

THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

A. INTRODUCTION

In the year 1801, Thomas Jefferson became President of the United States. Meriwether Lewis moved into the White House as Jefferson's personal secretary. Two years later, Jefferson asked Lewis to head up an expedition into the unknown western frontier. Jefferson received authorization from Congress, and later that year announced the Louisiana Purchase, just before Lewis set off on his journey with William Clark. Take a trip back in time, accessing the resources at the URLs below, and find out what the expedition was like. Answer the Student Questions in Part C, using the websites listed, and do follow along the pictorial slideshow trip as well, available underneath the map on each page of this online exhibit of the journey.

B. RESOURCES

TIMELINE OF THE TRIP:

http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/archive/idx_time.html

INSIDE THE CORPS CIRCA 1803:

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/journey_intro.html

C. STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. What did Jefferson expect to find in the uncharted western frontier?
2. What were the two roles of the expedition leaders during the early months of the journey?
3. What precautions did they take against possible attacks?
4. What happened when the expedition met the Teton Sioux?
5. What happened to the expedition members as winter approached?
6. What happened at Hidatsa that was important to the expedition?
7. While Lewis did not expect to be intimidated by grizzly bears, he changed his mind. What happened?
8. How did Lewis know he would be on the correct route to reach the Missouri River?
9. By what method did Lewis & Clark hope to quickly get through to the Columbia River? With whom did they have to bargain, and what did Clark trade?
10. Clark thought he had reached the Pacific on November 7th. Where were they instead, and what happened there? What did they hope to find once they reached the Pacific? What actually happened?
11. In March, 1806 the expedition secured canoes and hoped to portage and tackle the Columbia River to begin the route back, but were thwarted in their attempts. Describe what happened.
12. Describe the next leg of the expedition, where they waited in Nez Perce territory.
13. What did Lewis & Clark decide to do when they reached Traveler's Rest?
14. What happened between Lewis and the Blackfeet? What about between Clark and the Crow?
15. When Lewis was rejoining Clark's party, what happened?
16. Where did they leave Sacagawea?
17. Statistics: after leaving the Mandans, how much territory did the expedition cover each day? How long had they been journeying when they finally reached St. Louis? When did they reach St. Louis? How many citizens met them? What had they believed had happened to them?

