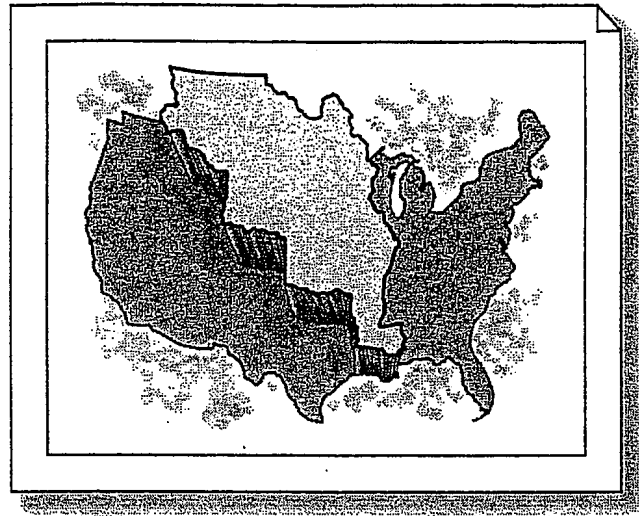


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# THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

In the late 1700s, American settlers crossed over the Appalachian Mountains. These settlers moved to Kentucky, Tennessee, and the land north of the Ohio River. They cleared the land and planted crops. People in other states and in Europe wanted to buy the crops. The settlers had to get the goods to those people. Since it was hard to carry things over mountains, the settlers used the Mississippi River.



The crops were sent down the river on boats to the port in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Spain owned New Orleans and allowed the United States to use the port. Warehouses stored the goods until they were ready to be shipped.

Napoleon Bonaparte, the leader of France, made a deal with Spain. In 1800, Spain secretly gave New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana to France. When the United States found out about the deal, President Jefferson was concerned. He worried that if France got New Orleans, Napoleon would not let Americans use the port.

To solve the problem, Jefferson decided to buy New Orleans from France. If the United States owned New Orleans, Americans could use the port there. Jefferson asked Robert Livingston, the American representative in Paris, France, to make the deal. Livingston started working on a plan to buy New Orleans.

In 1802, the United States was told it could not use the port anymore. This was what Jefferson had been afraid of. He sent his advisor, James Monroe, to Paris. Monroe would get together with Livingston and help speed up the deal with France.

By that time, Napoleon did not have much money. One of France's colonies had been taken over by the slaves who lived there. The former slaves renamed the colony Haiti. Thousands of French troops were sent to fight in Haiti. Many of them died from yellow fever and other diseases. To replace these troops, France needed money.

Napoleon decided to sell New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana to the United States. He asked the Americans for \$15 million. Monroe and Livingston accepted the offer. In October 1803, the Louisiana Territory became part of the United States. It included the area between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. For only pennies per acre, the United States had doubled its size.