

KID'S QUEST: The Lewis and Clark Adventures

Programs abound on the Corps of Discovery, with the focus on Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, leaders of the epic 1804 expedition. But two members of the corps did not enjoy the full rights and protections of U.S. citizenship, even though they were key to the expedition's success.

South Dakota Public Broadcasting Television will take a different tack as it presents "Kids' Quest: The Lewis and Clark Adventures." The one-hour program, presented during the school day to encourage student participation, will be hosted by Sacagawea (Selene Phillips), a Shoshone Indian woman, and York (Charles Everett Pace), a slave. Both Phillips and Pace are Humanities scholars who have been participating in the Great Plains Chautauqua.

The goal of the program is to examine an awesome adventure and the elements of diversity as interest peaks for the Corps of Discovery bicentennial years.

"Kids' Quest" is an interactive program promoting thought among young students, as well as all viewers. This program, set for 10 a.m. CT/9 MT, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2003, will be connected to schools all across the state. It will be geared to the 4th- through 5th-grade levels, but offer information of interest to all viewers.

It is not often that a nationwide event has such a close connection to South Dakota. The bicentennial is drawing intense interest from all ages and the program will help combine this interest with a history lesson from two unique perspectives. The expedition, as well as the treatment of black people and of Native Americans throughout U.S. history, still have repercussions today, especially in South Dakota with its large Native American minority.

Some possible discussion points:

- ◆ What rights did Native Americans, women and slaves have in 1804?
- ◆ How did Sacagawea help the expedition?
- ◆ How did York help the expedition?

"Kids' Quest" puts a human face on history, further enhancing the program by taking the minority points of view. The program, will be hosted by enactors representing two key members of the Corps of Discovery who also were minorities: Sacagawea, a Shoshone who also was the only woman with the group; and York, the slave and servant of Corps leader William Clark.

The Lewis and Clark saga often concentrates on the accomplishments of the intrepid Corps of Discovery, rather than the human interaction that shaped those accomplishments. Sacagawea and York and their roles are especially interesting due to their unique status.

Selene Phillips – Sacagawea. Phillips, Ph.D candidate in American studies at Purdue University, portrays Sacagawea, a Shoshone Indian. Phillips, an Ojibwe and a member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, recently completed her dissertation on Sacagawea and the expedition.

She has plenty of experience in the role, as Sacagawea for the Great Plains Chautauqua last summer (and will be again in 2003). In addition, she has extensive on-camera experience as a television anchor and producer.

She has a double major in science and sports movement and radio and television from Purdue and a Master's Degree in Journalism from Indiana University's School of Journalism.

Charles Everett Pace – York. A visiting instructor of anthropology and American studies at Centre College in Danville, Ky., Pace received his BA from the University of Texas at Austin and his MA from Purdue University, where he is a PhD candidate. He is a 10-year veteran of the Great Plains Chautauqua Society circuit.

Pace has presented Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois on the Plains and done Chautauqua interpretations of Langston Hughes and Malcolm X as well in other settings.

He has extensive performing and media credits. He was creator and program director for a public radio program at Purdue for three years.

The Great Plains Chautauqua, is a traveling history show that features presentations by historians, philosophers and other scholars of the humanities. Assuming the identities of famous historical figures, these scholars offer new perspectives while discussing a wide range of timely topics with local citizens.

The scholars on “Kids’ Quest” will present historical points of view touching on history, sociology and social development in the United States.

Phillips will look at the group dynamics from the point of view of an Indian woman in the early 19th century. York will personify the effects of slavery and the degree of freedom he enjoyed within the Corps.

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, SDPB Television will bring the adventures Lewis and Clark to life through the eyes of Sacagawea and York. “Kids’ Quest: The Lewis and Clark Adventures” will air live from the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion. Two Humanities scholars, Serene Phillips and Charles Everett Pace, will play the roles for hundreds of South Dakota schoolchildren and other viewers at 10 a.m. CT/9 MT.

