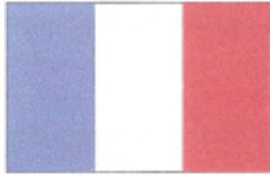


## **America's French Heritage**

### **Marcel LaVergne Ed.D.**



When I was an active French teacher, I knew that there were American cities that had French names such as Detroit, Butte, Montpelier, Pierre, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Saint Louis, Fayetteville, and a few others, but I really never did anything with that information other than to mention it. As I became a part-time university professor of Foreign Language Methodology and a leader of summer workshops for L2 teachers I discovered that I was not alone, as the following will attest.

In June 2007, I was invited to join the staff of a French Immersion Summer Institute sponsored by NCLRC in conjunction with The French Embassy, Georgetown University, and George Washington University. Later in July 2007, I conducted a weeklong summer institute on integrating culture in the foreign language for L2 teachers in my home state of Massachusetts.

In both of those workshops, the teachers participated in a Cooperative Learning Activity called The Human Treasure Hunt in which they had to find someone in the class who could name 10 American cities with French names. The June workshop consisted of L2 teachers of French and the July workshop of L2 teachers of French and Spanish. In both cases, it was difficult to complete that assignment.

That activity was one that I have always included in my Foreign Language Methods courses at Tufts University, Boston University, and Framingham State College. The results have never changed. The vast majority of my students in those situations were Americans who like so many of our own students do not seem to know very much about France's involvement in the development of our nation.

That topic is so relevant today especially in light of the hostile political environment that we are experiencing brought about by the differences of opinion between the United States and France vis-à-vis the Iraq war. In spite of this disagreement, I believe fundamentally that the long bond of friendship still exists between us. The problem lies in the fact that so many of us have forgotten our history and the important role that France played in our struggle for independence. This article is intended to refresh our memories by looking at the American cities, towns, and counties that have French names and to give the reasons why.

### **The Era of the French Explorers**

In its desire to expand its empire in the New World, France sent a number of explorers across the ocean beginning with Jacques Cartier (1534-1536) and ending with Antoine Laumet dit Lamothe Cadillac (1694-1701) ([www.medarus.org](http://www.medarus.org)). For approximately 100 years, some 14 explorers led expeditions along the northern wilds of our new land in hopes of discovering a northwest passage to China. Although they

did not succeed, they did discover the passage west from Quebec to the Great Lakes and south from there to the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Mississippi River. They also established settlements and forts along the way to which they gave French names. Although many of the original French names have disappeared and have been replaced by English ones, I have discovered with the help of [www.epodunk.com](http://www.epodunk.com) and [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) that some 600 American cities, towns, and counties still have French names.

### ***Cities and Towns Named in Honor of Explorers and Early Settlers***

**Fremont**, California, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire: John C. Fremont assisted Joseph Nicollet in exploring the land between the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers in 1838-39. He later served as U.S. Senator from California.

**Boise**, Idaho: Upon seeing this site, a French guide with the Lewis and Clark expedition shouted "Les bois! Les bois!"

**Bonneville**, Idaho, Wyoming: Benjamin Louis Eulalie de Bonneville, a French-born officer in the U.S. army and an explorer of the American West

**Bourbonnais**, Illinois: Francois Bourbonnais, fur trapper

**Bureau**, Illinois: Pierre de Beuro, established a trading post

**Du Quoin**, Illinois: Jean-Baptiste Du Quoin, son of a French man and an Indian woman, became chief of the Tamaroas in 1762

**Joliet**, Illinois, Montana, Nebraska: Louis Joliet, French Canadian, found and explored the Mississippi River in 1673

**La Harpe**, Illinois, Kansas: Bernard de La Harpe, French explorer

**La Salle**, Illinois, Minnesota: Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle, explored the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, claimed the Louisiana Territory for France in 1681-82

