



GRADE 1 LOUISIANA SOCIAL STUDIES

Living and Working in Louisiana



Fishing



Sugar cane



Harvesting sweet potatoes

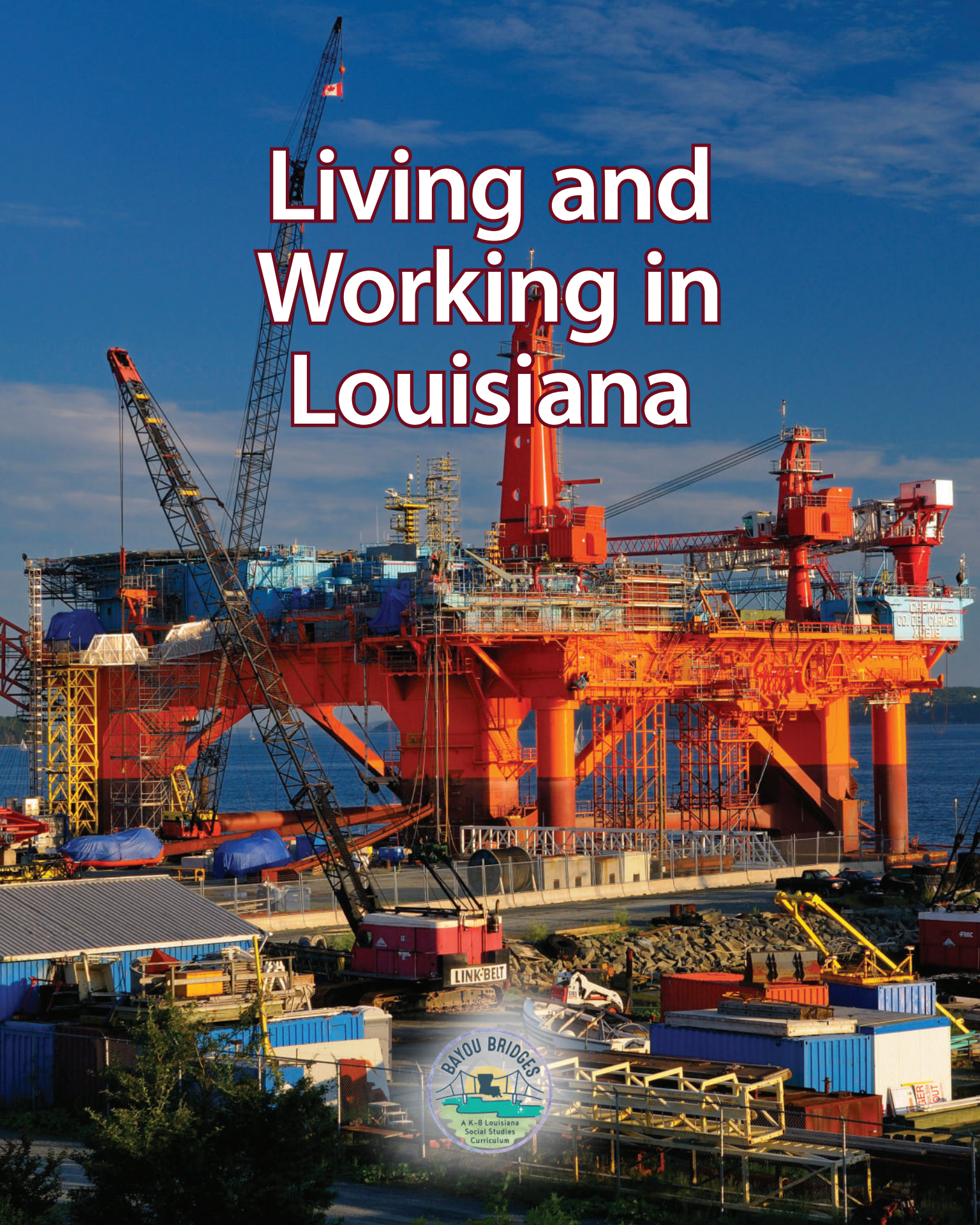


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Living and Working in Louisiana



