

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
History: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lewis and Clark

**For what reasons did President Thomas Jefferson send Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Purchase Territory?**

### Do Now:

1.) List three reasons why the United States would want to expand to the West?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2.) What happened in 1803 involving the West?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.) Why is the city of New Orleans significant?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4.) Do you think that the United States should explore outer space? Why or why not?



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## Background on the Expedition

In the early 1800s, a number of expeditions set out from the United States to explore the West. The most famous was the Lewis and Clark expedition, a pet project of President Thomas Jefferson.

The public purpose of the expedition was to make friendly contact with Indian groups that might be interested in trade. Its secret purpose was to find the “Northwest Passage,” a water route across North America that explorers had been seeking ever since Columbus bumped into America. With the purchase of Louisiana from France in 1803, the expedition gained a third purpose—finding out just what the United States had bought.

1.) List the three purposes for sending Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2.) What is the motivation behind each of these purposes? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In May 1804, the 45-member expedition left St. Louis, Missouri, in three boats. The group was led by Jefferson’s private secretary, Meriwether Lewis, and his friend William Clark. Its members included soldiers, frontiersmen, and Clark’s slave York.

It was hard going from the first day. Rowing upstream against the Missouri River’s strong current left the explorers’ hands blistered and their muscles sore. Hungry mosquitoes feasted on sunburned faces.

By summer, the explorers had reached Indian country. Most groups welcomed strangers, and York fascinated the Indians. They had never seen a black man before. Again and again, wrote Clark in his journal, York allowed his skin to be rubbed with a wet finger to prove “that he was not a painted white man.”

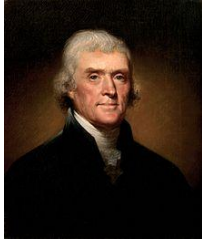
The explorers made camp for the winter near a Mandan village in what is now North Dakota. There, a French fur trapper joined them along with his 16 year old wife, a Shoshone woman named Sacagawea, and their infant son.

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## A Letter from Jefferson



Directions: The following is a letter that Thomas Jefferson wrote to Lewis and Clark in which he gave them directions on what to do during their expedition. *As we are reading underline specific things that Jefferson wants Lewis to study and do.*

The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River... and communicate with the water of the Pacific Ocean. Beginning at the mouth of the Missouri, you will take observations of latitude and longitude at all remarkable points on the river...Your observations are to be taken with great pains and accuracy, to be entered distinctly and intelligibly for others as well as yourself to comprehend... these, as well as your other notes, should be made at leisure times and put into the care of the most trustworthy of your attendants...copies [should] be written on the paper of the birch [tree], as less liable to injury from the damp than common paper.

Other objects worthy of notice will be: the soil and face of the country, its growth and vegetable productions...the animals of the country generally, and especially those not known in the U.S.; the remains and accounts of any which may be deemed rare or extinct; the mineral productions of every kind...volcanic appearances; climate as characterized by thermometer, by proportion of rainy, cloudy, and clear days, by lightening, hail, snow, ice, by the access and recess of frost, by the winds prevailing at different seasons, the dates at which particular plants put forth or lose their flowers, or leaf, times of appearance of particular birds, reptiles, or insects.

1.) What effect would these things potentially have on Jefferson/the United States?

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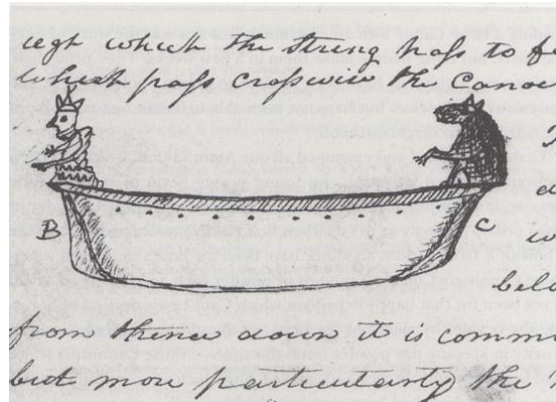
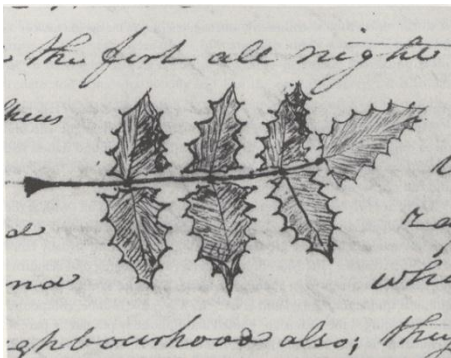
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### Images From the Lewis and Clark Journals

Directions: Analyze the following images taken directly from the journals that Lewis and Clark kept on their expedition. After analyzing the drawings answer the questions below.



Write a paragraph in which you describe what the motivations of Lewis and Clark were based on these images. Use specific details from the images as your evidence and be sure you FULLY EXPLAIN your reasoning.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Exit Ticket**

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*Identify and describe* 3 reasons why President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on their journey to explore the Louisiana Purchase Territory. (2 pts each)

1.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_