

USA: My House in Louisiana

My Beautiful House Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Twelve-year-old Stewart lives in Louisiana. Here, tradition plays a very important role, as illustrated by the crayfish dishes and Aunt Clara's wedding, where little girls dress up as Southern Princesses for the outdoor ceremony.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family and activities with Stewart's culture, family and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate the United States on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to compare how Stewart's basic needs are met with the way their own needs for food, clothing and shelter are met.

Vocabulary:

United States, Louisiana, the Mississippi River, ancestors, immigrants, England, eight generations, museum, mansions, plantations, atlas, property, rod, technique, "whip fishing," reel, crayfish, capital, "hit the hay," typical, mosquito netting, humid, region, swamps, paradise, "does the trick," chat, traditional, antiques, elegant, Southern Belles, ceremony, snarls, witnessed, immediate, priest, bash, procession

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate the United States on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent the United States is located. Point out Baton Rouge, the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean and your own state and city on the map. Make sure viewers know where Louisiana is in relation to the rest of the United States.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Louisiana such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the different maps.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Stewart's family. How is your family like or unlike Stewart's? How many brothers and sisters do you have? What do Stewart and his father like to do? What does his mother enjoy? What has Stewart's family saved for many years? Do you have any things that belonged to your grandparents or great grandparents? If so, what is it? What kind of food does Stewart's mother cook for him? What is a common type of food in Louisiana? Who cooks your meals? What do you like to eat?

- 2) Describe Stewart's house. How old is it? Compare Stewart's home to yours. How are they similar or different? What are some typical features of a plantation that are found at Stewart's home? Do you have a big yard? What do you have in your yard? What is Stewart's favorite room in the house? Why does he like that room? What do people in Louisiana put around their beds in the summer? Why do they need to do that? What do you do at your house in the summer?
- 3) Compare and contrast Stewart's activities to your own. How are they similar or different? What does Stewart like to do? What sports do you enjoy? Where does Stewart go fishing? Where do you like to play? How does Stewart help when his parents are preparing for the wedding? What kind of clothing does Stewart's family wear for the wedding?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Have students prepare a geographic profile of the United States and Louisiana noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Have the students describe Louisiana's history, people, languages, principal industries and major tourist attractions.

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