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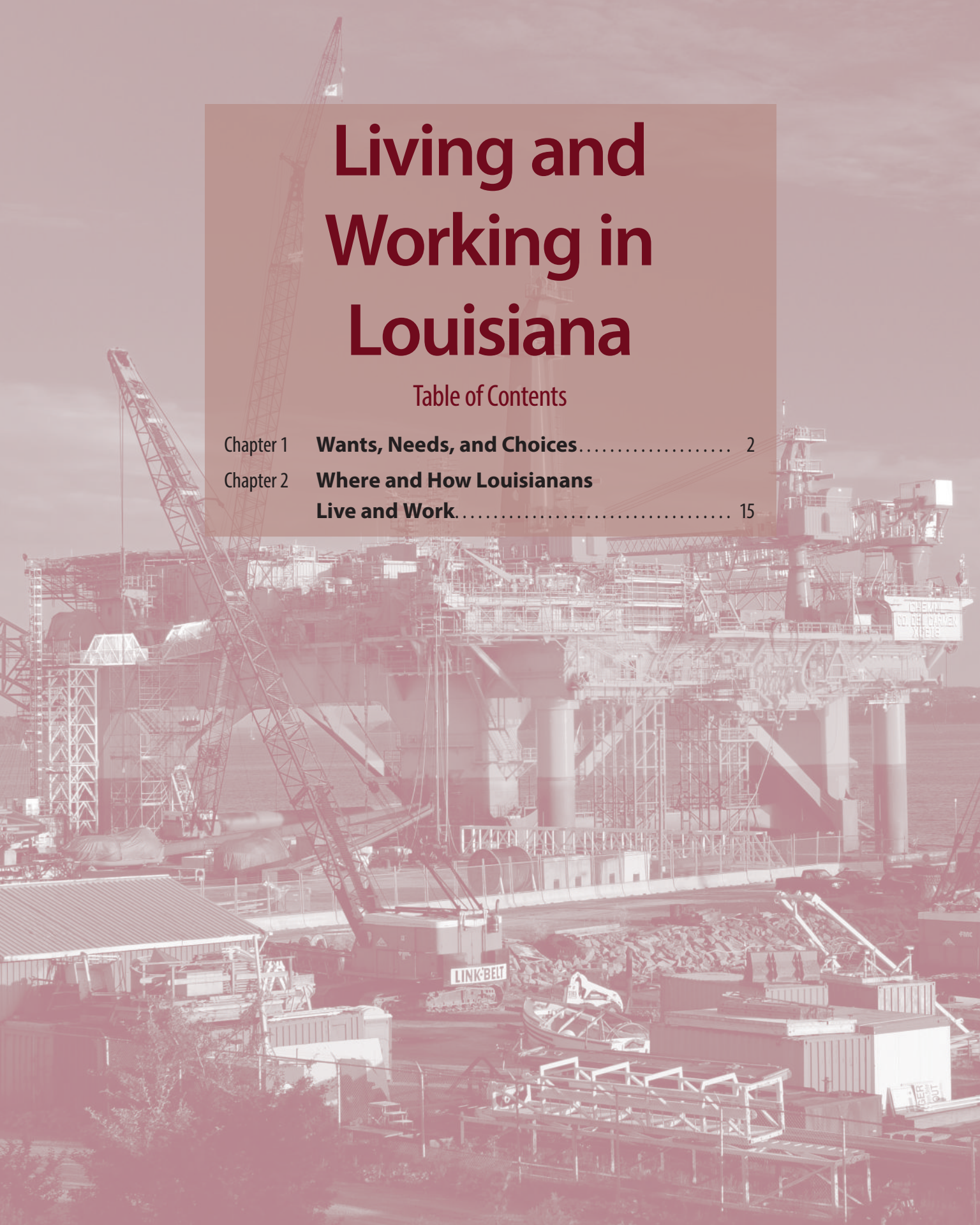
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Living and Working in Louisiana

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Wants, Needs, and Choices

In neighborhoods all over the world, people share and trade things. We call this an economy. An economy includes all the ways people give and get goods and services.



Goods are things people can buy like clothes, toys, food, or books. Some goods you can touch, like clothes. But there are other goods that you cannot touch, like movies, music, and television shows. Services are tasks that people do to help each other. For example, your teacher provides a service each day by helping you learn.



Sometimes, we buy goods or services for things we need to live. We call these needs. Needs are things like food, clothes, and a place to live. Everyone needs these things to live safely.



