NEW ORLEANS 300 1718 ~ 2018 TRICENTENNIAL

From *Bienville* to *Bourbon Street* to *bounce*. 300 moments that make New Orleans unique.



WHAT HAPPENED

On July 9, 2008, the fleur-de-lis became the official symbol of the state.

A symbol that has represented purity, royalty and the trinity, **the fleur-de-lis**, now represents New Orleans.



New Orleans flag was adopted by the city council in 1918. The three fleur-de-lis represent the city's government under the principles of government, liberty and fraternity.

When the French explorer Sieur de La Salle laid claim to the Mississippi Valley on April 9, 1682, he planted a white flag with a gold fleur-de-lis. When New Orleans was founded in 1718, settlers flew a flag with a fleur-de-lis, and the city has been represented by the symbol ever since.

The fleur-de-lis dates to ancient Egypt, when a version of the fleur-de-lis represented the asp. Legends say an angel presented Clovis, the founder of France, a golden lily as a symbol of his purity when he converted to Christianity. The fleur began appearing on coins and seals in the 10th century.

The symbol was eventually adopted by other European royalty and a version of the fleur-de-lis became the symbol for England's Prince of Wales.

Though the fleur-de-lis has long represented New Orleans, the symbol got a new life after Hurricane Katrina when it was used to represent the city's heritage and recovery.















