

Lewis and Clark

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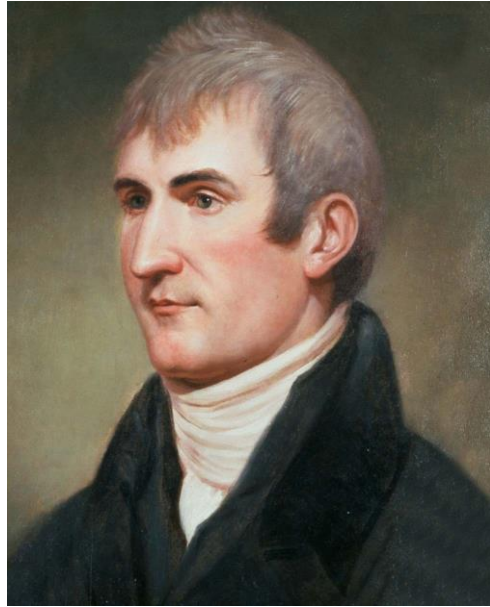
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Introduction

President Thomas Jefferson **purchased** the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. The President decided the **territory** needed to be explored. Thomas Jefferson hired Meriwether Lewis to be the captain of the Corps of Discovery **expedition**. The purpose of the expedition was to find a water route that linked the Columbia River to the Missouri River. Meriwether Lewis chose his friend William Clark to co-command the expedition. The explorers met many Native American tribes including the Shoshone, Mandan, Hidatsas, and many more. Lewis and Clark made maps and wrote about the plants and animals they found along the way. The expedition took about two years to complete.

Meriwether Lewis



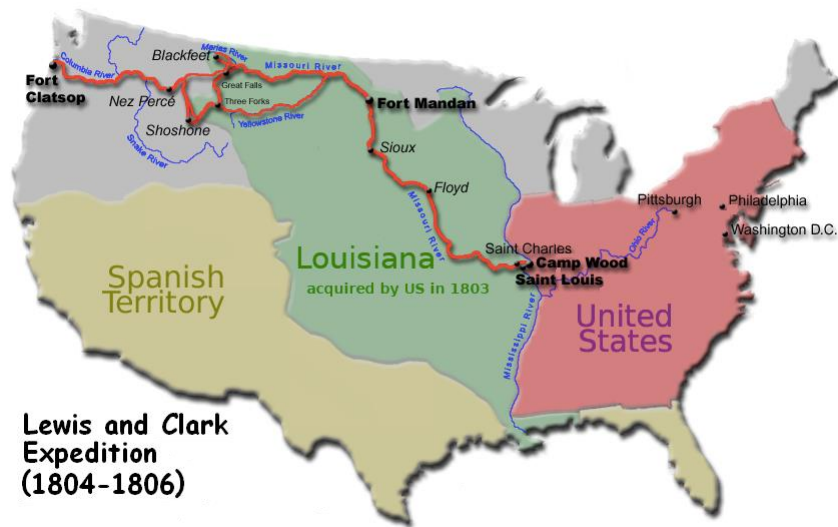
Meriwether Lewis was born on August 18, 1774 in Virginia. President Thomas Jefferson asked Meriwether Lewis to be his personal **secretary** in 1801. He was also an **explorer** and a soldier. He met William Clark while serving in the military with him in 1795. When Meriwether Lewis returned home from the journey he was named the **governor** of the Louisiana Territory.

William Clark



William Clark was born on August 1, 1770 in Virginia. William Clark was an **explorer** and a soldier, which is **similar** to Meriwether Lewis. William Clark received a letter from Meriwether Lewis in 1803 asking him to share the command of an expedition. Meriwether Lewis made William Clark his co-commanding caption but the **government** did not recognize it.

Map of the Journey



The Journey

The expedition began on May 14, 1804 at Camp Wood in Ohio. They built Fort Mandan across the river from the main village of the Mandan and Hidatsas Native Americans. They stayed in Fort Mandan for the winter of 1804. Then they came to a fork in the river. Lewis and Clark believed the south fork was the Missouri river but the other men on the expedition thought it was the north fork. They followed the south fork and reached the three forks of the Missouri river in Montana. They continued southwest and reached the Columbia River on October 16, 1805.

