

Grade 3
Reading History
The Adventure of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

In the early 1800s, the United States was a young country with a desire to grow and explore new territories. President Thomas Jefferson saw an opportunity to expand the nation and learn more about the land to the west of the Mississippi River. In 1803, he arranged the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States overnight! But there was a catch: nobody really knew what was out there. To solve this mystery, President Jefferson called upon Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead an expedition.

Lewis and Clark were chosen for their bravery, skills, and leadership abilities. Together with a diverse team of explorers, including a Shoshone woman named Sacagawea, they set out on an incredible journey. The expedition began in St. Louis, Missouri, in May 1804, and their mission was to explore the newly acquired land, find a water route to the Pacific Ocean, and establish friendly relations with the Native American tribes they encountered.

The journey was long and challenging. The team faced harsh weather, treacherous terrain, and dangerous wildlife. However, they also discovered beautiful landscapes, new animal species, and valuable resources. Sacagawea played a crucial role in the expedition's success, helping the team communicate with other Native American tribes and navigate the unfamiliar territory.

After traveling thousands of miles, Lewis and Clark finally reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805. They had achieved their mission, and the information they gathered helped shape the future of the United States. The Lewis and Clark Expedition is remembered as one of the greatest adventures in American history, showcasing the spirit of exploration and determination that defined a nation.

Now, let's test your knowledge with some questions!

Multiple Choice Questions:

What was the main goal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

- A. To find gold
- B. To explore new territories
- C. To build new cities
- D. To trade with Native Americans

Who was the President of the United States during the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

- A. George Washington
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. Andrew Jackson Answer:

What was the Louisiana Purchase?

- A. A battle
- B. A law
- C. A land deal
- D. A treaty

Who was Sacagawea?

- A. A soldier
- B. A chef
- C. An explorer
- D. A guide

Where did the Lewis and Clark Expedition begin?

- A. New York
- B. St. Louis
- C. San Francisco
- D. Washington D.C.

Which river was crucial to the Lewis and Clark Expedition? A

- . The Amazon River
- B. The Nile River
- C. The Mississippi River
- D. The Missouri River

What did Lewis and Clark discover during their expedition?

- A. New cities
- B. New animal species
- C. Gold
- D. Ancient ruins

What challenges did the Lewis and Clark Expedition face?

- A. Traffic jams
- B. Harsh weather and dangerous wildlife
- C. Getting lost in shopping malls
- D. Running out of video games

When did Lewis and Clark reach the Pacific Ocean?

- A. 1803
- B. 1804
- C. 1805
- D. 1806

What did the Lewis and Clark Expedition help shape?

- A. Video games
- B. The future of the United States
- C. Fashion trends
- D. The music industry

Answers:

1. B. To explore new territories. The main goal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was to explore the new territories acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, find a water route to the Pacific Ocean, and establish friendly relations with Native American tribes.
2. B. Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson was the President of the United States when he arranged the Louisiana Purchase and called upon Lewis and Clark to lead the expedition.
3. C. A land deal. The Louisiana Purchase was a land deal between the United States and France in which the U.S. acquired approximately 827,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River.
4. D. A guide. Sacagawea was a Shoshone woman who played a crucial role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition, helping the team communicate with other Native American tribes and navigate the unfamiliar territory.
5. B. St. Louis. The Lewis and Clark Expedition began in St. Louis, Missouri, in May 1804.
6. D. The Missouri River. The Missouri River was crucial to the Lewis and Clark Expedition as much of their journey was spent traveling up this river.
7. B. New animal species. Lewis and Clark discovered new animal species, beautiful landscapes, and valuable resources during their expedition.
8. B. Harsh weather and dangerous wildlife. The team faced harsh weather, treacherous terrain, and dangerous wildlife during their journey.
9. C. 180. Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805.
10. B. The future of the United States. The information gathered by Lewis and Clark during their expedition helped shape the future of the United States.