Unit 3: Colonial Louisiana

Topic 1: Louisiana's Early Explorers
*In the previous unit, we learned about Louisiana's first inhabitants, the Native Americans. *In this unit, we will be looking at events that changed Louisiana and create a timeline of the historical events that occurred in Louisiana. *We will also be looking at how exploration helped to make Louisiana UNIQUE.
I can explain how major explorers and leaders contributed to the early development of Louisiana.

* timelines

I can engage effectively in collaborative discussions.

* maintaining eye contact
A timeline shows when events occurred. The events are placed on the timeline in the sequence, or order that they happened.
Since the Native Americans were the first inhabitants of Louisiana, let's add our first event on the timeline to show that they were in Louisiana before the European explorers ever came.
As we continue through this task, we will be learning about why Louisiana had so many flags. The flag a state or nation adopts symbolizes the identity of that state or nation.

*The United States flag represents our nation.

*We also have a Louisiana flag, which represents our state identity.
Throughout history, multiple flags have flown over Louisiana to represent the different countries that have said they owned the land or claimed possession of Louisiana.
Adapted from Colonial Louisiana[1]

1. The promise of new opportunities brought people to Louisiana. Among the many ethnic groups in colonial Louisiana were people of French, Canadian, Spanish, Latin American, Anglo, German, and African descent. These cultures, along with Native Americans, provided the first ingredients for Louisiana’s famous "gumbo" of cultures.

2. Spanish explorers were the first to explore into the Mississippi River region. Hernando de Soto’s expedition in 1542 was the first discovery of the mighty river by Europeans. The harsh climate, wildlife, and geography made Spain look elsewhere for precious metals and fertile soils.

*What is meant by Louisiana’s "gumbo" culture?
*What was important about de Soto’s expedition?
*Why did the Spanish choose not to settle in Louisiana at that time?
We will look at other influences on Louisiana's culture as we look at the different groups who came to Louisiana and settled. As we explore these groups, we will be keeping track of the different groups that have influenced Louisiana's culture over time.

1519–1682: Spain controls Louisiana

Native Americans were the first inhabitants in Louisiana until European explorers began coming.
Over time, control of Louisiana will shift back and forth between Spain and France. When French or Spanish colonist settled in the area, they brought elements of their culture with them. Some elements of Spanish and French culture are still present in Louisiana today such as language (like names of places in Louisiana) and the French or Spanish style of buildings found in different parts of the state.

The French Quarter
*Le Vieux Carré* (French)
Louisiana was ignored for over a hundred years, until France’s King Louis XIV wanted to explore the Mississippi River to enlarge his empire and stop Britain and Spain from expanding their territories in the western hemisphere. In 1682, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, reached the mouth of the Mississippi River and claimed ownership of the river and all the lands drained by it for France, naming this large area of land "Louisiane," or "Louis' land."

*Why did the French King want to explore the area around the Mississippi River?*
*How did competition contribute to France's choice to colonize the area?*
*What makes the Mississippi River so important that a country would want to control the land around it?
We are going to learn more about Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle, a French explorer who claimed land for his king, King Louis XIV of France.
Native Americans were the first inhabitants in Louisiana until European explorers begin coming.

1519-1682: Spain controls Louisiana

1600

1700

1800

1682-1762: France controls Louisiana

1682: La Salle claimed all lands drained by the Mississippi for France
When France gained control of Louisiana, many French people came to settle in Louisiana. Some elements of French culture that the colonists brought with them are still seen in Louisiana today.
In units 1 & 2, we learned about the place that we know as Louisiana. When La Salle claimed the area and named it after King Louis XIV, the area that he claimed was not the area that we call Louisiana today.
In unit 1, we learned about the place that we know as Louisiana. This map of Louisiana shows what we picture when we think of Louisiana today.
When we are talking about Louisiana today, we are talking about a state that is part of the United States.
Map of Louisiana Territory Claimed by France

*locate the Mississippi River*
Partner Work:

*What similarities and differences are seen in the La Salle map compared to the modern map?  
*How was La Salle an important explorer to King Louis XIV and Louisiana today?
Using your timeline, identify the groups that contributed to Louisiana's unique culture.
I can explain how major explorers and leaders contributed to the early development of Louisiana.

* timelines

I can engage effectively in collaborative discussions.

* maintaining eye contact