

LA FRANCOPHONIE ET LES ÉTATS-UNIS

Teaching about *Les Acadiens*

Introduction

In the January 2007 issue of the AATF *National Bulletin*, we learned about the language of the Louisiana French Cajuns. In this issue, we will learn a little about the population to which many Cajuns can trace their ancestry—the Acadians of Canada, a largely neglected population of *Francophonie* and one that figures little in contemporary French textbooks.

Activity

I. Teacher Preparation

First, the teacher should do a little research on-line to learn some basic facts about the Acadians and their history, although a lot of the important information is to be found in the activities below. Here are some useful links:

- [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acadians>]
- [www.cbc.ca/acadian/index.html]
- [www.cajunculture.com/Other/acadian.htm]
- [www.acadiancultural.org/index.html]

II. Classroom materials

Photocopied maps of North America (the U.S. and Canada) for students (optional). Photocopies of *Activité* sheet below.

III. Procedures

1. Put students in small groups and give them 1-3 minutes to identify all of the French speaking areas in North America. Their lists should include Canada (specifically, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario [although French is spoken in all of the provinces to some extent]), New England (all six states), Louisiana, and some parts of the Midwest (e.g. Missouri). Give them a photocopied map of North America for this or have them refer to a large classroom map or the map on the inside cover of the textbook (although textbook maps clearly identify the French-speaking regions, states and countries).

2. Ask students what the residents of Quebec are called (*les Québécois*), and then what French speakers in Louisiana are called (they should know Cajuns/*les Cadjins/les Cadiens*; see article on correct usage, page 1). At this point, you may distribute photocopies of the activity sheet below. Have students complete the worksheet, allowing them 5-10 minutes to complete the activity, either alone or in groups. As a follow-up, go through the questions, having students provide their answers, and discussing the history of the Acadians. It is interesting to note that the French had their

first permanent colonies in North America before the English!

IV. Expansion activity: Short Culture reports/presentations (optional)

To explore the topic further, students might prepare short written reports and/or oral presentations to the class on some aspect of Acadian culture. For this activity, students sign up as individuals or in small groups (2-3 students), selecting from among these topics:

- brief history of *Acadie* (1604-1755)
- the *grand dérangement* (1755-1760s) the story of “Evangeline” (epic poem by Henry Wadworth Longfellow)
- Acadian Food
- Acadian Music
- Acadian painting and artists (e.g. Nelson Surette, Claude Picard)
- Acadian French language

Have students do some simple research on the Internet, and check their information for accuracy. For presentations, encourage them to make posters and to use appropriate visual aids. For reports, students may present their report to the class, and/or you may display their reports on bulletin boards, classroom walls, etc.

V. Links to selected online resources

These are a just a few sites; an Internet search will yield many more.

Acadian Culture links (food, art, music, etc.)

[www.acadiancultural.org/culture.html]

The Story of “Evangeline”

[www.louisianacajun.com/evangeline.asp]

[www.francoiseparadis.com]

[<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangeline>]

Acadian Music

[www.grandderangement.com]

[www.blou.ca]

Le Grand Dérangement

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Expulsion]

Acadian Art

[www.chezsurette.com]

Acadian Language

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acadian_French]

These activities were created by Joseph Price of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He invites questions and inquiries at [joeprice@uiuc.edu]. If you have ideas for other classroom activities on «La Francophonie et les États-Unis» please contact Randa Duvick at [Randa.Duvick@valpo.edu].

Answers to *ACTIVITÉ* sheet:

A. 2; B. 3; C. 3; 4. 1-e; 2-g; 3-k; 4-j; 5-h; 6-a; 7-i; 8-b; 9-f; 10-c; 11-d.

ACTIVITÉ: L'ORIGINE DES «CADIENS»

A. Avant d'arriver en Louisiane, les résidents de la Louisiane (les Cadiens) habitaient ...

1. au Mexique 2. au Canada 3. en France 4. en Virginie

B. Trouvez l'origine du mot «Cadien»:

1. Le mot français «cage».
2. Le mot amérindien pour le territoire de Louisiane, «Ka-jin».
3. Le mot «Acadien».
4. La ville Cageonne en France, d'où beaucoup des Cadiens sont venus.

C. Comment les «Cadiens» sont-ils arrivés en Louisiane?

1. Ils sont venus à cause des conditions en France.
2. Ils sont venus à cause des problèmes agricoles et économiques.
3. Ils sont venues parce qu'ils étaient déportés.

D. Trouvez les bonnes dates et les événements qui correspondent:

1. _____1524 a. Le traité d'Utrecht: Les Anglais prennent l'Acadie des Français. Les Acadiens sont permis de garder leurs terres et de vivre comme avant, mais ils refusent de prêter fidélité au roi d'Angleterre.
2. _____1604 b. Les Français perdent toute la Nouvelle-France aux Anglais—Le Québec devient possession anglaise.
3. _____1607 c. Un représentant de la Reine Elizabeth II d'Angleterre reconnaît le «Grand Dérangement» mais les Acadiens voulaient une admission de responsabilité de la Reine elle-même.
4. _____1608 d. On fête 400 ans de présence francophone (acadienne) en Amérique du Nord!
5. _____1620 e. L'explorateur Verrazano découvre la région et la nomme «Arcadie».
6. _____1713 f. Les Acadiens commencent à arriver en Louisiane.
7. _____1755 g. Les Acadiens fondent leur première colonie, Île Sainte-Croix, dans le Maine d'aujourd'hui. A cause des conditions difficiles, ils abandonnent l'île et fondent une nouvelle colonie en Nouvelle-Écosse l'année suivante.
8. _____1759 h. L'arrivée des *Pilgrims* anglais sur le *Mayflower*.
9. _____1764 i. Le «Grand Dérangement»: Les Acadiens sont expulsés par les Anglais dans les colonies américaines, en Angleterre, en France, aux Caraïbes... Beaucoup de familles sont séparées, beaucoup d'individus meurent.
10. _____2003 j. Samuel de Champlain fonde la ville de Québec
11. _____2004 k. Les Anglais fondent leur première colonie, Jamestown en Virginie.