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## Lewis and Clark Expedition: The Journey

In May 1804, the United States Army officers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out, with an initial group numbering about 50, on an expedition to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory and the Oregon region. Lewis had been handpicked to lead the party by none other than President Thomas Jefferson, and Lewis chose Clark as the party's co-leader. The group, whose aim included gathering scientific information about the region and establishing contact with the Indians along their route, arrived at the Pacific Coast in late 1805. They returned to St. Louis, in what later became Missouri, in September 1806.



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### Find It!

Use the World Book search tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about the Lewis and Clark expedition, it is recommended you start by searching the key words "Lewis and Clark."

Write the answer below each question.

- Historians often refer to the Lewis and Clark expedition as the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Lewis called them the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The expedition traveled a total of about \_\_\_\_\_ miles ( \_\_\_\_\_ kilometers).
- Why did President Thomas Jefferson want to send an expedition to the Louisiana Territory and the Oregon region?

**\*Users of the Advanced database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

4. Which skills qualified Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead the expedition?

5. How did Indians help the explorers?

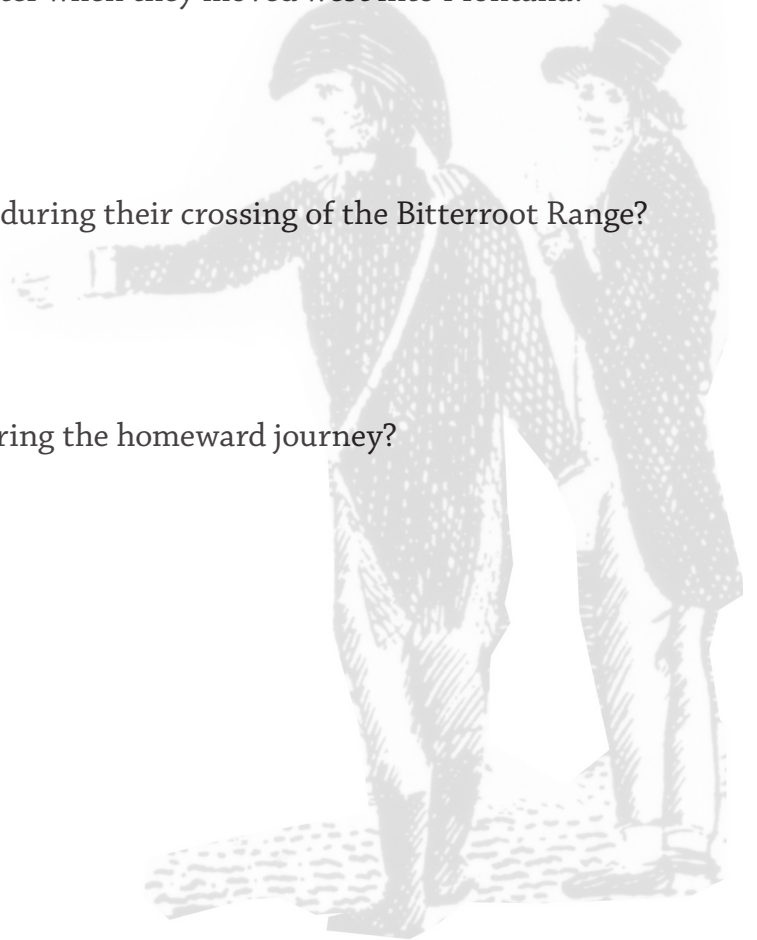
6. What did Lewis and Clark tell American Indians about Jefferson?

7. Whom did the expedition hire to help them communicate with local Indians?

8. Which wild animals did the explorers encounter when they moved west into Montana?

9. What hardships did the explorers experience during their crossing of the Bitterroot Range?

10. Why did the expedition split up for a time during the homeward journey?



11. What were some important results of the expedition?

12. The journals of Lewis and Clark are the most detailed records of the expedition. They describe about \_\_\_\_\_ plants and \_\_\_\_\_ animals that had not been reported to scientists.

