

# Lewis & Clark

## Meet the Press

### **Educator's Guide**

& **Overview of Large Capacity Learning Lab**

& **State Standards**

& **Background Information**

& **Corps of Discovery Timeline**

& **Classroom Connections**

& **Resources**

### **Overview of Large Capacity Learning Lab**

Let your class experience history first-hand in a theatrical blending of past and present as your students become the Press and have the opportunity to "interview" Lewis and Clark of the Corps of Discovery. Through two back-to-back press conferences, your students will learn what sparked the desire to set about on this famous expedition, the preparations that were made for the journey and what President Jefferson hoped would be discovered. Become involved as the two explorers relate tales of adventure as well as the unusual discoveries they made along the way. Join us at Cincinnati Museum Center for an hour-long Large Capacity Learning Lab as the cast portraying these two great explorers share their expectations, discoveries, mishaps and triumphs of "The Great Journey West." Appropriate for grades 4-12.

# Vocabulary Words

Westward Expansion

Northwest Passage

Louisiana Purchase

Missouri River

Pacific Ocean

Thomas Jefferson

Meriwether Lewis

William Clark

Sacagawea

Native Americans

Corps of Discovery

Keelboats

Pirogue

Fort Mandan

Fort Clatsop

Expedition

Orienteering

# State Standards

## Ohio

History: 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.6, 8.2c, 8.8a, 8.8b, 8.8c, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3

People in Societies: 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.1e, 5.1f, 11.1

Geography: 4.1, 4.4, 5.2c, 5.2d, 5.7a, 5.8, 5.10, 9.5, 10.1

Economics: 5.4, 6.3

Social Studies Skills & Methods: 4.4, 4.10, 5.3, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 9.4, 10.1, 10.2, 11.8, 12.4, 12.7

## Kentucky

Cultures and Societies: SS-5-CS-U-1, SS-5-CS-U-3, SS-6-CS-U-3, SS-HS-2.1.1

Economics: SS-HS-3.1.1

Geography: SS-04-4.1.1, SS-5-G-U-1, SS-5-G-U-2, SS-5-G-U-4, SS-5-G-S-3b, SS-6-G-U-1, SS-6-G-U-2, SS-6-G-S-3b, SS-HS-4.2.2, SS-HS-4.3.1, SS-HS-4.4.1

Historical Perspective: SS-5-HP-U-2, SS-5-HP-S-1a, SS-5-HP-S-2a, SS-5-HP-U-3, SS-5-HP-U-4, SS-6-HP-S-1c, SS-6-HP-S-2, SS-HS-5.1.2

## Indiana

History: 6.1.16, 6.1.20, 6.3.9, 6.3.15, 8.1.11, 8.1.20, 8.1.26, USH.1.7, USH.2.6, USH.9.1

Geography: 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.7, 5.3.11, 8.3.2, 8.3.6, 8.3.7, 8.3.10, WG.1.6, WG.6.3

Economics: 5.4.1, 6.4.1, 8.4.5

Individuals, Society & Culture: 5.5.1



# Background Information

Before Lewis and Clark, Americans knew little about the western half of the North American continent. In 1803, the United States bought a huge tract of land from France in an agreement called the Louisiana Purchase. The Louisiana Purchase territory doubled the size of the United States and helped to achieve President Thomas Jefferson's plan to stretch the country from sea to sea.

Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their exploration team, the Corps of Discovery, to explore this new territory and establish friendly relations with the Native Americans who lived there. The Corps was also supposed to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean. The Corps of Discovery included about three-dozen men, plus Clark's slave, York, and Lewis' Newfoundland dog, Seaman.

Lewis and Clark were ordered to keep journals of their explorations, complete with maps, sketches of items of interest, and detailed descriptions of daily events. Several other men on the journey also kept journals. All the journals provide valuable information that has helped historians piece together the experiences of the expedition. Lewis and Clark discovered 178 plants and 122 animals that were previously unknown to Americans. The animals included prairie dogs, which Lewis called "barking squirrels," coyotes, jackrabbits, antelope, mule deer, and the dangerous and troublesome grizzly bear. The Corps also met about 50 different Native American tribes during its 8,000-mile journey. Each time the Corps met a new tribe Lewis and Clark's expedition team impressed the Native Americans with gadgets and weaponry, and gave them gifts such as mirrors, beads, sewing needles, scissors, and ivory combs. The Corps also gave each tribe a peace medal that had Jefferson's image on one side and two hands shaking on the other side.