But sometimes, we buy goods or services for things we want. Wants include things that are nice to have, but we don't need them to survive. A new toy could be a want. Services like pizza delivery can also be a want.

It's good for the economy when people can buy what they need and what they want. When people buy things, they are supporting businesses.



There are two main roles in an economy. One role is that of a producer. A producer makes things. The other role is a consumer. A consumer buys things. Most people are both a producer and a consumer at different times. Think of a farmer. A farmer who grows food is a producer. But when the farmer buys seeds to plant the food, they are a consumer.



A producer must make a lot of choices. If a producer wants to make shoes, they could make tennis shoes or maybe rain boots. Then they choose how to make those shoes.



Will they use a big machine in a factory? Or will they use their hands? What will they use to make the shoes? And how much money should they ask for if they want to sell the shoes?

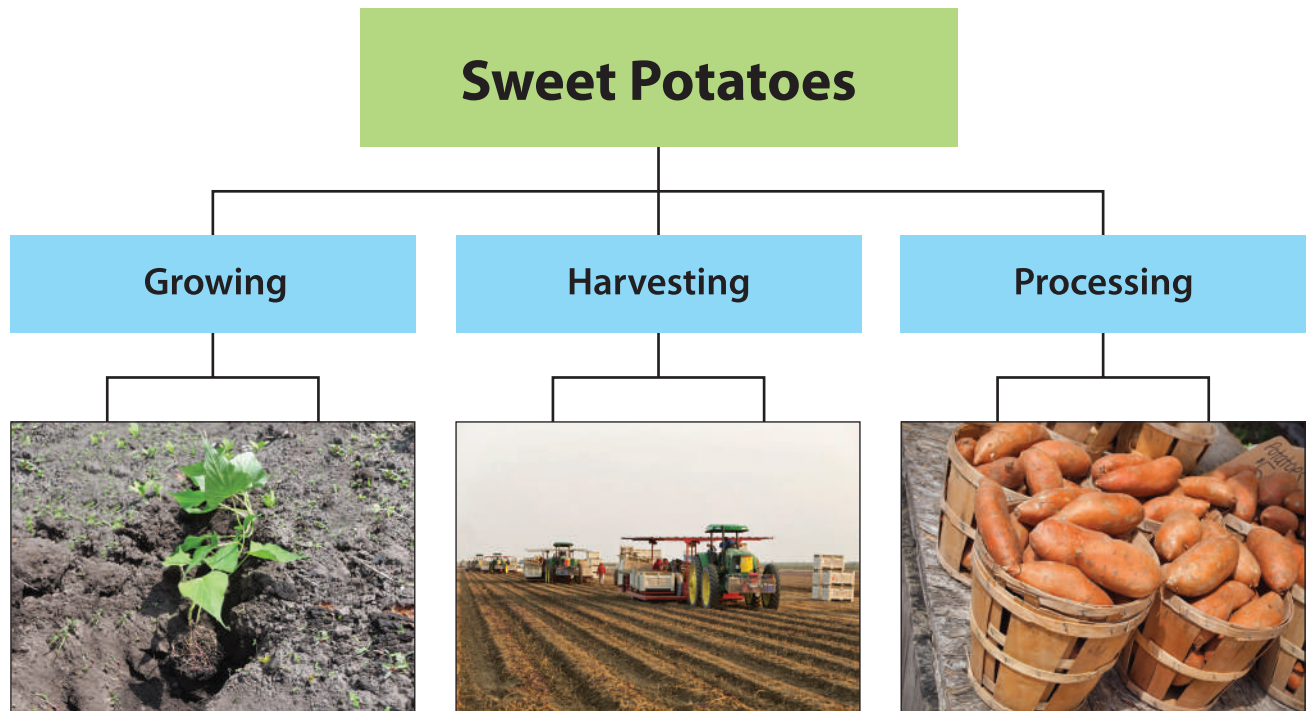
Let's look at an example of how producers work together. Louisiana weather and soil are perfect for growing sweet potatoes. Louisiana produces a lot of sweet potatoes.