**Wilmette**, Illinois: Antoine Ouilmette whose Indian wife was granted land there

**Dubois**, Indiana: Toussaint Dubois, Frenchman who fought in the Revolutionary War

**Marquette**, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Wisconsin: Father Jacques Marquette, with Louis Joliet, found and explored the Mississippi River in 1673

**Dubuque**, Iowa: Julien Dubuque, French miner, early settler and founder of the city in 1786

**Belleville**, Kansas: named for Arabelle Tutton, wife of founder



Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle



Antoine de la Mothe de Cadillac

**Frontenac**, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri: Louis de Buade de Frontenac, governor of New France in the late 1600s

**Labette**, Kansas: Pierre Labette, settler

**Abbeville**, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina: Abbe A.D. Megret or for his hometown in France

**Bienville**, Louisiana: Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, explored Louisiana

**Iberville**, Louisiana: Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, in 1699 discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River, built forts at the present sites of Biloxi, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama, and founded the colony of French Louisiana

**Cadillac**, Michigan: Antoine de la Mothe de Cadillac, French explorer and soldier, founded Detroit in 1701 and was governor of the Louisiana Territory from 1710 to 1717

**Pere Marquette**, Michigan: Father Jacques Marquette, with Louis Joliet, found and explored the Mississippi River in 1673

**Le Sueur**, Minnesota, South Dakota: Pierre Le Sueur, French explorer

**Baudette**, Minnesota: Joseph Baudette, trapper

**Nicollet**, Minnesota: Jean Nicollet, explored the Great Lakes area, Wisconsin, Illinois in 1634

**Duluth**, Minnesota: Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Lhut, French soldier and explorer

**Faribault**, Minnesota: Alexander Faribault, settler

**Louisiane**, Missouri: Louisiana Basye, daughter of a local settler

**Cape Girardeau**, Missouri: named for an early trader

**Labadie**, Missouri: Sylvester L' Abbadie, who died in a cave while hunting

**D'Iberville**, Mississippi: Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, in 1699 discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River, built forts at the present sites of Biloxi, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama, and founded the colony of French Louisiana

**Dumas**, Mississippi: Jackson Deberry Dumas, settler

**Champlain**, New York: Samuel de Champlain, French explorer discovered Lake Champlain named after him, also charted the eastern coast of the United States from Nova Scotia to Cape Cod to Rhode Island

**Gouverneur**, New York: Gouverneur Morris, minister to France

**Beaufort**, North Carolina: Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort

**Marion**, North Carolina: General Francis Marion, Revolutionary War hero

**Lenoir**, North Carolina: General William Lenoir, Revolutionary War hero

**Isle La Motte**, Vermont: Captain De La Motte established a fort on the island in 1666

**Vergennes**, Vermont: Count Vergennes, French foreign minister who supported the colonies during the Revolutionary War

**Allouez**, Wisconsin: Father Claude Jean Allouez, French Jesuit missionary and explorer

**Radisson**, Wisconsin: Pierre Esprit Radisson, French explorer and fur trapper

**Gillett**, Wisconsin: Rodney Gillet, settler

**La Pointe**, Wisconsin: named for daughter of Ojibwa chief

**Bordeaux**, Wyoming: James Bordeaux, settler

**Fontenelle**, Wyoming: Lucien Fontenelle, fur trader

**Vincennes**, Illinois: Francois-Marie Bissot, Sieur de Vincennes, French-Canadian explorer

### ***Counties Named in Honor of Explorers and Early Settlers***

**Colbert**, Alabama: French trader George Colbert who in 1790 operated a ferry across the Tennessee River

**Marion**, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia: General Francis Marion, Revolutionary War hero

**Fremont**, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Wyoming: John C. Fremont assisted Joseph Nicollet in exploring the land between the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers in 1838-39. He later served as U.S. Senator from California.