The Corps of Discovery finally reached its destination - the Pacific Ocean - in November 1805. The men built Fort Clatsop near present-day Astoria, Oregon. The group set out to go back east in March 1806. Lewis and Clark decided to split up for part of the return home so they could explore more of the area. The two groups met where the Yellowstone River joins the Missouri River and they returned together to St. Louis, Missouri on September 23, 1806. Although Lewis and Clark did not find a direct northwest water passage, the information the Corps of Discovery brought back was priceless.

## Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809)

As a young boy growing up on a Virginia plantation, Lewis had a natural curiosity about nature. His love for the natural world, along with his attention to detail and flair for writing, resulted in most of the descriptions of the plants and animals later documented on the expedition. As a young man in the U.S. Army, Lewis gained the attention of Thomas Jefferson.

The newly elected president invited Lewis to serve as his personal secretary and ultimately to carry out his dream of finding the fabled "northwest passage" to facilitate trade and expand the nation's boundaries. Jefferson prepared Lewis for the expedition, sending him to learn from experts at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

## William Clark (1770-1838)

Born the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10 children, Clark was raised as a Virginia gentleman on his father's plantation. At 19, he joined the military. Soon he was a captain gaining experience in commanding troops, extending his knowledge of wilderness survival and diplomacy with Native Americans.

He also met Meriwether Lewis, who later invited Clark to join him as co-captain of the expedition. Clark's easy manner, excellent navigation and map-making skills made him the perfect complement to Lewis. Clark was fond of Sacagawea's son and during the expedition he bonded with "Pomp." Years later, Clark served as governor of the Missouri Territory and was an important advocate and friend of Native Americans.

# Corps of Discovery Timeline

## 1. May 14, 1804

Clark wrote: “I set out at 4 o’clock pm and proceeded under a jintle breases up the Missouri.” The party traveled in a 55-foot long keelboat and two smaller boats called “pirogues.” Numerous navigational hazards, including sunken trees called “sawyers”, sandbars, collapsing riverbanks, and sudden squalls of high winds with drenching rains slowed their progress.

Before departing from St. Louis, the Corps discovered a lizard they nicknamed the “horned toad.” This reptile was the first of almost 300 specimens sent to President Thomas Jefferson.

## 2. July 4, 1804

The Discovery Corps held the first Independence Day celebration west of the Mississippi River. The day was almost ruined when a Missouri Beaver bit Lewis’ pet Newfoundland dog, Seaman. The dog quickly recovered. The beaver become another specimen sent back to President Jefferson.

## 3. August 3, 1804

The Corps traveled north and held their first official council meeting with the Oto and Missouri Indians. At the council meeting, Lewis and Clark established their custom of giving gifts to tribal members their assumed were Chiefs. Near the meeting site a bull snake was cornered. The snake did not have fangs, looked like a rattlesnake, and made a hissing sound that was compared to the noise made by a cow or bull.

## 4. September 17, 1804

The Corps entered the Great Plains and discovered animals unknown in the eastern United States. Bison, commonly called buffalo, were plentiful. Lewis wrote that he estimated seeing over 3000 in one day. The meat of their hump was a favorite meal.

Lewis and Clark called the coyote, “Prairie Wolves.” They thought their bark sounded like those of barking dogs. The Corps were also fascinated with the discovery of the black-tailed prairie dog. After many attempts to catch one, they finally flushed him out of his hole with water. A specimen was sent to the President along with a description of the buffalo and coyote.

## 5. November 4, 1804

The Corps came to the villages of the Mandan and Hidatsa. On the north bank of the Missouri River they found a growth of cottonwood trees, which they used to construct a triangular log fort. They named it Fort Mandan in honor of the local inhabitants. The explorers spent 5 months here learning about the route ahead from the Indians and traders that lived nearby. Lewis and Clark hired French-Canadian fur trader Toussaint Charbonneau and his Shoshone wife, Sacagawea, to act as interpreters on the journey ahead.

# Corps of Discovery Timeline *continued...*

## 6. April 29, 1805

The Corps marveled at the abundance of game in the area. A Grizzly bear charged the men on a hunting trip near the Yellowstone River in Montana. Lewis commented that he would, “Rather fight two Indians than one bear.” Lewis also recorded seeing mountain sheep. In his journal he wrote, “On the face of this cliff, they walked about and bounded from rock to rock.” A horn of this animal was saved and still exists today.

## 7. May 16, 1805

During a fierce windstorm, the Pirogue that carried important records and instruments began falling into the water and nearly overturned. Sacagawea, who was aboard, saved many important items as they drifted within her reach.

An Eastern Spiny Soft-shelled Turtle was also discovered. The turtle had an elongated, squared-off nose and fed on fish and crayfish. It was the only turtle recorded on the expedition for science.

