

Name _____ Date _____

New Acadia

John was learning about Cajun history at school. Since he was a Cajun himself, he knew that Cajuns had settled in southern Louisiana over two hundred years ago. His dad said that their family could be traced back to Joseph Blanchard, who arrived in 1765.	13 25 39 45
“Cajun comes from the word Acadia, the region in Canada where the Cajuns lived until the British forced them to leave,” Mrs. Lafitte told the class.	57 69 71
John asked, “Why did the British force them to leave?”	81
“Britain was fighting France for land that the Cajuns lived on and the Cajuns spoke French,” Mrs. Lafitte explained. “The British assumed that the Cajuns were French and concluded that they were enemies. When the war was over, Britain had won Acadia. The Cajuns couldn’t go home, so they went to Louisiana to establish a new Acadia. The Spanish helped by donating free land and supplies.”	94 104 116 129 142 147
Traveling to an unknown wilderness sounded like an adventure to John, but Mrs. Lafitte said that the early days weren’t easy. Many Cajuns died of smallpox and other diseases, and it was difficult to grow their crops in the new climate. Bringing their language, music, and food to this unfamiliar land made the Cajuns feel more at home.	158 172 186 197 205
When John got home from school, his mom was in the kitchen. She was making gumbo, a Cajun stew full of crawfish, okra, and spicy sausage. It smelled good, and John knew it would taste delicious. As Mrs. Lafitte had said, food was an important part of Cajun culture!	219 232 245 254