**Bureau**, Colorado: Pierre de Beuro, established a trading post

**Du Page**, Illinois: Du Page, a French trader who settled on the banks of the river named after him

**La Salle**, Illinois, Texas: Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, explored the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, claimed the Louisiana Territory for France in 1681-82

**Piatt**, Illinois: James A. Piatt, settler

**Dubois**, Indiana: Toussaint Dubois, Frenchman who fought in the Revolutionary War

**Dubuque**, Iowa: Julien Dubuque, French miner, early settler and founder of the city in 1786

**LaRue**, Kentucky: John LaRue, settler

**Bienville**, Louisiana: Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, explored Louisiana

**Iberville**, Louisiana: Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, in 1699 discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River, built forts at the present sites of Biloxi, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama, and founded the colony of French Louisiana

**LaSalle**, Louisiana: Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, explored the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, claimed the Louisiana Territory for France in 1681-82

**Charlevoix**, Michigan: Pierre F.X. Charlevoix, Jesuit explorer

**Marquette**, Michigan, Wisconsin: Father Jacques Marquette, with Louis Joliet, found and explored the Mississippi River in 1673

**Montcalm**, Michigan: Marquis de Montcalm, French general who fought the British at the Plains of Abraham in Quebec

**Faribault**, Minnesota: Jean Baptiste Faribault, trader

**Hennepin**, Minnesota: Louis Hennepin, French missionary and explorer

**Le Sueur**, Minnesota: Pierre Le Sueur, French explorer

**Nicollet**, Minnesota: Jean Nicollet, explored the Great Lakes area, Wisconsin, Illinois in 1634

**Audrain**, Missouri: Samuel Audrain, settler

**Laclede**, Missouri: Pierre Leclède Ligest, founder of St. Louis

**Montour**, Pennsylvania: Madame Montour, prominent Indian woman

**Marinette**, Wisconsin: Marguerite Chevallier, trader know as Queen Marinette

## **LaFayette and the War of Independence**



Marquis de LaFayette



Fayetteville, North Carolina

In 1777, at the age of 19, Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de LaFayette left France against the wishes of King Louis XVI and landed near Charleston, SC because he believed strongly in the colonists' rebellion against the British monarchy. He volunteered his services to the Continental Congress and became a very close friend to George Washington who later became the godfather of LaFayette's son whom he named George Washington LaFayette. It is fitting that Mt Washington and Mt. Lafayette rise next to each other in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

In recognition of his invaluable contribution during the four years that he fought alongside our troops, he and all of his descendants were granted Honorary Citizenship of the United States in 1824 and then again in 2002. Perhaps more than any other foreign national, his name has been immortalized throughout our nation.

There are 23 cities and towns, 6 counties, 1 mountain, and 1 square named LaFayette; 12 cities and towns, 11 counties, and 1 state park named Fayette; and 10 cities and towns named Fayetteville distributed among 27 states. In addition, 12 states have cities and towns named LaGrange in honor of his country home Chateau LaGrange situated 40 miles from Paris. In 1876 New York City erected a monument to him and there are 6 high schools and 2 colleges named in his honor. ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)).

## **In Tribute to France**

Because of the help that France accorded our young nation and of the high esteem that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin had for that country, some 34 cities and towns have been named in honor of its Kings, cities, regions, and statesmen.

### ***Cities and Towns Named in Honor of French Kings and Emperors***

***Dauphin Island***, Alabama: Louis XIV's great-grandson and heir the Dauphin

***Louisville***, Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, New York: King Louis XVI

***East Saint Louis***, Illinois: King Louis IX

***Le Roy***, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota: old French for the King

***Bourbon***, Indiana, Missouri: the French Royal family

***Louisburg***, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina: King Louis XIV/XVI

***Lake Saint Louis***, Missouri: King Louis IX

***Saint Louis***, Missouri, Oklahoma: King Louis IX

***Bay Saint Louis***, Mississippi: King Louis IX

***Saint Louisville***, Ohio: King Louis IX

***Napoleonville***, Louisiana: named by a French settler who had served under Napoleon

***Napoleon***, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio: Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte

