

TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES AND THE LOUISIANA DIGITAL LIBRARY

## Louisiana Gumbo Lesson Resource

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### GOVERNOR ROMAN'S 1833 "STATE OF THE STATE" ADDRESS

**Subject** Louisiana/American History  
**Grades** 7, 8  
**Time** 1 50-minute period

#### Overview

Students examine Governor Andre Bienvenu Roman's 1833 message to the Louisiana Congress to determine the major issues that faced the state and how national events shaped events in the state.

#### Objectives:

Students will

- Use reading comprehension skills and available technology to locate, select, and synthesize information from digital images to acquire and communicate knowledge about events, ideas, and issues related to history.
- Demonstrate historical perspective by participating in a class discussion of events that shaped American and Louisiana history.

#### Content Standards:

- **History: Time, Continuity, and Change**  
Students develop a sense of historical time and historical perspective as they study the history of their community, state, nation, and world.

#### Benchmarks:

- **H-1A-H3** interpreting and evaluating the historical evidence presented in primary and secondary sources;

#### Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs):

- **Historical Thinking Skills**

9<sup>~</sup> U.S. History: Evaluate and use multiple primary or secondary materials to interpret historical facts, ideas, or issues (H-1A-M3)

#### Materials:

[Governor Andre Bienvenu Roman's message to the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate in 1833](#)

## Historical Background

Andre Bienvenu Roman was Governor of Louisiana from 1831-1835 and 1839-1843. This address was presented to a joint session of the Louisiana Congress on January 9, 1833.

Topics include: state finances, recent cholera outbreak, public education, establishing colleges, the poor state of Louisiana's militias, banks, rivers, the recently hired state civil engineer, future public works projects, jails, construction of roads and levees, sales of public lands, lotteries and the current state of Louisiana's agriculture.

## Lesson Procedure

Set the stage for the lesson by explaining that the decade of the 1830s was a critical time for the young state of Louisiana. Students will read Governor Andre Bienvenu Roman's January 9, 1833 "state of the state" message to a joint session of the Louisiana Congress on January 9, 1833 to identify major issues and problems that faced the citizens and government. Critical Thinking: Students will compare and contrast issues of the 1830s with contemporary political issues and concerns.

1. Divide students into groups of 3-4 students.
2. Assign a topic to each group
  - state finances
  - recent cholera outbreak
  - public education and colleges
  - Louisiana's militias
  - banks and rivers
  - future public works projects,
  - construction of roads and levees
  - lotteries and the current state of
  - Louisiana agriculture.
3. Distribute copies of the 1833 *State of the State* Worksheet and Browsing Guide.
4. Ask students to read Governor Roman's address and search for information related to their topic and record significant information on the worksheet. Each group will prepare a news commentary summarizing Governor Roan's remarks related to their topic.
5. Class activity: Eye on Louisiana News Panel. Ask each group to select one representative to serve on an Eye on Louisiana News Panel which will summarize the messages contained in Governor Roman's address. Encourage students to comment on which population groups which were impacted by various segments of the Governor's address and how those groups were affected.

## Assessment

- Essay Rubric
- Oral Presentation Rubric

**Accommodations/Modifications:**

- Cooperative grouping
- Debriefing provides systematic feedback

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Governor Andre Bienvenu Roman's 1833 Message to Congress  
**State of the State Worksheet and Browsing Guide**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Topic \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions**

1. Open the following digital document  
[Governor Andre Bienvenu Roman's message to the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate in 1833](#)
2. As you read, record facts about your assigned topic and any questions you may have concerning Governor Roman's comments.

Facts	Questions	Notes