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**Map It!**

*Within the World Book article “Lewis and Clark expedition,” you will find a map with the same name. Study the map and answer the following questions:*

13. What eleven present-day states of the United States did the expedition pass through?

14. Which river did the explorers follow for the majority of their trip?

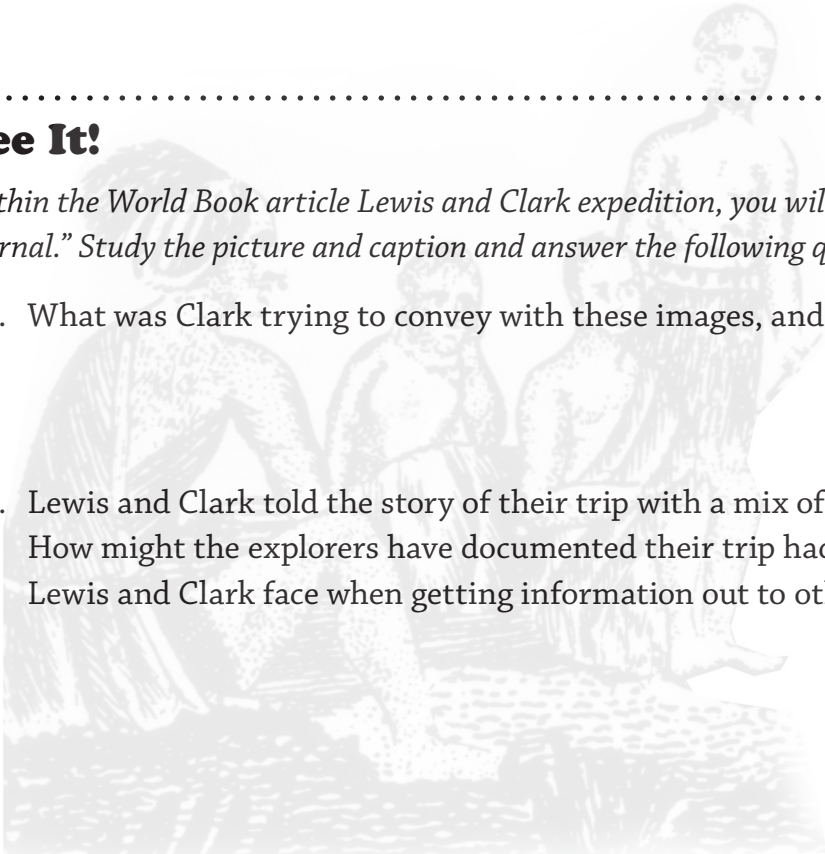
15. What is the Continental Divide, and how did it affect the travelers’ river journeys?

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**See It!**

*Within the World Book article Lewis and Clark expedition, you will find the picture titled “William Clark’s journal.” Study the picture and caption and answer the following questions:*

16. What was Clark trying to convey with these images, and why do you think he went into such detail?

17. Lewis and Clark told the story of their trip with a mix of illustrations and journal entries. How might the explorers have documented their trip had it occurred today? What obstacles did Lewis and Clark face when getting information out to others?



## What's the Word?

Use the clues below to solve the crossword puzzle. All of the answers can be found within the World Book article "Lewis and Clark expedition." You may use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. You may also double-click on the word to access the online dictionary. Write any multiple-word answers without spaces.

### Across

2. Much of Lewis and Clark's route followed the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
3. The lone pet on the expedition was Lewis's dog, \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Lewis described the \_\_\_\_\_ Indians as "the most hospitable, honest, and sincere people that we have met with in our voyage."
8. Lewis and Clark described this man to Indians as the "Great White Father." \_\_\_\_\_
9. At the time of the expedition, thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ thundered across the Great Plains.
12. One of the explorers, Sergeant Charles Floyd, died from what may have been a burst \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The explorers hired the French-Canadian trader Toussaint Charbonneau and his Shoshone Indian wife \_\_\_\_\_ as interpreters.
5. The most important result of the Lewis and Clark expedition was that it enabled the United States to claim the \_\_\_\_\_ region.
6. After reaching the Pacific Ocean in late 1805, the explorers built Fort \_\_\_\_\_ near Astoria, Oregon.
7. The party left St. Louis on a flat-bottomed boat called a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. In 1804, the expedition established its winter camp, called Fort \_\_\_\_\_, near present-day Bismarck, North Dakota.
11. In Montana, the explorers began to see animals that were unknown to them, such as \_\_\_\_\_ sheep and grizzly bears.