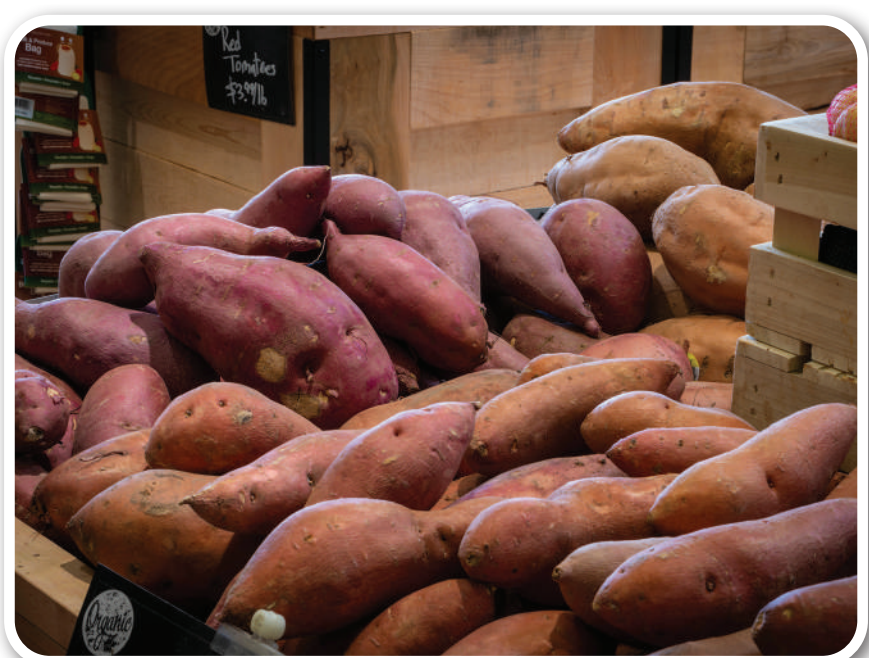
Sweet potato plants need bees to grow. The bees pollinate the flowers on the plants. Beekeepers help keep beehives healthy. Beekeepers and the bees are the helpers that make the sweet potatoes grow. The bees also make honey!



When the sweet potatoes are ready, workers collect them. Sometimes the workers collect them by using machines. These machines and people are also helpers in producing sweet potatoes.



After they are stored, the sweet potatoes are shipped to grocery stores. Maybe your family even eats Louisiana sweet potatoes.



Producers and consumers use money. Money helps to make trade easier. Right now, you might get an allowance for doing chores at home. That makes you a part of our world's economy!



Consumers also must make choices. They decide how and where to spend their money. Most consumers have budgets. A budget is a plan for how a person will use their money. One way to plan a budget is to think about all the things you need. Then you plan what to spend on each thing.



Information can help us make choices about what to buy. Imagine you want to buy a new video game. If your friend has the video game, you might ask them about it. Or you might look online to see what other people have to say about it. This information can help you make the right choice about whether to buy the game!



Sometimes when you choose to buy one thing, it means you can't buy something else. For example, you might spend your allowance on a game. But that means you can't spend it on candy.



Something else that affects buying choices is called scarcity. Scarcity happens when there's not enough of something for everyone who wants it. For example, you might want to buy a popular toy. If not enough toys are produced for everyone who wants one, that toy is scarce. When a good or service is scarce, it will usually cost more.



Where and How Louisianans Live and Work

In Louisiana, people work many kinds of jobs. Some work in public jobs, like firefighters. Firefighters provide services that keep our communities safe from fires. They also help when there are emergencies.



Others work in the private sector. Private companies work for profit. These companies are run by their owners, not government. For example, people that work in banks help customers make decisions about how to use and save their money.





The different goods bought and sold in Louisiana create ways for people to have jobs. For example, carpenters use wood from Louisiana to make furniture and buildings. At paper mills, people use wood to make paper.

