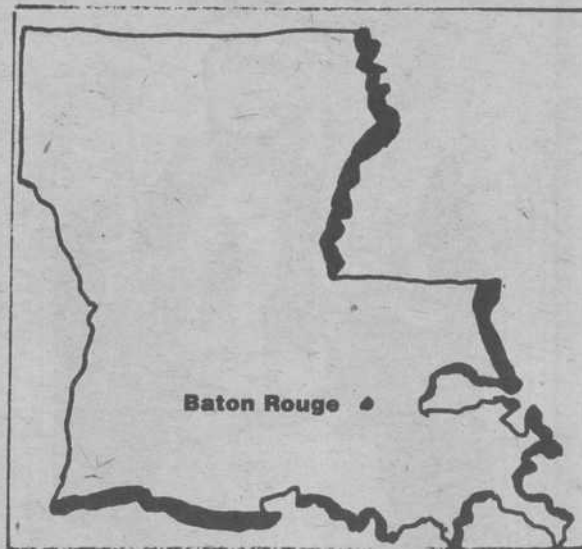
Baton Rouge is the capital of the state of Louisiana and the seat of East Baton Rouge Parish. Parishes in Louisiana are like counties in other states. Baton Rouge is located in the southeastern part of Louisiana.

In 1719, the area that is now the city of Baton Rouge became a post for French soldiers. It became a city in 1817. Baton Rouge replaced New Orleans as the capital of Louisiana in 1849.

Baton Rouge is a French word. It means "red stick." The French used the word "baton rouge" to describe some red cypress trees that separated the hunting grounds of two Indian tribes.

The population of the city of Baton Rouge is 368,571. The city ranks 39th among the 175 largest cities in the United States (New York - 1st; Livonia, Michigan - 175th).

The Black population of Baton Rouge is 80,088 (21.7%). The city ranks 38th in size of Black population (New York - 1st;



Laredo, Texas - 175th).

The Mexican population of Baton Rouge is 1,065. There are 233 Puerto Ricans, 383 Cubans and 2,305 other Spanish-speaking people who live in the city of Baton Rouge.

The Bayou Goula and Houma Indian tribes lived in the area before the White settlers came. Today, there are only 280 Native Americans (American Indians) living in the city of Baton Rouge.

Many members of other ethnic groups also live in the city of Baton Rouge. There are 92 Japanese, 432 Chinese, 104 Filipinos, 96 Koreans, 354 Asian

(East) Indians and 486 Vietnamese.

Baton Rouge has 13 Black elected officials. These are State Senator Gregory Tarver; State Representatives Joseph A. Delpit, Raymond Jetson, Jewel Newman and Richard Turnley Jr. Black members of the City Council are Gordon Curry, Pearl George, Melvin Holden and Perch H. Wilson. Leonard O. Landon is a police juror. Judge Freddie Petcher Jr. is Baton Rouge's Black judge. Eva LeGard and Press L. Robertson are members of the local school board.

Other outstanding citizens of Baton Rouge include Ronald L. Abernathy, associate head basketball coach of Louisiana State University; Georgia W. Brown, director of libraries of Southern University; Curtis Calloway, attorney; Donald F. Davis, artist; Daniel A. Hall, dentist; Robert J. Hall, physician; Johnnie A. Jones, attorney; William S. Mayfield, professor of law, Southern University Law School; Joseph P. Patin, physician; Roosevelt Steptoe, chancellor, Southern University; and Jesse N. Stone Jr., president of the Southern University System.

The capitol building in Baton Rouge is the tallest capitol building in the United States.

## LET'S STUDY WORDS

Many of the words we use today came from the Latin and Greek languages. Some of our words came from older forms of the French, German and Italian languages.

**INFANT** comes from the Latin word *in-fans* meaning "not yet speaking." During

the first year of life, *infants* usually are "not yet speaking."

**INN** is another spelling of "in." In earlier times, the owner of a place with rooms to rent would put up a sign that said "**INN**," meaning "come in if you need

a place to stay."

**INSECT** comes from the Latin word *in-sectus* meaning "cut into." An *insect's* body is made up of three parts (head, thorax and abdomen) that are so clearly marked off that it looks like it had been cut into.