



THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Purchase, one of the biggest real estate deals in history, more than doubled the size of the United States for what turned out to be a bargain price of \$15,000,000. Not only did the United States acquire a vast territory that would be turned into 13 new states, the deal secured for America the right to travel on the Mississippi River all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, a vital right-of-way that opened up enormous commercial opportunities for farmers throughout the interior of our country. While other nations fought wars over territory, the United States grew with a relatively simple financial transaction.

The men who negotiated the purchase from France, Robert Livingston and James Monroe, exceeded the authority they had been given by President Jefferson – they only had the authority to negotiate for the port of New Orleans. President Jefferson himself doubted whether the Constitution gave him the authority to purchase more land for the United States. In October of 1803, the United States Senate confirmed the purchase by an overwhelming vote of 24 to 7.

President Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the enormous territory the U.S. had just acquired. These men, with their Corps of Discovery, led the most astonishing expedition in the history of America. They represent the epitome of America's self-reliance, rugged individualism, hard work and pioneering spirit in overcoming numerous obstacles in their two-year round-trip to the Pacific Ocean and back. They were true entrepreneurs as well, befriending and bartering with many Indian tribes for information and the supplies they needed to succeed in their over 8,000 mile expedition. In addition to the hundreds of new plant and animal species they recorded, they mapped the Louisiana Territory, found a route all the way across the continent, and helped establish America's claim to the Oregon Territory.

BOOK

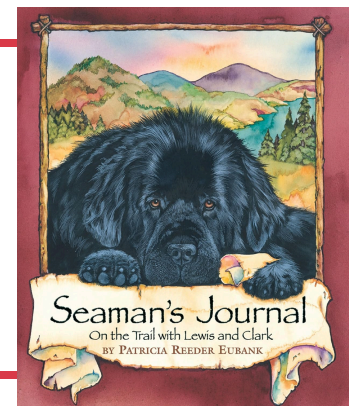
Title: *Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark*

Author: Patricia Reeder Eubank

Illustrator: Patricia Reeder Eubank

Year Published: 2010

Length: 40 pages



Activity	Time	Frequency	Preparation
American Heritage Songbook: <i>Elbow Room</i>	5-10 minutes	daily	minimal
Arts & Crafts: Watercolors	30-40 minutes	once	10 minutes
Arts & Crafts: Make Your Own Journal	20-30 minutes	once	minimal
Geography: Thirteen New States	15 minutes	once	minimal
Geography: Make Your Own Map	20-30 minutes	once	minimal



Famous American Texts: The Louisiana Purchase	5 minutes	daily	minimal
Cooking: Make Your Own Pemmican	60 minutes	once	30 minutes
Science: Junior Naturalists	30 minutes	once	10 minutes
Historical Re-enactment: Build Your Own Fort	40 minutes	once	minimal
Historical Re-enactment: Grizzlies & Buffalos	15 minutes	once	minimal
Supplemental Reading: Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library	15 minutes	once	minimal
Scripture: Psalm 111:2	10 minutes	once	minimal
Vocabulary	10 minutes	once	minimal
Writing: A Dog's Eye View	10 minutes	once	minimal
Art: Find the Animals	10 minutes	once	minimal
Economics: Barter & Exchange	10 minutes	once	minimal

Below is one suggestion for your week with the book *Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark*. Please experiment with what works for your family! (Note: not all activities are included in the suggested sample week below).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
American Heritage Songbook: <i>Elbow Room</i>	Geography: Thirteen New States	Vocabulary (before reading)	Historical Re-enactment: Build Your Own Fort	Economics: Barter & Exchange
Cooking: Make Your Own Pemmican	Arts & Crafts: Watercolors	Science: Junior Naturalists	Art: Find the Animals	Writing: A Dog's Eye View
Supplies: Nuts, seeds, dried fruit, honey, salt, coconut oil	Supplies: Watercolor paints, (thick) paper to paint on, paint brushes	Supplies: Seek app by iNaturalist, sketching paper, pencils	Supplies: N/A	Supplies: N/A

AMERICAN HERITAGE SONGBOOK: SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK!: ELBOW ROOM

Schoolhouse Rock! has another great song and animated short. *Elbow Room* is all about the United States opening up and settling the West. The story starts with the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis & Clark, as you can see in the lyrics below. But it moves from there to the California Gold Rush, Manifest Destiny, and then links to our current frontier, outer space.





