

Louisiana Purchase



Background Information

- ↘ In 1763, at the end of the French and Indian wars, France **lost all of its possessions** in North America removing hopes of a colonial empire.
- ↘ In 1801, Spain **signed a secret treaty** with France to return Louisiana Territory to France.
- ↘ Since the late 1780s, Americans had been **moving westward** into the Ohio River and Tennessee River valleys, and they were highly dependent on **free access** to the Mississippi River and the **strategic port** of New Orleans.
- ↘ U.S. officials feared that France, under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte, would soon **seek to dominate** the Mississippi River and access to the Gulf of Mexico.

Negotiations

- ↘ 1802 - Spanish authorities revoked a U.S.-Spanish treaty that granted Americans the right to store goods in New Orleans.
- ↘ 1803 - Jefferson sent James Monroe to Paris to aid Livingston in the New Orleans purchase talks.
- ↘ France offers Louisiana for sale to the United States.



WHY?

the failure to put down a slave revolution in Haiti
the impending war with Great Britain
probable British naval blockade of France
financial difficulties

Result

- ↘ The treaty was dated April 30 and signed on May 2.
- ↘ US agreed to pay **\$11,250,000** and assume claims of American citizens against France in the amount of **\$3,750,000**.
- ↘ In exchange, the United States acquired the **vast domain of Louisiana Territory**, some 828,000 square miles of land.

Aftermath

- ↘ The **acquisition of the Louisiana Territory** for the bargain price of less than three cents an acre was among Jefferson's **most notable achievements** as president.
- ↘ **American expansion westward** into the new lands began immediately, and in 1804 a territorial government was established.
- ↘ On April 30, 1812, exactly nine years after the Louisiana Purchase agreement was made, the first state to be carved from the territory—Louisiana—was admitted into the Union as the **18th U.S. state**.