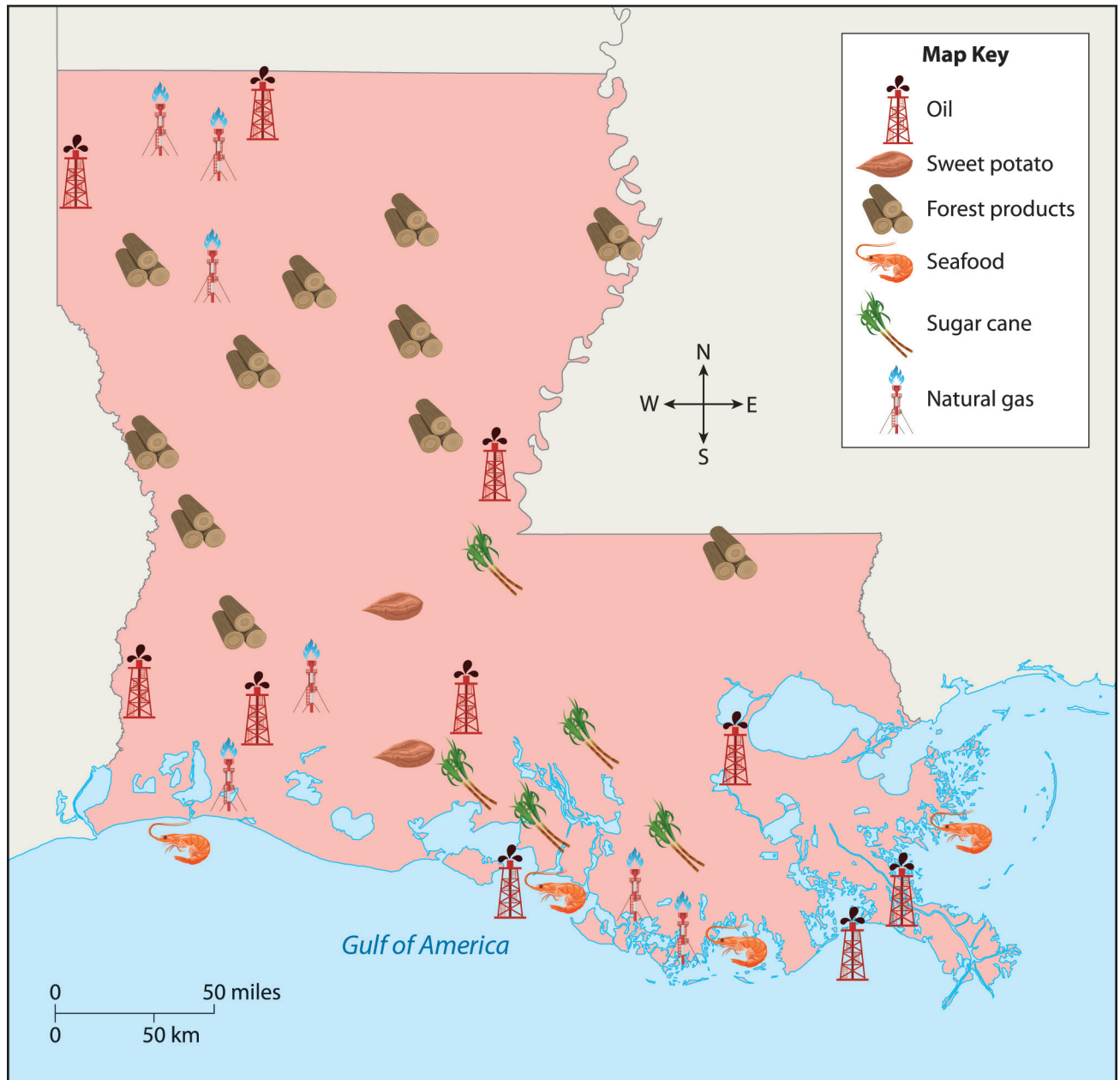


Louisiana has many natural resources. These are things found in nature. They are not made by people. Seafood, trees, produce such as sweet potatoes and sugar cane, and oil are all found in Louisiana.



Let's look at this map of Louisiana. It shows places where natural resources are found.