*The president was Thomas Jefferson
He made a deal with Napoleon
How'd you like to sell a mile or two, (Or three, or a hundred, or a thousand?)*

*And so, in 1803 the Louisiana Territory was sold to us
Without a fuss
And gave us lots of elbow room*

*Oh, elbow room, elbow room
Got to, got to get us some elbow room
It's the west or bust
In God we trust
There's a new land out there...*

*Lewis and Clark volunteered to go
Goodbye, good luck, wear your overcoat!
They prepared for good times and for bad (and for bad)
They hired Sacagawea to be their guide
She led them all across the countryside
Reached the coast
And found the most
Elbow room we've ever had*

You can find *Elbow Room* on Disney+, [YouTube](#), or order it from [Amazon as part of a Schoolhouse Rock package](#).

ARTS & CRAFTS: WATERCOLORS

Often, huge flocks of passenger pigeons block out the sun. Lewis sketches them in his journal while I look out for rattlesnakes.

The beautiful drawings by Patricia Reeder Eubanks are rendered in a combination of watercolors and acrylics. She does a beautiful job illustrating many of the animals Lewis & Clark encountered along the way and sketched in their journals. For this activity, just ask your kids to paint their favorite animal from the story (including Seaman!) using watercolors.

Supplies:

- Watercolor paints
- Brushes
- Thick paper
- Optional: pencils for sketching





Grizzly Bear

ARTS & CRAFTS: MAKE YOUR OWN JOURNAL

Often Lewis and I visit the Mandans and Hidatsas who live close by. They tell him about the route over the mountains, and Lewis writes it all down in his journal.


Lewis & Clark recorded an incredible amount of information in their journals. They sketched plants and animals, recorded their interactions with all of the Indian tribes they encountered, described the land and all their adventures crossing the continent. For this activity, you will make your own journal that you can use to collect your watercolor drawings (above), your maps (below), and recording the plants and animals you discover on your hike (below). Or you might write your journal from the point-of-view of your family pet, just like *Seaman's Journal*.

Making the journal is relatively simple: collect some paper, punch two holes in the sheets with a hole-punch, and then bind them with string, yarn, or brads. The simple binding makes it easy to add new drawings, maps, or additional pages. Alternatively, journals can be stapled together or even taped along the edge (as my daughter industriously did for her journal).

The journal can include drawn pictures of plants and animals or short write-ups of what occurred each day. For young children you can ask them to tell you what they would include in a journal entry each day.

GEOGRAPHY: THIRTEEN NEW STATES

Clark works to complete his maps while Lewis studies the animals, especially the sea otter. Clark said we have come 4,142 miles from Missouri to the Pacific!





The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States in a single transaction. For the price of \$15,000,000, France sold the United States all of the territory from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains: 800,000 square miles. To help your child(ren) grasp the size, have them remove all the states from the puzzle. Then ask them to assemble just the states that were carved out of the Louisiana Purchase. For this activity, you should only include the states that were wholly or largely part of the Louisiana Purchase:

- Louisiana
- Arkansas
- Missouri
- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Oklahoma
- Kansas
- Nebraska
- South Dakota
- North Dakota
- Colorado
- Wyoming
- Montana

(Small parts of Texas and New Mexico were also part of the purchase but including those states gives the wrong impression of the size of the purchase.)

Next, ask your child(ren) to complete the puzzle east of the Mississippi River – the fourth longest river in the world. Keep the states east of the Mississippi River separate from the states comprising the Louisiana Purchase so they can see how the Louisiana Purchase approximately doubled the size of the United States (you may want to leave Florida out, as we did not acquire it from Spain until 1821). Point out how important the Mississippi River is to the United States. Before roads were built, the Mississippi River was like a giant superhighway, right in the middle of the country, that farmers could use to float their goods down to New Orleans. From there they could be put on a ship and reach ports on the East Coast or even other countries.

GEOGRAPHY: MAKE YOUR OWN MAP

Clark has mapped the lands we crossed.

Lewis & Clark were co-leaders of the Corps of Discovery. However, each had distinct responsibilities. One of the main goals was to find and map a route to the Pacific Ocean. Clark was the expert in mapmaking and it fell to him to map the rivers, mountains, and geography they traveled, plotting their longitude and latitude using a sextant and a chronometer. Between the two of them they produced about 140 maps. In 1814 a complete map of their journey was produced. Astonishingly, Clark was only off by 40 miles in measuring the distance across the continent they traveled.

