

1700: French Catholic missionaries arrive in present-day Arkansas to convert local Natives to Christianity; most Natives continue their prior observances despite these efforts. **1717:** Scottish land speculator John Law recruits French settlers for a projected colony to be built in the wilds of present-day Arkansas. Law promises a life of ease, due to deposits of gold and silver. Law is granted 87,000 acres of land near the Quapaw villages. **1721:** Seventy or eighty *engagés*, or workmen, recruited by John Law, arrive at Arkansas Post, only to discover it long abandoned. Welcomed by local Quapaws, the settlers stay despite finding no gold or silver. **1722:** Adventurer Bernard de la Harpe travels up the Arkansas River seeking precious metals. He finds none but his journal describes the area of present-day Little Rock. **1731:** Louisiana, including present-day Arkansas, becomes a royal colony of France. **1738:** French regulars, militia and Quapaw and Choctaw allies begin a two-year campaign against the Chickasaw, who threaten travelers and residents alike. **1740:** Cotton culture is introduced in the Mississippi valley by Pierre de Bienville, governor of Louisiana. **1753:** The Seven Years' or "French and Indian" War, breaks out in Europe, pitting France against England. **1762:** The Treaty of Fontainebleau (Paris) concludes the Seven Years' War; as part of the treaty, France cedes most of its North American possessions to England; a separate, secret treaty gives parts of Louisiana west of the Mississippi to Spain. **1779:** After several previous relocations, Arkansas Post moves once more to the *Ecores Rouges* (Red Bluffs) site where it remains today. **1783:** In April, Arkansas Post is attacked by a small force of Chickasaws and Englishmen led by trader James Colbert. The small Spanish garrison, commanded by Capitan Balthasar de Villiers, counterattacks and routs Colbert's forces. **1795:** The Treaty of Madrid confirms the right of United States citizens to navigate on the Mississippi River and to ship through the Spanish-held port of New Orleans. **1797:** Campo del Esperanza, or Field of Hope, is established in present-day Marion County, opposite Memphis. It serves as a Spanish naval outpost and defense against Chickasaw raiding.