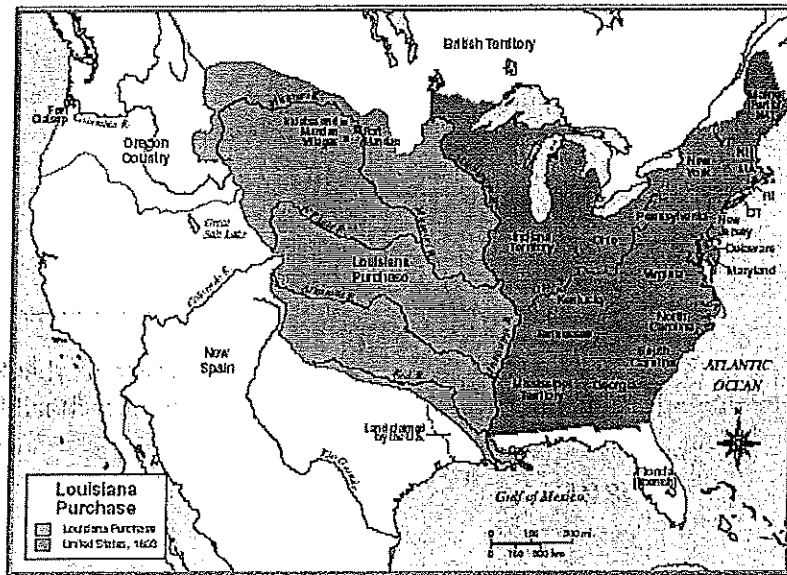


Name _____

Directions: Read the passage on the Louisiana Purchase. Find 4 to 5 key ideas that happened and list them in order on a flow chart, or draw and label pictures.

The Louisiana Purchase



President Jefferson was especially worried that France might close Louisiana's main port, New Orleans, to the United States. Farmers from Kentucky, Tennessee, and the territories shipped their goods down the Mississippi River to be sold in that busy port city. Whoever blocked the mouth of the Mississippi, Jefferson declared, was "our natural enemy." Jefferson was also worried that France might stop American settlers from moving west. Rather than start a costly war, Jefferson decided to look into buying New Orleans from France.

In 1803 Jefferson sent his friend James Monroe to Paris with an offer [of \$10 million] to buy New Orleans. Monroe was surprised when [Napoleon Bonaparte] a French official asked, "How much will you give for the whole of Louisiana?" France badly needed money for its war with Britain

An agreement was soon reached. For \$15 million, the United States bought a huge piece of land stretching west from New Orleans to the border of what is now Idaho and north to Canada. The Louisiana Purchase, as shown on the map on this page, doubled the size of the United States at a very low price—about four cents per acre.