Louisiana Purchase Doubles the Size of America

The Louisiana Purchase was the real estate deal of the century, the 19th century. For mere pennies an acre, the United States of America doubled its size overnight. Here’s how the deal went down. When Thomas Jefferson became president in 1801, one of his top priorities was to take possession of the port of New Orleans. Its prime location in the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Mississippi River made it ideal for American farmers transporting their goods to markets. So Jefferson sent a broker to talk with the current owner of New Orleans, France. The French were interested because Napoleon needed cash to pay for a war with Great Britain. Jefferson’s first offer of $2 million dollars was rejected. In 1803 Jefferson tried again, this time offering $10 million dollars. The French agreed not only to sell New Orleans, but threw in the rest of the Louisiana Territory for only $5 million more. It’s a bargain of epic proportions, 828,000 proportions, from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains proportions, all for mere pennies an acre in today’s currency. Sound too good to be true?