

INTRODUCTION TO VERMILIONVILLE

The teacher will explain what Vermilionville is and why the students are going there.

- Vermilionville – a replica of an early village of Cajun and Creole heritage.
- <http://www.vermilionville.org/vermilionville/explore/homes.html>

The teacher will give a very general definition of Acadian, Creole, and Native American.

- Acadian – French-speaking Catholic colonists who settled, beginning in 1632, the French colony of *Acadie* founded in 1604. They became English subjects with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 and remained so until English authorities forcibly displaced them from what is today Nova Scotia between 1749 and 1763. The largest *déportation* of Acadians, *Le Grand Dérangement*, happened in 1755. They were scattered across North America, England and France. Many eventually found their way to south Louisiana between 1765 and 1785. Many of their descendants are now known as Cajuns.
- Creole – first used to refer to those who were born in the Louisiana colony. Later, referred exclusively to people of wholly European descent. Today, Creole refers to descendants of colonial settlers in LA, mainly free people of color which includes slaves and descendants of slaves. In New Orleans, anything Creole is considered of higher quality (creole tomatoes, creole horses).
- Native American – refers to the Native people that have been established in the Americas for approximately 12,000 years. A few tribes that inhabited colonial Louisiana in the 1700s were the Atakapa, the Caddo, the Chitimacha, the Houma, the Natchez, and the Tunica. Today, there are fourteen federally and state recognized tribes in Louisiana. In addition to that, there is a number of smaller tribes such as the Avogel tribe in Avoyelles Parish who now number approximately 300. One of our guides, here at Vermilionville, was the Chief of the Avogel tribe until summer of 2013, and we refer to him as Old Chief John Mayeux (past Chiefs do not lose their status even when they pass it to somebody else). Native Americans traded with Acadians such as flint, cattle, and horses.

Students will view pictures that depict the three cultures of Vermilionville, which are Cajun, Creole, and Native American (attached PowerPoint).