The one-hour program will include:

- ◆ Presentations by the hosts, Phillips and Pace.
- ◆ Background on the expedition and South Dakota’s role.
- ◆ Interactive element allowing fourth- and fifth-grade students across the state to e-mail questions for Sacagawea and York.
- ◆ Questions from the live studio audience of children from the Vermillion area.

This special will give adults and students the chance to learn more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition as it traveled through South Dakota.

“Kids’ Quest” is part of a series of interactive adventures on SDPB Television (previously called “Electronic Adventure”). The last event, in April 2000, attracted the participation of dozens of schools and thousands of students.

Quiz

1. How was the Missouri River's speed different in the time of Lewis and Clark compared to present day?
 - A. There was no difference.
 - B. In 1804, the river ran faster.
 - C. In 1804, it ran slower.
 - D. There is no record of river speed.
2. In addition to paddling and poling to fight the river current, what else did the Corps of Discovery do to move forward?
 - A. hoisted sails
 - B. using ropes, pulled the boats forward
 - C. nothing
 - D. A and B
3. Which member of the Corps of Discovery died during the trek?
 - A. Seaman, Captain Lewis' dog
 - B. York, Captain Clark's slave
 - C. Sergeant Floyd
 - D. Sergeant Gass
4. Which animal bothered the Corps of Discovery more than any other?
 - A. wolves
 - B. coyotes
 - C. tse-tse fly
 - D. mosquito
5. How are Grizzly bears different from black bears?
 - A. larger
 - B. smaller
 - C. more aggressive
 - D. A and C
6. By what other name were the Lakota called?
 - A. Teton Sioux
 - B. Nakota
 - C. Yankton Sioux
 - D. Dakota
7. Desperate for food in the mountains, the Corps of Discovery often resorted to eating what?
 - A. rocks
 - B. dogs
 - C. eagles
 - D. grass

8. The Mandan village, where the corps wintered, would be in what state?
 - A. South Dakota
 - B. Montana
 - C. North Dakota
 - D. Minnesota

9. What physical impediment proved to be the Corps biggest challenge?
 - A. Missouri River sandbars
 - B. Rocky Mountains
 - C. Pacific Ocean hurricanes
 - D. Great Plains heat and dryness

10. Who handled most medical emergencies for the Corps, and delivered Sacagawea's son?
 - A. Captain Lewis
 - B. Captain Clark
 - C. Toussaint Charbonneau, Sacagawea's husband
 - D. Dr. Phillip Rush

Answers:

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. D
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. A

Links

www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/

www.lewisandclark.org

www.lewis-clark.org

www.lewisclark200.org

www.nationalgeographic.com/west.main.html

www.lcarchive.org

www.sierraclub.org/lewisandclark

Standards

Fifth Grade History Standards

2. locate the routes and evaluate early explorations of the Americas in terms of reasons for explorations, obstacles and accomplishments of key expeditions from Spain, Portugal, France, and England; life changing impact on the first Americans; and competition that developed among European powers for control of North America.

9. summarize the growth and change in America from the Revolution to 1861 with emphasis on territorial exploration, expansion, and settlement of the Louisiana Purchase; acquisition of Florida, Texas, Oregon, and California; the influence of geographic, economic, and climatic factors on the movement of people, goods, and services; the effect of American relationships with other countries on our westward expansion; and the impact of inventions such as the steamboat, cotton gin, and locomotives on life in America.

Fifth Grade Geography Standards

2. determine the purpose of and use appropriate maps, including relief, product, road maps and mileage tables, time zones, migration/movement patterns, population, and historical.