Sacagawea



Sacagawea was a Shoshone Native American. She was married to Touissant Charbonneau, who was a French-Canadian trader. They were invited on Lewis and Clark's expedition during their first winter. Sacagawea's husband was an **interpreter** for the two explorers. They needed Sacagawea's help to find the Shoshones because the Shoshones were believed to live at the headwaters of the Missouri River.

Timeline

- 1770 August 1 – William Clark was born.
- 1774 August 18 – Meriwether Lewis was born.
- 1801 March 6– President Jefferson asked Lewis to be his secretary.
- 1803 Spring– President Jefferson asked Lewis to be the commander of the expedition. Lewis asked Clark to be the co---commander. Clark accepts.
- July 4 – President Jefferson announces the Louisiana Purchase.
- Fall/Winter – Camp Wood is established.
- 1804 May 14 – The expedition begins.
- November 4 – Sacagawea and her husband were hired on to the expedition.
- December 24 – Fort Mandan is completed and the crew stays there for the winter.
- 1805 August 8 – Sacagawea recognizes Beaverhead Rock near the Shoshones and the headwaters of the Missouri River.
- 1806 October 16 – They reach the Columbia River
September 23 – Lewis and Clark return to St. Louis.
- 1809 October 11 – Lewis dies.
- 1812 December 20 – Sacagawea dies.
- 1838 September 1 – Clark dies.

Journals

Lewis and Clark both wrote detailed journal entries about the expedition. They wrote about the different plants and animals they had seen and also the different types of weather they experienced. These journals have given us insight on the expedition from the point of view of Lewis and Clark.

An entry from Meriwether Lewis-

May 20, 1804

“We set forward... to join my friend companion and fellow labourer Capt. William Clark, who had previously arrived at that place with the party destined for the discovery of the interior of the continent of North America... As I had determined to reach St. Charles this evening and knowing that there was now no time to be lost I set forward in the rain... and joined Capt. Clark, found the party in good health and sperits.”

Example of a Journal Entry

1891, Dec. 2

I do certify that I have been in habits of intimacy with Gen. G. R. Clark since the year 1842, and have also during that time, been occasionally called upon to attend him as a Physician — A violent Rheumatic affection of the ^{left} Hip & Knee joints, which the Gen. states to be of many years standing, I have heard him frequently complain of, attended with such general weakness of the extremity, as that in walking the body was tender tottering and unsteady. — It is the belief of the Gen. (nor do I hesitate to subscribe to the opinion) that the Fatigue and exposure to weather, which he underwent, whilst engaged in the service of his Country, was the cause —

In addition to the above an unfortunate accident, which happened to him in the month of March last, made Amputation of the opposite limb necessary in consequence of which he has been deprived of that, in which every hope of moving from place to place was centered — He is now

Outcomes

There were many outcomes of the expedition. The first one was **diplomatic relations** with Native Americans. Lewis and Clark traded goods and created useful relationships. William Clark drew detailed maps that named and noted rivers, creeks, significant points in the landscape, and where the explorers camped. They also found a water route that linked the Columbia and the Missouri rivers. Meriwether Lewis was named the governor of the Louisiana Territory and William Clark was appointed as the agent for Indian Affairs in the west. He later became he governor of the Missouri Territory.

Questions

Compare and contrast Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

Describe the purpose of the expedition.

Discuss Sacagawea and her family's important role in the expedition.

What outcome was most useful for William Clark for his future career?

Glossary

Diplomatic Relations: To conduct relationships between governments peacefully.

Expedition: A journey people go on with a purpose, which is generally exploration or scientific.

Explorer: A person that explores an unfamiliar area.

Government: The rules and people who make them for a group of people.

Governor: The head of a specific state.

Interpreter: A person who translates one language into another.

Purchased: Bought with money.

Secretary: A person who is hired to assist with keeping records, making appointments, etc.

Similar: Alike; has the same qualities.

Territory: An area of land that is rule by a government.

Media Attributions

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Common Core State Standards

2.SS.4.3.2 Name historic and contemporary people who model characteristics of good citizenship. CCSS.ELA-

--Literacy.RI.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA---Literacy.RI.2.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic subject area.

CCSS.ELA---Literacy.RI.2.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

CCSS.ELA---Literacy.RI.2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

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