### **Extension Activity 1: Explore Your World**

As Lewis and Clark travelled west across the North American continent, they kept detailed descriptions of the plants and animals that they encountered. Did you know that the plants and animals you live by are specifically adapted to your region?

Consider yourself an explorer in your own environment. Create a journal of the plants and animals that are specific to your hometown through your own observations. You can use World Book to learn more information about your regional wildlife, if you need more details! Draw an illustration of your findings in detail, as well as descriptions about the plant or animal's features, habitats, and apparent natural habits.

### **Extension Activity 2: Write a letter:**

Imagine you are a member the Corps of Discovery. Choose a date between May 1804 and September 1806. Write a 1-2 page letter from the perspective of one of the members of the expedition (Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacagawea, etc.). In the letter, tell a student in the future what your group has accomplished up to that time, and what a typical day is like for him or her. Include at least 5 facts you learned about the expedition that give your correspondent an idea of what daily life was like and how your narrator is feeling about his or her day!



# Teacher Page

## Answers:

1. Historians often refer to the Lewis and Clark expedition as the Corps of Discovery. Lewis called them the Corps of Volunteers for North Western Discovery.
2. The expedition traveled a total of about 8,000 miles (12,800 kilometers).
3. The president's plan included gathering scientific information about the Louisiana Territory and the Oregon region. He also hoped to establish communication with the local Indians. The expedition took on the additional tasks of tracing the boundaries of the territory and laying U.S. claims to the Oregon region.
4. Both Lewis and Clark had wilderness experience. Both had served in Army campaigns against Indians. In addition, Clark had considerable mapmaking skills. Lewis had some training in the study of animals and plants.
5. Indians often helped the men by describing the way ahead and by providing food.
6. The two captains told the American Indians that all the "Red children were now under the protection of a new father, the Great White Father at Washington. They must keep the peace. The Great White Father would send traders to supply them with all necessities."
7. The expedition hired French-Canadian trader Toussaint Charbonneau and his Shoshone Indian wife Sacagawea to help the party communicate with local Indians.
8. Grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, bison, rattlesnakes
9. While crossing of the Bitterroot Range, horses lost their footing and fell to their death along rocky mountain paths. Precious supplies and equipment were lost. Snow came to cover part of the trail. The men found few wild animals to kill for food and grew increasingly hungry.
10. The local Indians had told Lewis and Clark that the route they had followed through the mountains was not the shortest. In June, Lewis and Clark divided the expedition into two groups at a spot they called Travelers' Rest. One group, led by Lewis, would follow the short cut suggested by the Indians from the mountains to the Missouri River. Clark led the other group to explore the Yellowstone River area.
11. The most important result of the Lewis and Clark expedition was that it enabled the United States to claim the Oregon region. This claim helped make possible the great pioneer movement that settled the West in the mid-1800's. The explorers also established peaceful contact with most of the Indian tribes they met.
12. The journals of Lewis and Clark describe about 180 plants and 125 animals that had not been reported to scientists.

## Map It!

13. The eleven present-day states that the expedition passed through were Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.
14. The Missouri River
15. In North America, the Continental Divide separates westward-flowing and eastward-flowing waters. During the first portion of the journey, the explorers traveled northwest, against the current of the Missouri River. When they reached the Columbia River, they followed its current to the Pacific Ocean. On the return journey, the travelers rowed against the current of the Columbia and with the flow of the Missouri.

## See It!

16. The journals of Lewis and Clark are filled with drawings of plants and animals seen along the route. The two leaders' notes describe about 180 plants and 125 animals that had not been reported to scientists. They kept these journals to record their findings and share the information with people back home.
17. Explorers today could of course still make use of journal entries and sketches, but they would also make use of photographs and video. They might update their daily progress on Facebook or through a blog entry. They could even use modern technology to answer questions from journalists or students working on a class project.

## What's the Word?

### Across

2. Missouri
3. Seaman
4. Nez Perce
8. Jefferson
9. Buffalo
12. Appendix

### Down

1. France
3. Sacagawea
5. Oregon
6. Clatsop
7. Keelboat
10. Mandan
11. Bighorn

## Extension Activities 1 & 2: Answers will vary.