Glossary

1. Anticipate: to look forward to; or to realize a situation ahead of time.
2. Challenge: to engage in a contest or fight.
3. Crucial: critical, very important.
4. Disparate: entirely different, separate.
5. Forethought: planning in advance; thoughts of preparation.
6. Indomitable: unstoppable, cannot be beaten.
7. Lakota: Native American tribe of Upper Midwest; also known as Teton Sioux.
8. Nez Perce: Native American tribe of Northwest; also known as Salish.
9. Prostrate: physically exhausted.

Lewis and Clark Challenge Quotes

While most of the interactions with the various American Indian tribes were positive, on occasion they could become tense. Before the Corps of Discovery celebrated with the Lakota, there was a challenging moment that Captain Clark recorded on September 25, 1804, in his journal:

“Most of the warriors appeared to have their bows strung and took out their arrows from the quiver . . . Their treatment of me was very rough and I think I justified roughness on my part . . . I offered my hand to the first and second chiefs who refused to receive it.”

A day later, Captain Clark wrote that the attitude of the Lakota had changed:

“On landing I was received on an elegant painted buffalo robe and taken to the village by six men.”

The men of the Corps of Discovery faced many challenges—from environmental to psychological. In his Aug. 18, 1805 entry, Captain Lewis revealed a melancholy state of mind on his 31st birthday:

“This day I completed my thirty first year . . . I reflected that I had as yet done but little, very little, indeed, to further the happiness of the human race”

One of the many environmental challenges that confronted the Corps was the difficult terrain. On Aug. 23, 1805, Captain Clark reported on the ruggedness of the path they had chosen:

“Proceed on with great difficulty as the rocks were so sharp, large and unsettled and the hill sides steep that the horses could with greatest risk and difficulty get on”

Problems from under foot as well as from up above plagued the Corps. On Nov. 15, 1805, Captain Clark wrote about an almost endless storm:

“Eleven days of rain, and the most disagreeable time I have experienced”

After months of arduous travel the men dealt with many different kinds of medical ailments. Captain Clark noted a few of these in his May 15th, 1806 entry:

“Frazur Jo. Fields and Peter Wizer complain of violent pain in their heads. Howard and York with violent colic. The cause of the disorders we are unable to account for. Their diet and the sudden change of climate must contribute.”

For anyone traveling, the weather is a concern. It was no different for the Corps of Discovery. In the middle of June, 1806, Captain Clark wrote this in his journal:

“The snow has increased in quantity so much that the great part of our route this evening was over the snow.”

During the warm months, Captains Lewis and Clark and the men were attacked by an animal modern people dread—the mosquito. On July 3, 1806, Captain Lewis wrote this about the insect:

“The mosquitoes were so excessively troublesome this evening that we were obliged to kindle large fires for our horses . . . these insects torture them in such a manner until they place themselves in the smoke of the fires”

Twelve days later, Captain Lewis took time to write again about the pest:

“The mosquitoes continue to infest us in such manner that we can scarcely exist . . . My dog even howls with the torture he experiences from them . . . They are so numerous that we frequently get them in our throats as we breathe.”

Challenges

On a trip, any kind of trip, something can go wrong. Problems arise. To prepare for a trip, planning is crucial. Even if all aspects of a journey are well planned, however, the unexpected might happen. The Corps of Discovery attempted to anticipate as many potential difficulties as possible.

Lewis and Clark met many kinds of challenges. Though almost every day of the trip revealed a new challenge, the challenges can be put into a few different categories—the Missouri River; the animals they encountered; the weather; and the dealings with the native peoples who lived along the route.

Within minutes of leaving St. Louis, the Corps of Discovery realized the path that they would follow, the Missouri River, would be a reluctant friend. The river flowed faster 200 years ago than it does now. No dams slowed it and there were more hazards then—fallen trees and sandbars, for example. On some arduous days the men were fortunate to push and pull the expedition's boats four miles—twelve or more hours of battling the river to move the equivalent of 16 laps around a running track.