***Saint Cloud***, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin: Napoleon's palace outside of Paris

### ***Counties Named in Honor of French Kings and Emperors***

***Bourbon***, Kansas, Kentucky: named for the French Royal family

***Saint Louis***, Minnesota: King Louis IX

***Saint Louis City***, Missouri: King Louis IX

***Orleans***, New York: French Royal House of Orleans

***Dauphin***, Pennsylvania: eldest son of the King of France, heir to the throne

### ***Cities and Towns Named in Honor of French Cities and Provinces***



***Paris***, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Wisconsin: Paris, France

***New Paris***, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania: Paris, France

Nice, California: Nice, France  
Orleans, California, Indiana, Iowa, New York, Tennessee, Vermont: Orleans, France  
Orlean, Virginia: Orleans, France  
Montpelier, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin: Montpelier, France  
Marseilles, Illinois, Ohio: Marseilles, France  
Rochelle, Illinois: La Rochelle, France  
Versailles, Illinois, Missouri: Versailles, France and its magnificent chateau  
Waterloo, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin: Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, Belgium  
New Orleans, Louisiana: Orleans, France and the Duc d'Orleans  
Provencal, Louisiana: Provence, France  
Calais, Maine, Vermont: Calais, France  
Abbeville, Mississippi, South Carolina: Abbeville, France  
Normandy Beach, New Jersey: World War II landing site in Normandy, France  
Lisle, New York: Lille, France  
New Rochelle, New York: La Rochelle, France  
North Versailles, Pennsylvania: Versailles, France  
South Versailles, Pennsylvania: Versailles, France  
Corsica, Pennsylvania: Corsica, France  
Normandy, Tennessee: Normandy, France  
Orleans, Massachusetts: Louis-Phillippe, duc of Orleans  
La France, South Carolina: France

#### ***Counties Named in Honor of French Cities and Provinces***

Orleans, Louisiana, Vermont: Orleans, France  
Gallia, Ohio: Latin word for France  
Abbeville, South Carolina: Abbeville, France

#### ***Cities and Towns Named in Honor of French Writers, Philosophers, Statesmen, and Patroness***

Paris, Virginia: in honor of the Marquis de LaFayette  
Voltaire, Kansas: Francois Marie Arouet, dit Voltaire, French writer and philosopher  
Sainte Genevieve, Missouri: patroness of Paris, France  
Lamartine, Wisconsin: Alphonse de Lamartine, French poet and political leader  
Orleans, Massachusetts: Louis-Phillippe, duc of Orleans  
Normandy Park, Washington: for the French Normandy architecture chosen by developers

#### ***Counties Named in Honor of French Writers, Philosophers, Statesmen, and Patroness***

Sainte Genevieve, Missouri: patroness of Paris, France



Alphonse de Lamartine



Voltaire

## **Influence of the French Language**

As the explorers and settlers founded settlements and towns, they gave them French names. The following are some that have persisted to this day.

### ***Beau/Belle/Bel***

Belleville, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

Belville, North Carolina, Ohio

Belmont, California, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Belmont County, Ohio

Bellefont, Pennsylvania

Beaumont, Kansas, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia

Bellvue, Colorado

Bellevue, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington

Belvue, Kansas

Bellefonte, Delaware

Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri

Bellefontaine, Ohio

La Belle, Florida, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Dakota

Belle, Missouri, Nebraska, West Virginia

Lac La Belle, Wisconsin

Belle Isle, Florida, Michigan

Belle Plaine, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota

Belleair, Florida

Bel Aire, Kansas

Bel Air, Maryland

Belair, Louisiana

Bellaire, Michigan, Pennsylvania

Bellerose, Louisiana, New York

Belle Chasse, Louisiana

Beaugrand, Michigan

Beaufort, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina

Beaufort County, South Carolina

Beauford, Minnesota

Beaulieu, Minnesota, North Dakota

Belpre, Kansas

Bellerive, Missouri

Beauregard, Mississippi  
Belle Prairie, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota  
Belle Terre, New York  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota  
Beaux Arts Village, Washington

