Outcomes:

I can identify cultural elements that have contributed to the state's heritage.

I can speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task.
Think back to when we learned about the meaning of culture. Throughout the communities in Louisiana, we see these elements of culture. One aspect of culture we see throughout the state is our celebrations. One way that we celebrate in Louisiana is through festivals.
What do you think this quote means?
Let's use a map to determine where different festivals are held in our state!

* Look for festivals near our area*
Let's read about a special festival in Louisiana.

We will use the information to complete the chart on page 40.
Strawberry Festival

During the peak of strawberry season, Ponchatoula hosts an all-out party for the juicy fruit. Each April, the town of Ponchatoula puts on the state’s largest free festival in honor of the beloved strawberry, The Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival. Here’s what you need to know to plan one sweet trip to the Strawberry Capital of the World.

**Festival Facts:** The festival will be held April 7-9, 2017, at Ponchatoula’s Memorial Park and North Sixth Street. In addition to rides and live music, Saturday’s events feature the Little Miss and Masters Pageant and strawberry and jambalaya cook-offs.

**You’ve Gotta Try:** As you’d expect, the festival’s food booths feature a variety of strawberry dishes. A popular choice is the strawberry shortcake, made with fresh local berries. Another must-try: deep-fried strawberries. They’re dipped in what’s described as a beignet batter, deep-fried and dusted with sugar. Sample the cinnamon-flavored ones too.
Belly Up for a Berry-Eating Contest: A Louisiana festival isn’t complete without some sort of eating contest. Here, three different age groups compete to see who can eat a pint of strawberries the fastest. Entrants are required to eat the entire berry to win, including the stem.

Strawberry Souvenirs: Don’t leave without taking home some of the area’s favorite fruits. You’ll find local growers selling their crop along the festival’s Farmers Row throughout the weekend.

If You Want to Pick-Your-Own: Can’t make it to the festival or want to treat your family to a pick-your-own strawberry farm? Nearby Livingston Parish offers a few options, including Mrs. Heather’s Strawberry Patch, Landry-Poche Strawberry Farm, and Blahut Strawberry Farm.

You are guaranteed to have a BERRY good time!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Festival</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Music/Art</th>
<th>Ethnic Group or Culture</th>
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<td>Strawberry Festival in Pontchatoula</td>
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Let's complete the chart!
Festival of Lights in Natchitoches

Named after a Native American tribe, Natchitoches (pronounced Nack-a-tish) is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase Territory. Since 1927 we are also home to one of the oldest community-based holiday celebrations in the country. Starting as a one day festival, the celebration has evolved into a six-week long Christmas Season. Begins on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and concludes January the 6th, the Epiphany. Over 300,000 lights and 100 plus set pieces are on display every night at dusk. Downtown attractions include Kid’s Fest, carriage tours through the historic district, food vendors along the downtown riverbank open nightly for your favorite festive treats, shops and restaurants open late for your convenience, and community organizations have Christmas programs scheduled throughout the season. Events take place in the Landmark Historic District and the Cane River National Historical Park area. Click Here for our Schedule.
Festival of Lights in Natchitoches

Our 90th Anniversary season begins on November 19th, 2016 with our Holiday Open House. December 3rd is our Christmas Festival, fireworks are held every Saturday throughout the Season as well as events to be enjoy by every age. Our Season ends on January 6th, 2017. See the Schedule page for more information.

The Natchitoches Christmas Season has been listed as a “Top 100 Events in North America” by the American Bus Association for numerous years and has also been honored as one of the “Top 20 Events” for December on six occasions by the Southeast Tourism Society. In 2013 we were ranked 3rd “Best Holiday Light Show” behind the Rockefeller Center and Disney World in the nation by Yahoo.com.
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<th>Louisiana Festivals</th>
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<td>Festival of Lights in Natchitoches</td>
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New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival

What is Jazz Fest?

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, a/k/a Jazz Fest, is a 10-day cultural feast in which thousands of musicians, cooks and craftspeople welcome 400,000 visitors each year. The Louisiana Heritage Fair showcases unforgettable music on multiple stages, delicious Louisiana cuisine in two large food areas, and crafts artisans from the region and around the world demonstrating and selling their work. The Louisiana Heritage Fair is held at the Fair Grounds Race Course over the course of 2 weekends. They are April 28, 29, 30 & May 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2017. The Heritage Fair takes place at the Fair Grounds Race Course, centrally located at 1751 Gentilly Boulevard, 10 minutes from the French Quarter.

Is Jazz the only music that is featured at the Jazz Festival?

The Festival celebrates the indigenous music and culture of New Orleans and Louisiana, so the music encompasses every style associated with the city and the state: blue, R&B, gospel, Cajun, zydeco, folk, Latin, rock, rap, country, bluegrass and everything in between. And of course there is lots of jazz, both contemporary and traditional.
Alligator Festival in Luling

This year’s Alligator Festival is scheduled from Thursday, September 22nd to Sunday, September 25th.

Complete with live entertainment, arts and crafts, and amusement rides, the Alligator Festival provides a fun time for the entire family. As always, this New Orleans area festival will serve up some tasty treats, and some attendees should have the opportunity to greatly expand their culinary experiences. Proving that there is more than one way to serve up an alligator, the festival has plenty of offerings:

- Alligator Burgers
- Alligator Sausage Po-Boys
- Fried Alligator
- Alligator or Shrimp Wrap Pie
- Alligator Sauce Piquante
- Alligator Fritters/Hushpuppies

Festival attendees should expect to pay a $1 admission fee for the festival. Like other festivals, amusement rides and food will also be on sale ($12 for amusement ride wristbands).

The Alligator Festival is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of St. Charles Parish. Proceeds of the festival go toward funding college scholarships for local youth.

The festival is located at the foot of the Hale Boggs Bridge at 13825 River Road, Luling, LA 70070.
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