## 8. June 13, 1805

Lewis reached the Great Falls of the Missouri, which consisted of 5 massive waterfalls. The men had to carry all of their supplies, including canoes, around the falls. The weather was hot, and transporting the canoes up the steep incline was exhausting. The spines of Prickly Pear Plant poked through the soles of their moccasin shoes making it difficult to walk.

## 9. August 12, 1805

Lewis discovered the headwaters of the Missouri River. He then began to cross the Continental Divide and Lemhi Pass. Soon he realized that a northwest passage did not exist. While in the area, the Shoshone Indians introduced Lewis to his first taste of Chinook salmon. A sample of a tiny flower, which looks like a monkey’s face, was recorded. The flower was named after Captain Lewis and was called Lewis’ Monkey-flower.

## 10. September 23, 1805

The explorers were half-starved and were surviving on horsemeat. On the Lolo trail, across the Bitterroot Mountains, they encountered bone-chilling cold as well as slippery, hazardous travel conditions because of an early season snowstorm. The men emerged from the mountains near Weippe, Idaho at the villages of the Nez Pierce Indians. The Indians were excellent horsemen and owned the largest herds on the continent even though they did not own any guns.

## 11. November 24, 1805

After reaching the Pacific Ocean, the entire expedition including Sacagawea and Clark’ slave, York, took a vote on where to build their winter quarters. They chose the Clatsop Indian side of the Columbia River, which they called Fort Clatsop. The actual vote of each Corps member was recorded and represented the first American democratically held election.

## 12. July 3, 1806

The Corps separated, with Lewis traveling east to the Great Falls of the Missouri River. He later traveled north to explore the Marias River with three other Corps members. They spent the night with the Blackfoot Indians who attempted to steal their guns and drive off their horses. Lewis told how he was fired upon by an Indian. He reported, "...bear-headed, I felt the wind of the bullet very distinctly." Afterward, Lewis told about the two Blackfeet who were killed during the brief, violent encounter. Miraculously, the Corps escaped unharmed.

The Bitterroot plant was also discovered in the same area. Indians baked, broiled and powdered the roots for their meals. The roots were very bitter when eaten raw.

## 13. September 23, 1806

The Corps of Discovery arrived at St. Louis and received a hearty welcome. The Corps had traveled 8000 miles over a period of two years, four months and nine days. They recorded discovering over 122 species of animals and 178 species of plants. They reported to President Jefferson the surprising width of the Rocky Mountains, but did not find an easy connection between the Missouri and Columbia River systems.

# Classroom Connections

1. At least five members of the expedition kept daily journals. They were Sergeant Ordway, Private Whitehouse, Sergeant Floyd (until his death), Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark. Through the writings of these men, historians were able to record the daily events of the Corps of Discovery.

Read the Lewis and Clark timeline provided. Select a date and write a journal entry about the day's activities, discoveries, successes and frustrations.

2. Research one of the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Be prepared to discuss his or her contributions to the expedition.
3. Organize a pretend report for the evening news. "Interview" several of the members from the Corps of Discovery. Be prepared to discuss their contributions to the expedition.
4. Research one of the Native American tribes encountered by the Lewis and Clark expedition. Include information about their language, food, clothing, shelter and other cultural practices. "Interview" members of several tribes as a news reporter. Be prepared to discuss the significance of their encounters with the expedition.

Some of the Native American tribes the Corps of Discovery encountered included:

Mandan	Arikara	Nez Pierce
Pawnee	Blackfoot	Flathead
Assiniboine	Shoshone	Clatsop

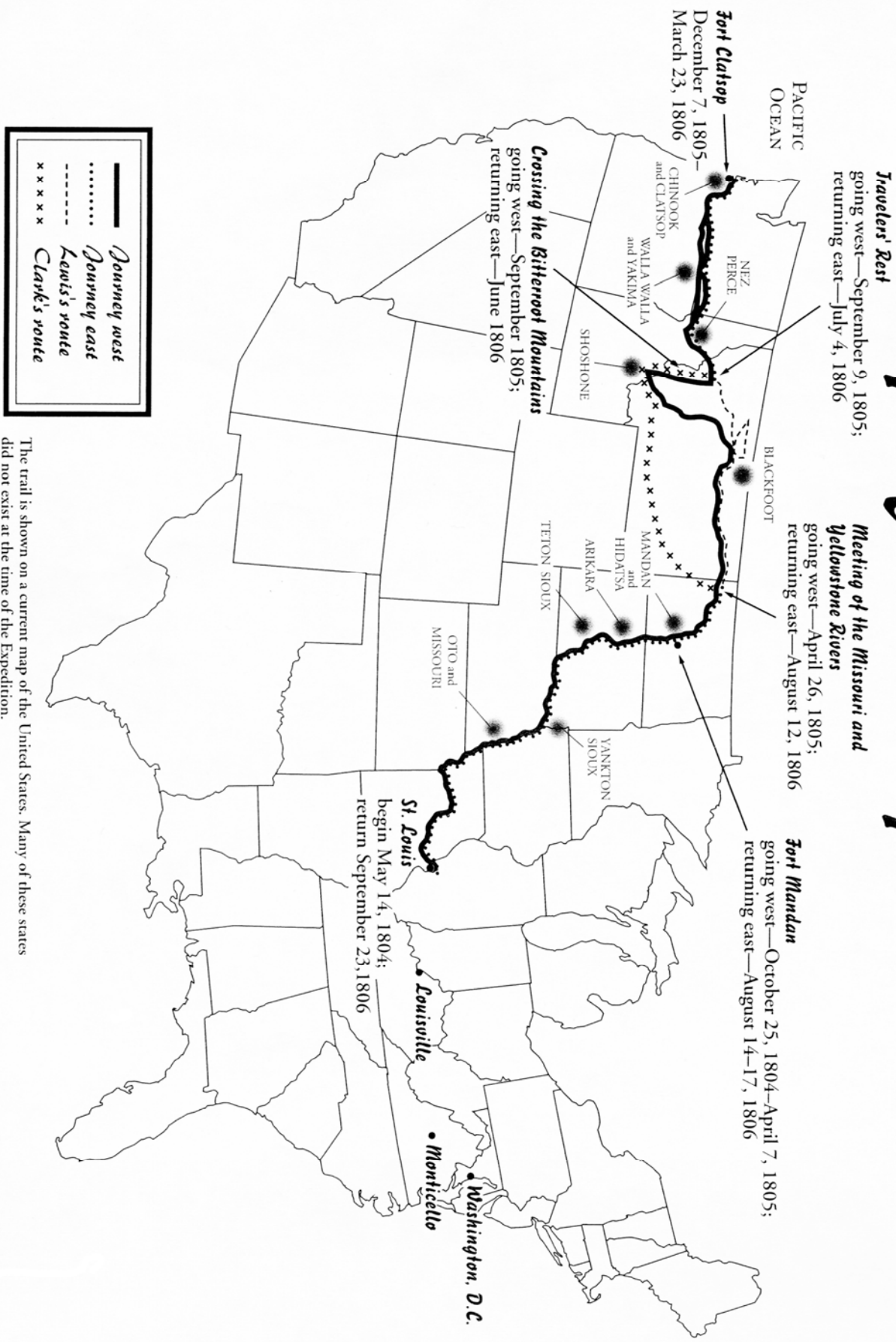
5. Start a nature journal. Write about five animals and/or plants you have discovered. Draw them, describe their appearance and/or their behavior. Note the dates and places where they were found.

6. Write a story of the expedition from the point of view of Sacagawea or York. Include factual information to explain what happened, where it happened, who was involved and the consequences or outcomes that followed.
7. Write a job description for employment as a member of the Corps of Discovery. Include the character traits, physical abilities and types of skills needed to qualify as a candidate for the position. Create an advertisement, poster or newspaper article announcing the need for recruits.
8. Write a poem, song, rap or illustrate a poster to commemorate the important accomplishments of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Include the important events, people and discoveries of the journey.
9. Give each student a blank map of the United States. Ask students to label each state, the state capitals, major rivers, and other physical features that Lewis and Clark visited during the expedition. Student should locate and label the various Native American tribes they also encountered. *See attached Map of the Expedition pg. 8*

## Resources

- & <http://www.lewis-clark.org/>
- & <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/>
- & [http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/resources\\_timeline\\_1803.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/resources_timeline_1803.html)
- & <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/class/index.html>
- & <http://www.sierraclub.org/lewisandclark/features/>
- & <http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/index.html>
- & Lewis and Clark for Kids by Janis Herbert. Chicago Review Press, 2000.
- & How we Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark by Rosalyn Schanzer. National Geographic Society, 1997.
- & Going Along with Lewis and Clark by Barbara Fifer. American & World Geographic Publishing, 2000.
- & The History Channel Lewis & Clark Exploration Card Game. U.S. Games Systems, Inc., 2003.
- & Animals on the Trail with Lewis and Clark by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Clarion Books, 2002.
- & Lewis and Clark on the Trail of Discovery: The Journey that Shaped America. A Museum in a Book by Rod Gragg. Rutledge Hill Press, 2003.

# Map of the Expedition



The trail is shown on a current map of the United States. Many of these states did not exist at the time of the Expedition.