



FAQ

If you have questions, please contact the Department via email at classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov.

Q: What is Bayou Bridges?

A: The Louisiana Department of Education and the non-profit [Core Knowledge Foundation](#)[®] have entered into a partnership to create Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum. The materials will be designed to align with the student expectations of the [2022 K-8 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) and will be created using criteria similar to the quality indicators of the [instructional materials review rubric](#). Further, these materials will advance [Louisiana Literacy](#) by building explicit content knowledge and disciplinary literacy. All units will emphasize primary sources and be reviewed by subject matter experts, typically university professors.

Q: Is Bayou Bridges the same as Core Knowledge Language Arts[®] (CKLA) or Core Knowledge History and Geography[®] (CKHG)?

A: No. Bayou Bridges will be an original curriculum created specifically as a vehicle to teach the 2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies.

Q: Will Bayou Bridges be a complete curriculum?

A: Yes. Bayou Bridges is a complete curriculum and will include:

- Student readers: reusable, richly illustrated, and engagingly written,
- Primary sources: chosen to build knowledge and support student analysis,
- Teacher guides: with detailed lesson plans, activity page masters, assessments, and
- Editable slide decks: visual aids to reinforce big ideas, chronology, and context.

Q: When will Bayou Bridges materials be available?

A: Work is underway and all Bayou Bridges units will be posted online for free download on both the [Louisiana Department of Education](#) and [Core Knowledge Foundation](#)[®] sites by June 2024.

Student Readers will begin to post in June 2023, while the Teacher Guides and Editable Slide Decks will begin to post in July 2023. Materials will continue to be posted on a rolling basis until all 51 units for grades K-8 are completed by June 30, 2024. See the Detailed Unit Release Schedule on the [Bayou Bridges webpage](#) for approximate release dates of each unit student reader and teacher guide.

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Q: What’s in the student readers?

A: The reusable Bayou Bridges student readers will offer engagingly written text, framed by compelling questions along with color illustrations, photographs, maps, primary source documents, vocabulary sidebars, and a glossary. Each student reader will cover one grade level unit.

Q: What’s in the teacher guides?

A: Bayou Bridges teacher guides will contain:

- resources for teachers to build their own content knowledge (detailed timelines, unit overviews, most important ideas at-a-glance)
- lists of core vocabulary (domain-specific vocabulary, phrases, and idioms)
- pacing guides and calendars,
- detailed lesson plans with scaffolds that connect specific objectives to Louisiana state standards,
- formative and summative assessments with scoring rubrics, and
- student-facing worksheets/activity pages (graphic organizers, maps, guided notes, vocabulary practice, and additional fiction and non-fiction excerpts)

Q: Will I be able to order print materials?

A: Print materials for the first two units in grades 4 and 5 will be available for order beginning in July 2023 via the Core Knowledge portal, and the final four units in January 2024. Printed materials for the remaining grade levels will become available throughout 2024 as units and grade levels are completed. Until then, school systems will need to engage print-on-demand services.

- [Grade 4](#) Core Knowledge Portal for ordering print copies
- [Grade 5](#) Core Knowledge Portal for ordering print copies

Q: What opportunities for professional learning will be available?

A: Initial asynchronous professional learning modules to support grade 4 and grade 5 social studies teachers will be available by June 30 under the professional learning section of the [Bayou Bridges page](#).

These modules will support teachers in understanding the design and key features of Bayou Bridges and utilize a unit study tool to support initial curriculum implementation.

School leaders should also consult the [Professional Learning Partner Guide](#) for information on Bayou Bridges professional learning partners.



Q: Will there be an online curriculum for Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies?

A: Yes. Kiddom, a high-quality instructional materials publishing partner, is creating a digital version of Bayou Bridges with the aim to have some elementary grade levels available for the 2024-2025 school year. For more information please visit [Kiddom](#).

Q: Why is some of the content in Bayou Bridges different from the course frameworks? Which one should I use?

A: Any differences in content noted between the Social Studies Course Frameworks and Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum result from the availability of content within Creative Commons for course frameworks versus the opportunity for curated and created content in Bayou Bridges. Where any differences occur, teachers should preference the content in Bayou Bridges.