Louisiana's Natural Resources



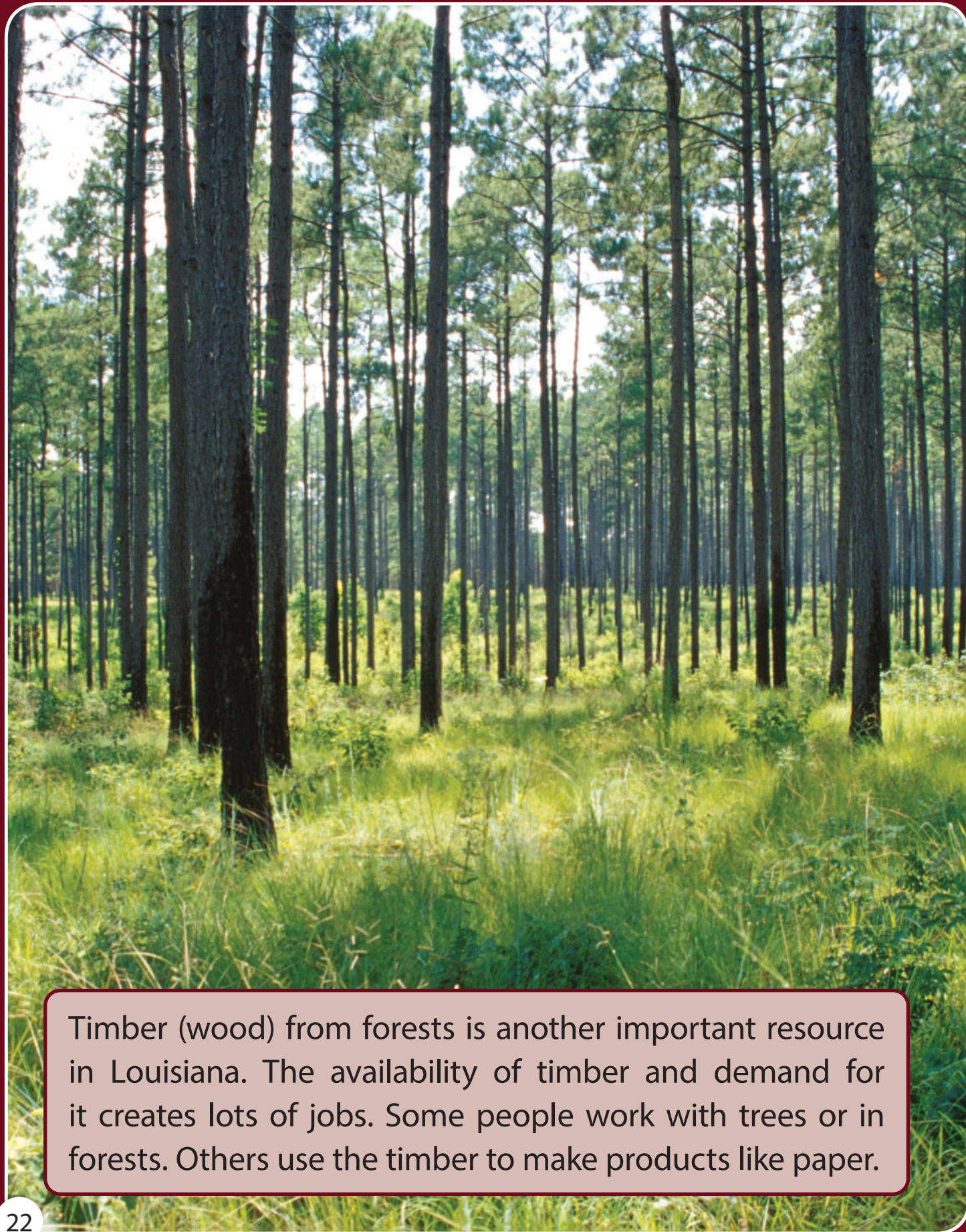
Which natural resources are found near the coast? Which natural resources are found farther inland? Is there a natural resource that is found near the coast and in other places?

Natural resources help give people jobs too. As you have learned, Louisiana is known for seafood found in its many bodies of water. This creates jobs for people who catch and sell seafood.



Louisiana also has a lot of oil. Many people work on oil rigs. They drill for and process oil. This oil can then be used to make different goods, like gas for cars. It can also be used to heat homes.





Timber (wood) from forests is another important resource in Louisiana. The availability of timber and demand for it creates lots of jobs. Some people work with trees or in forests. Others use the timber to make products like paper.

