

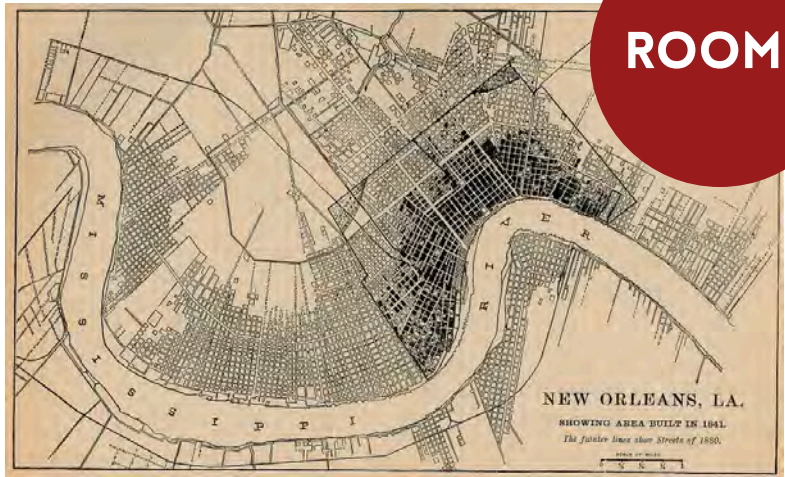
LIVING WITH HURRICANES: KATRINA & BEYOND

LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM



New Orleans A Strategic Site

Native Americans showed French settlers this strategic spot on the Mississippi River, which has access to the Gulf of Mexico and land upriver. The city thrived as a center for trade and travel. Even today, New Orleans is the 4th most productive port in the United States, ranked by tons moved annually.



ROOM 1

Being close to water helped New Orleans flourish, but has always presented challenges.
Read the text panels to learn more.



Look at the timeline of the storm's progress.



During this time, government officials had to make difficult decisions about warnings and evacuation notices. The Mayor of New Orleans declared a mandatory evacuation the morning of August 28th and opened the Superdome as a shelter for those unable to leave.

Do you think you would leave the city if officials issued an evacuation order?

As you explore the exhibit, consider:

Why do you think some people stayed in New Orleans?

The eye of Hurricane Katrina passed east of New Orleans at 9:00 AM on August 29. The storm surge cause widespread levee failures, flooding 80% of the city. The water rose quickly.



ROOM 2



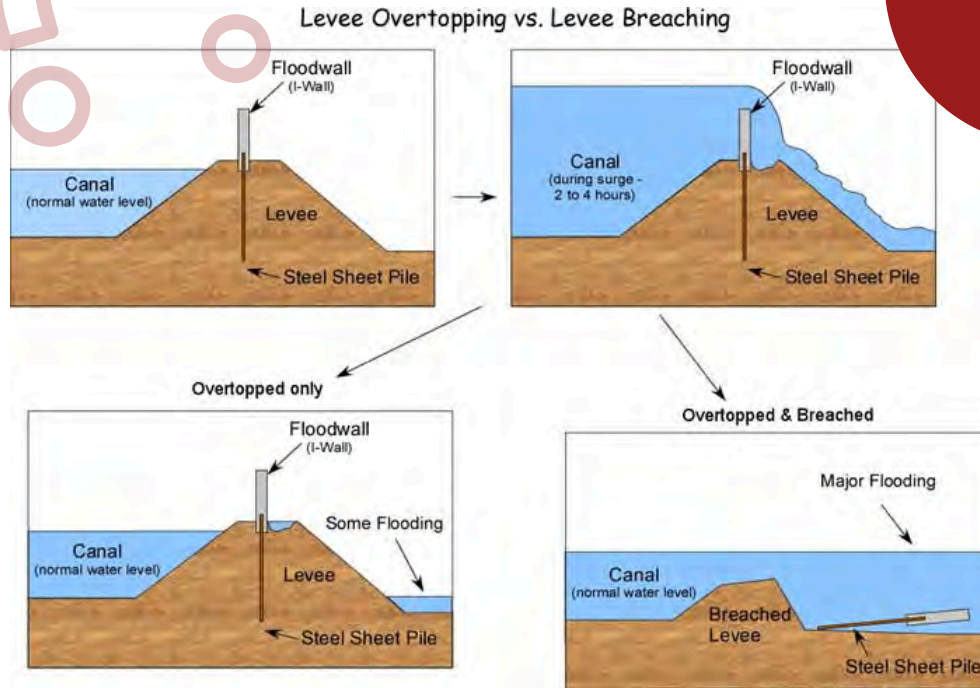
Judith Buffone and her teenage daughter used this hatchet to chop through their attic and climb onto the roof to escape rising water. Listen to their story. This tool may have saved their lives.

Many others perished. When this exhibition was made, the official Louisiana death toll was **1,464** people. Recent reports show that the exact number is uncertain and difficult to determine.

Why do you think determining the exact loss of life is difficult?
Why is this number important?

What Happened?

ROOM 3



Courtesy of Tulane University

Read one or two of the quotes on this panel. Many people knew a hurricane could have devastating effects on New Orleans. Still, the city was not prepared.

How does it make you feel knowing that many of the effects of Hurricane Katrina were predicted years in advance?

Louisiana's Dynamic Cost: Creation and Loss

Read this text panel and watch the accompanying video.

How has human intervention affected Louisiana's coastline?



Images Courtesy of NOAA



*These aerial images show the loss of Louisiana's coastline from 1932 to 2011. It is estimated that Louisiana loses the equivalent of a **football field of coastline every 90 minutes**.*

Coastal Projects

After Katrina, the state legislature created the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). They seek to reduce damage from hurricanes, especially storm surges through coastal restoration.

What are three things that can reduce damage from storm surges during hurricanes?

1.

2.

3.

Reflection

After going through the exhibit, reflect on what lessons were learned from Katrina. **If you were the mayor of New Orleans, how would you prepare the city for the next major hurricane?**