### ***Mont***

Piedmont, Alabama, Florida, California, Missouri, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, West Virginia  
Belmont, California, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin  
Belmont County, Ohio  
Bellefont, Pennsylvania  
Montpelier, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin  
Clermont, Indiana, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania  
Beaumont, Kansas, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia  
Montville, Maine  
Dumont, Minnesota  
Rougemont, North Carolina  
Mont, North Dakota  
Montfort, Wisconsin  
Vermont, Illinois

### ***French*** (where French settlers or immigrants lived)

French Camp, California, Mississippi  
French Lick, Indiana  
French Settlement, Louisiana  
Frenchville, Maine  
Frenchtown, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey  
French, Minnesota  
French Lake, Minnesota  
French Creek, New York, Pennsylvania  
Frenchcreek, Pennsylvania  
Francitas, Texas

### ***Miscellaneous Cities, Towns, and Counties***

Alabama: Bon Secour  
Arkansas: Des Arc, Prairie County  
California: Butte City, La Vern, Butte County  
Colorado: Laporte  
Georgia: Bonaire  
Idaho: Coeur d' Alene, Culatesac, Dubois, Boise County  
Illinois: Creve Coeur, Des Plaines, Prairie du Rocher  
Indiana: La Crosse, La Porte, Portage, Terre Haute, La Porte County  
Iowa: Le Claire, Le Grand, La Crosse, La Cygne, Des Moines County, Sac County  
Louisiana: Baton Rouge, Laplace, Larose, Lecompte, Bourg, Maringuoin, Mer Rouge, Metairie, Chataigner, Chef Menteur, Des Allemands, Dulac, Pierre Part, Pointe a la Hache, Grand Coteau, Grand Isle, Vacherie,



Vieux Carre, Ville Platte, East Baton Rouge Parish, West Baton Rouge Parish, Plaquemines Parish, Pointe Coupee Parish, Terrebonne Parish, Lafourche Parish  
Maine: Caribou, Presque Isle, Detroit, Grand Isle, Isle au haut  
Maryland: Havre de Grace  
Michigan: L'Anse, Lamotte, Au Gres, Au Sable, Au Train, Bois Blanc, Bois Blanc Island, De Tout Village, Pointe aux Barques, Detroit, Prairie Ronde, Presque Isle, Eau Claire, Grosse Isle, Grosse Pointe, Presque Isle County  
Minnesota: Laporte, Des Moines, Detroit, Pomme de Terre River, Reine, Grand Marais, Terrebonne, Isle, La Crosse, La Garde, La Prairie, Lac qui parle, Lac qui parle County, Mille Lacs County  
Missouri: Bonne Terre, Creve Coeur, Des Arc, Duquesne, Portage des Sioux, Portageville, La Tour, Saint Francois County  
Mississippi: Benoit, D'Lo, Lambert, Louise  
Montana: Butte, Froid, Havre, Teton County  
Nebraska: Bayard, Butte, Du Bois, Grand Prairie, Loup, Verdigris  
New Jersey: Delair, Port-au-Peck, Echelon  
New Mexico: Des Moines  
New York: Lisle, Au Sable, Chateaugay, Raquette Lake, Esperance  
North Carolina: Peletier, Sans Souci  
North Dakota: Bordulac, Butte, Des Lacs  
Ohio: Racine  
Oklahoma: Poteau  
Oregon: Coquille, Deschutes, Detroit, La Grande, Deschutes County, Malheur County  
Pennsylvania: Eau Claire, La Plume, Lemoyne, Centre County  
South Carolina: Eau Claire, Sans Souci  
South Dakota: Delapre, La Prairie, La Roche, Bon Homme County, Brule County, Butte County  
Tennessee: LaVergne  
Texas: La Rue, Detroit, Grande Prairie, Grand Saline, La Marque, La Porte  
Utah: Duchesne, Fort Duchesne, Duchesne County  
Vermont: Grand Isle, Grand Isle County  
Virginia: Bon Air, Sabot, La Crosse  
Washington: Des Moines, La Crosse, La Grande, Pend Oreille County  
West Virginia: Lesage, Ronceverte  
Wisconsin: Calumet, Prairie du Chien, Prairie du Sac, Presque Isle, Racine, Eau Claire, Eau Galle, Eau Pleine, Flambeau, Fond du lac, Grand Chute, La Crosse, La Pointe, La Prairie, La Valle, Lac du Flambeau, Saint Croix, Eau Clair County, Fond du lac County, La Crosse County, Racine County, Trempealeau County  
Wyoming: La Barge, Teton County