As amazing and awe-inspiring as the variety of wildlife was, the Corps had trouble coping with some of the animals. While the Corps had contact with dozens of species non-Native Americans had never seen, they paid particular attention to a pair of disparate creatures—the indomitable grizzly and the constantly annoying mosquito.

“THE MOSQUITOES CONTINUE TO INFEST US IN SUCH A MANNER THAT WE CAN SCARCELY EXIST. MY DOG EVEN HOWLS WITH THE TORTURE HE EXPERIENCES FROM THEM. THEY ARE SO NUMGEROUS THAT WE FREQUENTLY GET THEM IN OUR THROATS AS WE BREATHE.”

The weather also proved to be a constant problem to be solved. On the prairie the summer heat prostrated them.

The Dakota winter drove them indoors for months, stopping their progress entirely. The Rockies presented the expedition with a climate totally unknown to them. During the journey the captains and their men often came close to death.

Quite possibly the most daunting challenge, one that required more creativity and thought than any other, was the Corps's ability to negotiate with people who had lived on the land for thousands of years. On numerous occasions, the Corps of Discovery could not have survived without assistance from native

people. In what is now South Dakota, the Lakota confronted the Corps; for the first and only time, a native tribe almost resorted to violence against the explorers. A fight was avoided, and what could have been a massacre, evolved into a tense celebration.

“MOST OF THE WARRIORS APPEARED TO HAVE THEIR BOWS STRUNG AND TOOK OUT THEIR ARROWS FROM THE QUIVER. THEIR TREATMENT OF ME WAS VERY ROUGH AND I THINK I JUSTIFIED ROUGHNESS ON MY PART. I OFFERED MY HAND TO THE FIRST AND SECOND CHIEFS WHO REFUSED TO RECEIVE IT.”

Lewis and Clark had to think quickly, making snap decisions, to meet the variety of challenges they faced. At any time during the voyage to the Pacific the captains could have turned around to head home.

“THIS DAY I COMPLETED MY THIRTY FIRST YEAR. I REFLECTED THAT I HAD AS YET DONE BUT LITTLE, VERY LITTLE, INDEED TO FURTHER THE HAPPINESS OF THE HUMAN RACE.”

But the hardships did not deter the Corps of Discovery. They persisted because they wanted to complete their mission, to return home with the knowledge they had found.

Communications

Ten generations since Lewis and Clark began their voyage of discovery, people all over the world, especially modern americans, find the expedition compelling. History buffs re-enact different episodes in the journey. Students of all ages continue to study and learn more about the expedition. It seems the more people uncover about the corps of discovery, the more they want to know. curiosity and fascination about the explorers and their mission has never waned.

Communication is at the core of continuing fascination with the mission. Communication is also at the heart of the success of Lewis and Clark's trek.

To better understand what happened as the adventurers crossed the unknown land, modern people can turn to the journals the captains and their men kept. present-day people can read the actual words of Lewis and Clark—the images of their trip through their senses on paper.

“AT ELEVEN OCLOCK WE MET THE GRAND CHIEF IN COUNCIL AND HE MADE A SHORT SPEECH THANKING US FOR WHAT WE HAD GIVEN HIM AND HIS NATION AND INFORMED US THE ROAD WAS OPEN AND NO ONE DARE SHUT IT, AND WE COULD DEPART AT PLEASURE.”

They communicated what they smelled and heard and saw—for their president, and for anyone interested in the historic expedition.

As the corps of discovery progressed westward, the captains learned to share command and convey their expectations to their men. The captains used corporal punishment to get their messages across. For those who failed at their duties, the consequences were serious. one soldier received 100 lashes for falling asleep on guard. Doing this a few times in the beginning, the captains set an example for the men. Later in the journey, there were few disciplinary problems.

The entire corps constantly depended on good communication for survival. Throughout the journey, the explorers encountered native american tribes, each with its own language and customs. Lewis and Clark often relied on sign language to communicate important information to the native people.

