**Directions: Read the passages about different Louisiana activities. As you read the**

**passages, think about which activity you would choose to do. Then use the passages to**

**help you write a well-organized composition of at least three paragraphs.**

**Avery Island Visit**

Have you ever had Tabasco sauce? Avery Island, located near the Gulf Coast of

Louisiana, is where this hot sauce is made. People have been making it ever since Edmund

McIlhenny planted peppers there in 1868. To make Tabasco sauce, peppers are mixed with salt

found on Avery Island. After this, the mashed-up peppers and salt sit in oak barrels for up to

three years. The aging process helps make the sauce taste even better. When the process is

complete, the sauce is mixed with vinegar, strained, and put into bottles. It is sold in more than

160 countries around the world. If you visit Avery Island, you can take a tour of the factory to see how the sauce is made. You may also receive free samples and recipes. Tours run every day,

except on major holidays, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is a $1.00 fee to visit the island.

Tabasco sauce is not the only reason to visit Avery Island. While there, you can also

check out the 170-acre Jungle Gardens. Watch for colorful flowers, such as wisteria, holly, and

camellia. Keep your eyes open for alligators sunning like logs in the green swamps. Look in the

grasslands for deer. You will not want to miss visiting the garden’s Bird City, where thousands of egrets nest year-round. Jungle Gardens and Bird City are open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

**What Students Are Saying**

“I liked walking through the Jungle Gardens. I saw really interesting plants and even saw

an alligator in the swamp! The factory tour was a little long, though.”—Louis, 9 years old

“Seeing the island was so cool! I liked tasting Tabasco sauce. It was so spicy! Seeing all

the big birds was really neat too.”—Madison, 11 years old

**Bayou Tour**

Did you know there are more than one million alligators in Louisiana? That means that

one out of every four people in the state could have their own alligator! Well, not really, but that gives you an idea of how many of these snapping reptiles live in Louisiana’s swamps and

marshes.

A popular activity in Louisiana for tourists is to take a bayou tour to see the alligators up

close and personal. You climb aboard a flat-bottomed tour boat and travel through the wildest

and most beautiful swamps, marshes, and bayous in America. Along the way, the tour guide will

tell you about the history of the area. Listen carefully, though, because sometimes the guides

have some pretty tall tales.

The guide will also point out turtles, nesting bald eagles, and splashing buffalo fish. At

one point in the tour, the guide will lean over the side of the boat and attract alligators to the

railing. Bring your camera. You will definitely want to take a few pictures of these amazing

creatures of the bayou.

Along with your camera, you should also bring a light jacket during the winter and bottled water in the summer. You will not need an umbrella. The boat is covered and will protect you from sun and rain. Swamp tours cost about $40.00 for adults and $20.00 for children. Tours are two hours long. Each boat can hold up to 120 people.

**What Students Are Saying**

“It was cold and raining when my family and I went on the tour. I didn’t see as many

alligators because of the rain!”—Allison, 9 years old

“This tour was so exciting. I really wanted to see an alligator up close. During the tour, an alligator came right up to the boat! It was awesome!”—Dan, 10 years old