For this activity, your young explorers get to be William Clark. Their assignment is to map their local neighborhood – the streets, sidewalks, cul-de-sacs. Alternatively, they could map a local park – the playground equipment, the paths, the ball fields. Younger children may want to map something even simpler, like their own room (that's what our four-year-old did). Use graph paper if available and colored pencils to help indicate landmarks.





This is a good opportunity to talk about the different scales on maps. If you are mapping your neighborhood or room, the child(ren) can count how many of their steps it takes to cover the length of the room (or a portion of the street). They can then decide how many of their footsteps a grid square should represent and attempt to get a scale mapping.

Maps cannot include the full detail of everything in the real world. Depending on the scale, more or less detail can be included. Depending on the purpose of the map, certain details might be more or less important (terrain, elevation, etc.). Discuss which details the map you are making should include (and which should be left off). Discuss how this might change depending on the purpose of the map (for example: giving directions to someone driving in a car versus traveling by bike).

FAMOUS AMERICAN TEXTS: THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Let the Land rejoice, for you have bought Louisiana for a Song!

So wrote General Horatio Gates to Thomas Jefferson in July of 1803, suggesting that America paid very little for Louisiana ("a song"). Napoleon Bonaparte led France during the Napoleonic Wars stretching from 1796 to 1815. He needed money to finance those European wars and had little interest in the additional cost of defending an overseas territory that was easily blockaded by the British Navy. Moreover, Napoleon saw that defending Louisiana could become even more expensive if an expansionist United States continued growing into the western lands.

From Napoleon's perspective, he unloaded a piece of property that would have been costly to defend and that he was likely to lose eventually. And he got paid handsomely for it - \$15,000,000 (equivalent to \$340,000,000 today). However, in his farewell letter to the Louisianans, Napoleon foresaw the potential advantages to America: "The day may come when the cession of Louisiana to the United States shall render the Americans too powerful for the continent of Europe. Let the Louisianans know that we separate ourselves from them with regret."


While it is true that the Louisiana Purchase was instrumental in making America a great power, it is also worth remembering that we used that power to rescue France and Europe during World Wars I and II. The Louisiana Purchase was truly a win-win transaction for both France and the United States.

COOKING: MAKE YOUR OWN PEMMICAN

I help Sacajawea dig roots to eat. She also gathers plants for medicine. One day she made pemmican and gave me a piece. I ate the dried meat in it but spit out the nuts and berries. Phooey!

You will find a recipe for pemmican in the back of the book. However, there are many varieties of pemmican that you can try. We used this one and it was a huge hit with (most) of our kids (one refused to try it). We decided it was more of a "dessert pemmican."

Ingredients:

- 2 cups mixed raw nuts and seeds (walnuts, almonds, pecans, pumpkin seeds, etc. are all possibilities)
 - 1/2 tablespoon coconut oil (we used olive oil)
 - 1 and 1/2 cups dried fruit (cherries, cranberries, raisins, apricots, etc.)
- 

- 1 tablespoon flax seeds
- pinch of salt
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 water

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit
2. Lightly toast nuts/seeds in a skillet on the stovetop. Approximately 3-5 minutes stirring frequently.
3. Once warmed/toasted, turn off the heat and mix in the coconut oil (to coat the nuts).
4. Move to a food processor and pulse several times to chop the nuts.
5. Add the dried fruit, flax seed and salt and pulse again until mixed/chopped.
6. Drizzle in honey and water (either on low speed or mix again once they have been added).
7. Spray or butter some parchment paper and put in a glass container (we used an 8x8). 8. Pour mixture into parchment paper and spread/press evenly over the container.
8. Bake for 25-30 minutes until the edges turn brown.
9. Cool completely. Pull out using the parchment paper. Cut into bars. Store in the refrigerator. Take with you to keep your strength up on your next expedition!



Make Your Own Pemmican!

SCIENCE: JUNIOR NATURALISTS

We have been on the greatest adventure ever. Lewis will send a long report to President Jefferson about the Indian tribes, plants, and animals we discovered.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was also known as the Corps of Discovery Expedition. President Thomas Jefferson had charged the expedition to document the plants and animals ("especially those not known in the U.S.") they saw along the way. What did they discover? They returned with more than 200 plant specimens of which 178 were unknown, as well as 122 new animals. Their journals record 134 bird species, including new species named after the explorers: Clark's Nutcracker and Lewis's Woodpecker.