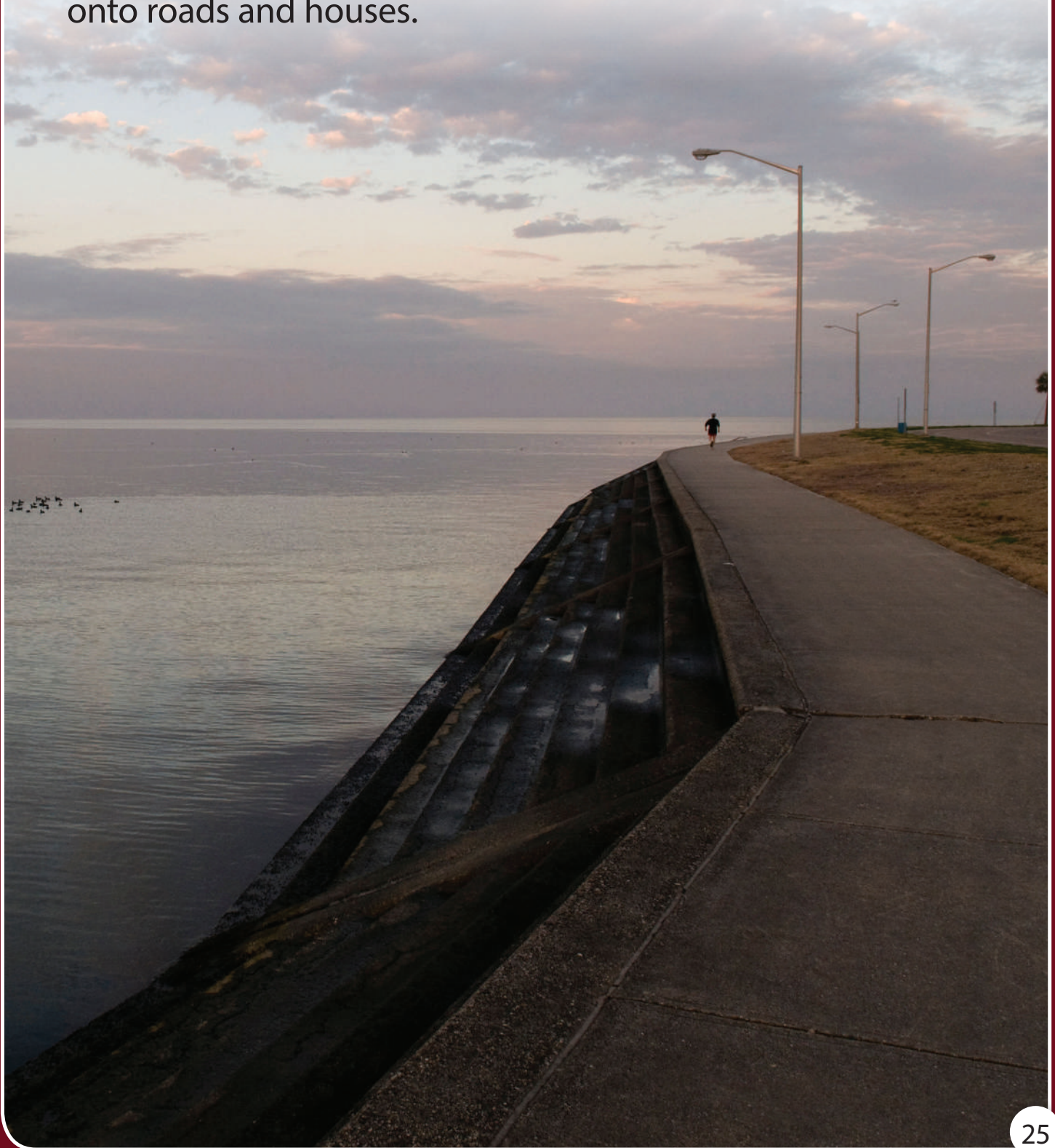


Louisiana produces many of the sweet potatoes eaten in the United States. West Carroll Parish even has a sweet potato festival every year!

Louisiana is a state with many bodies of water. People here have built bridges to cross bodies of water. Bridges help people get to where they need to go. Building bridges also creates jobs. Skilled labor is needed to build the bridges. Construction workers, architects, and engineers are part of this workforce.



Levees are also constructed in Louisiana. Levees are long walls built along rivers. They help stop floods by preventing rivers from overflowing. They can also stop ocean waves from crashing onto roads and houses.



Then



Now





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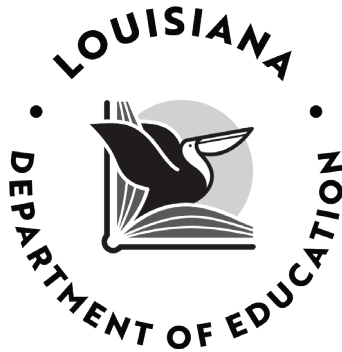


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