

Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery Worksheet

Introduction

On February 28, 1803, President Thomas Jefferson won approval from Congress for a project that would become one of America's greatest stories of adventure. The sum of \$2,500 (a huge sum at the time) was appropriated to fund a small expeditionary group to explore the uncharted West. Jefferson named the group the Corps of Discovery. Jefferson's secretary, Meriwether Lewis, and Lewis' friend, William Clark, would lead it. Over the next four years, the Corps of Discovery would travel thousands of miles, experiencing lands, rivers, and peoples that no non-native American had ever seen.

Directions

You have been invited to share in the adventures of Lewis and Clark. Access the Web site <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>, and click on "Into the Unknown." As you travel on your journey you must do the following:

- Answer the questions listed below, writing the answers in your notebook.
- Chart your course on a U.S. map that shows rivers and lakes. Label your map with the names of locations, land formations, the locations of Indian tribes, and topographical features (e.g., mountains, rivers, and lakes). The use of map pencils is encouraged.
- Create three journal entries about your adventures. See the journal entries included in the virtual tour as an example. Be sure to include dates and to be creative.

Questions

1. Who was Sacagawea? What role did she play in the expedition?
2. What is the name of the primary river on which Lewis and Clark traveled during their expedition?
3. What were Thomas Jefferson's goals for the expedition?
4. Name and describe three new plant and animal species found on the expedition.
5. What did Lewis record in his journal on April 17, 1805, about the general attitude of the parties as the expedition set off from Fort Mandan?
6. Describe five obstacles encountered during the expedition, and explain the impact of each.
7. Describe Lewis and Clark's encounters with the Indians. How did the Indians react to the "white men"? How did Lewis and Clark gain their trust? What role did the Indians play in the expedition?
8. What choices did you make on the virtual expedition that turned out to be wrong (e.g., choices that sent you back to the beginning)?
9. What was the most exciting part of the trip for you?