This is a great activity to do with a larger group so consider inviting extended family or another homeschooling family to join you. For this re-enactment you will need to find a local hike with interesting plants, birds, and animals. Provide each of your children with a journal/sketchpad (see “Make Your Own Journal” above) so they can record some of the plants and animals they encounter along the hike, just like Lewis and Clark. You may want to bring some pemmican (see “Make Your Own Pemmican” above) along as a snack. You can also connect this activity with the Arts & Crafts activity of making a watercolor picture of your children’s favorite animal.

The kids can try counting how many different kinds of birds they see; you can also turn it into a contest by breaking up into teams or individuals to see who can find the most birds or the most species. You can help them identify the plants or birds they encounter by using an app; we used Seek by iNaturalist for the plants because they were easier to record (works on both iOS and Android).



Hiking!

HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT: BUILD YOUR OWN FORT

Fort Clatsop, December 1805: The men have built a fort from the pine and fir trees. It rains constantly now, and many of the men wear the Clatsops’ basket hats to keep their heads dry.

The Corps of Discovery halted their expedition twice because of winter. The first time they built Fort Mandan on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains near the Mandan Indians. The second time they built Fort Clatsop near the shore of the Pacific Ocean and the Clatsop tribe.

You’ll need blankets, pillows, and chairs to help your explorers build a traditional blanket fort inside the house. Let them decide if they are building Fort Mandan near the Rocky Mountains or Fort Clatsop near the Pacific Ocean. Lewis & Clark built their forts for shelter and protection from the winter storms. If your kids are up for it, they may want to sleep overnight in their forts before heading “home” in the morning after a nice breakfast of pemmican.



Alternatively, you could erect a real tent in the backyard for an overnight sleepover or even combine this activity with the Junior Naturalist activity for a hiking and camping trip to a local state park.

HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT: GRIZZLIES & BUFFALOS

*Suddenly a gigantic buffalo charged into camp,
straight for Lewis's tent! I barked out, 'Woof!'
That buffalo turned around and headed back to where he came from. Lewis called me
his brave dog!*

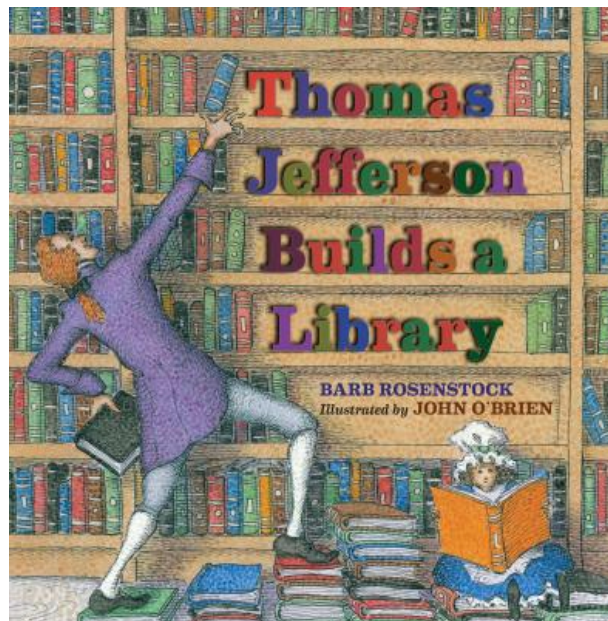
Play-acting Seaman and the buffalo can be a lot of fun. Let your child be Seaman. Pretend to be a buffalo and charge, but turn away scared when "Seaman" lets out a big bark! You can also switch roles or with multiple children you can have someone be Lewis and congratulate the "brave dog."

Another activity is to pretend to be a grizzly bear or get some stuffed teddy bears to pretend to be grizzly bears. Let "Lewis" fight off the bears to protect the camp.

Another fun extension is to act out part (or all) of the expedition, possibly with a cardboard box serving as a boat and pillow forts for the forts, either as you read the story or afterwards.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING: THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDS A LIBRARY

*While president, Tom doubled the size of the country
and more than tripled the number of books in its library.*



Title: *Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library*

Author: Barb Rosenstock

Illustrator: John O'Brien

Year Published: 2023

Length: 32 pages

This is a delightful story about Thomas Jefferson. It touches lightly on what we usually think of as his major accomplishments: authoring the Declaration of Independence, Ambassador to France, our third President and the Louisiana Purchase. Instead, it focuses on his love of books and reading and, most famously, his contributions to the Library of Congress, today the largest library in the world and featured prominently on many lists of the most beautiful libraries in America.