### ***Cities and Towns Named in Honor of Americans of French Descent***

Dupont, Colorado, Washington, Wisconsin: E. I. Dupont de Nemour, industrialist  
Audubon, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania: John J. Audubon, naturalist  
Dubois, Idaho: U.S. Senator Fred Dubois of French Canadian descent  
Le Claire, Iowa: Antoine Le Claire, benefactor, first white settler of Iowa  
Le Grand, Iowa: Le Grand Byington, politician  
Gautier, Mississippi: Fernando Upton Gautier, sawmill owner  
Pioche, Nevada: Francois Louis Alfred Pioche, French-born financier  
Freneau, New Jersey: Philip Freneau, Revolutionary War poet and journalist  
La Fargeville, New York: John Frederick La Farge, French Naval officer and landowner  
Pierre, South Dakota: Pierre Chouteau Jr. of the American Fur Company

## *Counties Named in Honor of Americans of French Descent*

Brevard, Florida: Dr. Theodore Brevard, author of North Carolina Declaration of Independence, French Huguenot ancestry

Duval, Florida: Governor William DuVal, territorial governor 1822-1834

Menard, Illinois: Lt. Gov. Pierre Menard, Canadian born, French Creole ancestry

Fountain, Indiana: James Fontaine, Revolutionary War army officer who died in the Battle of Maurnie

Jay, Indiana: John Jay, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, French Huguenot ancestry

Audubon, Iowa: John J. Audubon, naturalist

Beauregard, Louisiana: Pierre G.T. Beauregard, Confederate General, prominent Louisiana family

Bossier, Louisiana: Pierre J.B. Bossier, early settler and congressman

Lenoir, North Carolina: William Lenoir, Revolutionary War hero of Kings Mountain

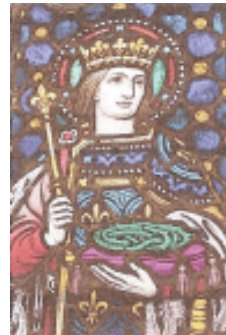
Menard, Texas: Michel Branamour Menard, French Canadian born, founded Galveston

## **Conclusion**

The Foreign Language National Standards encourage all foreign language teachers to expand their curriculum by including the Cultures, Connections, and Communities Strands in their lesson plans. The underlying message to all of us is to go beyond the usual vocabulary and grammar dichotomy by looking at those two as they occur in history and geography, in math and science, in art and music. It is hoped that this article will be helpful in encouraging French teachers to create activities for their own students to aid them in having a better understanding of the longstanding friendship that has existed between the United States and France.



John J. Audubon



King Louis IX

Teachers of other languages can undertake a similar study themselves or can assign research projects for their own students to discover how many cities, towns, counties, and states have a Spanish, or German, or Italian (etc.) name. By so doing, the students will learn how much our country owes to the many explorers, early settlers, and immigrants that have contributed to the greatness of the United States.