John O'Brien uses pen-and-ink drawings on watercolors with an overlay of pointillist dots for his whimsical drawings which will fascinate both parents and kids. O'Brien's drawings are just plain fun: Thomas Jefferson reading while dancing the minuet, while sitting in a bookshelf as a boy, and my favorite, while riding a horse with a book for a saddle, while playing the fiddle, and reading a book from a bookstand mounted on the horse's head. "Tom gobbled books the way a starving man eats." Or, as Jefferson himself wrote, "I can not live without books."



Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 111:2

Great are the works of the LORD; They are pondered by all who delight in them.



As noted above, an important part of Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery was documenting any new plant and animal species they encountered. Ask your children which are their favorites of the Lord's "works" in the plant and animal kingdoms. Do they take delight in them? How? Can you increase your delight in the Lord's work by pondering and studying it? That is what Lewis & Clark did and, hopefully, what your own Junior Naturalists will do in the Science activity.

VOCABULARY

In a pouring rain, we pushed the fifty-five-foot keelboat and two pirogues (flat-bottomed dugout canoes) into the Missouri River. We travel upriver and the men must push against its strong current.

We tried something new with this module and asked the kids what words they thought should be in the vocabulary section. The words below are a combination of their suggestions and some that we thought might be new to young readers:

Loyal	firm, unchanging support for a person, organization, or cause
Corps	a group of people acting together (the "p" and the "s" are silent)
Keelboat	a shallow, covered riverboat with a long piece of wood on the bottom (the keel) to provide stability
Fossils	the shape of a plant or animal that has been preserved in rock for a long time
Trinkets	a small ornament or piece of jewelry of little value
Prairie	a large area of flat land with grasses but no trees
Journal	a daily record of experiences and observations
Portage	carrying a boat over land to avoid an obstacle in the water

WRITING: A DOG'S EYE VIEW

Here is my story of the greatest adventure a dog ever had, when I followed Lewis and Clark all the way to the Pacific Ocean and back again.

This story is told using the "first person" point-of-view of Meriweather Lewis's Newfoundland dog, Seaman. What do your kids think about a dog telling them the story of the most famous expedition in our nation's history? The technique the author uses creates an interesting blend of fact and fiction. Of course it's fictional that a dog can tell a story and keep a journal. But the facts he relates are all taken from the journals of Lewis & Clark.

Ask your kids to write an adventure story from an animal's point of view. It could be from one of your pets or even a favorite stuffed animal. For younger kids, you could tell them a story and ask them to draw a scene from the story.

ART: FIND THE ANIMALS





We've seen bobcat, elk, buffalo, and antelope. I chased the antelope and took one to Cook. One day we counted thirty-six bald eagles soaring above our heads.

The author/illustrator, Patricia Reeder Eubanks, imitates the journals of Lewis & Clark by including drawings of animals they discovered during the expedition. Once Lewis & Clark start the expedition, your child(ren) will discover multiple pictures of animals on every page. Ask them to see if they can find all the animals. Which one is their favorite?

ECONOMICS: BARTER & EXCHANGE

We've packed shiny bracelets, scissors, medals, mirrors, army uniforms, hats, and flags to trade with the Indians. A party of Kickapoos came into our camp. We gave them trinkets. They gave us deer meat.

Lewis and Clark bartered with many Indian tribes during more than two years, exchanging the “trinkets” they brought with them for food, horses, and other supplies. While the book uses the term “trinkets” to indicate they were items of small value, they were often items that the Indians had never seen before and had no way of producing for themselves. This made the trinkets rare and valuable to the Indians. In return, the Corps received food and supplies they needed to continue their expedition – items that were valuable to them.

Barter, voluntarily exchanging goods (or services) for items (or services) that each party values more highly than what they are exchanging, is an example of how individuals and groups benefit through trade. You can set up a barter situation with your kids in many ways. One way is to distribute toys to them randomly and tell them they can only play with the toys they have; after a few minutes, allow them to trade toys. The trades should make them more satisfied with what they now have. Legos work well for this exercise but you can do it with stuffed animals or any random distribution of toys. Barter also crops up naturally in the home when a toddler latches on to an item that they should not have and the best way to get it back is to trade them a shiny toy.