**“IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY WE HAD MUCH
CONVERSATION WITH THE NEWPERCE INDIANS BY SIGNS,
OUR ONLY MODE OF COMMUNICATING OUR IDEAS. I
PREVAILED UPON THEM TO GO WITH ME AS FAR AS THE
EAST BRANCH OF CLARK’S RIVER AND PUT ME ON THE
ROAD TO THE MISSOURI.”**

Later, Sacagawea joined the expedition and became and became one of the interpreters. In addition to speaking a variety of languages, Sacagawea, by virtue of being Indian and female, communicated a powerful, peaceful message to tribes that met the American voyagers.

usually, the captains consulted with each other to come to decisions. sometimes, though, they couldn't speak with each other. at one key juncture, after the corps of discovery split into two groups, captain Clark posted a handwritten note on a tree on an island—in the middle of the uncharted wilderness. the note contained information about the route his group would take. against the odds, captain Lewis spotted the note and learned what the other group was doing.

communication is the reason why people now and people through time know and have known about Lewis and Clark and their monumental trailblazing.

Lewis and Clark Communication Quotes

In his September 26th journal entry, Captain Clark expressed anxiety and relief as he recalled the expedition's encounter with the Lakota people:

“After Captain Lewis had been on shore about three hours I became uneasy for fear of deception . . . [but] know his treatment . . . was friendly and they were preparing for a dance this evening. They made frequent solicitations for us to remain one night only and let them show their good disposition towards us.”

Later in the same entry, Captain Clark wrote about the ceremony and celebration that took place that night between the Corps of Discovery and the Lakota leaders:

“Soon after they set me down, the men went for Captain Lewis [and] brought him in the same way and placed him also by the Chief . . . [He] rose . . . with great solemnity took up the pipe of peace . . . and lit it and presented the stem to us to smoke.”

Less than a month later, the explorers entered Mandan territory. From the outset, the Corps's experience with this tribe proved to be positive. Shortly after meeting the tribal elders, Captain Clark recorded a chief's expressions of goodwill.

“At 11:00 we met the Grand Chief in council and he made a short speech thanking us for what we had given him and his nation . . . and [he] informed us the road was open and no one dare shut it, and we [could] depart at pleasure.”

By July of 1806, the Corps of Discovery had communicated with many different native tribes along the route to the Pacific. In the Bitterroot Mountains, Captain Lewis requested assistance from the native people, using sign language:

“In the course of the day we had much conversation with the [Nez Perce] Indians by signs, our only mode of communicating our ideas . . . I prevailed upon them to go with me as far as the east branch of Clark's River and put me on the road to the Missouri.”

Glossary

1. Communication: the exchange of thoughts or messages by speech, signals, or writing.
2. Corporal punishment: a penalty that is physically applied to the body—e.g., a spanking.
3. Fascination: something or someone that attracts, allures, or charms.
4. Generation: the average time period between birth of parents and when they have children—approximately 20 years.
5. Journal: a personal record of experiences kept on a regular basis; a diary.
6. Lash: to hit with a whip.
7. Route: a way of travel, a course to go from place to place.
8. Translator: a person who can speak more than one language and exchanges meaning in one language into another.
9. Trailblazer: someone who leads the way.
10. Trek: a journey, often slow and difficult.

Quiz

1. How many volumes of the Corps of Discovery's journals were originally published?
 - A. 9
 - B. 7
 - C. 5
 - D. 2
2. To what tribe did Sacagawea belong?
 - A. Shoshone
 - B. Hidatsa
 - C. Lakota
 - D. Nez Perce'
3. How many different Native American tribes live long the Corps of Discovery route?
 - A. 27
 - B. Around 100
 - C. About 50
 - D. 14
4. Besides English, what European language was relatively common in trading camps and frontier forts?
 - A. Portuguese
 - B. French
 - C. Dutch
 - D. Spanish
5. Which is a piece of physical evidence from the Corps of Discovery still existence?
 - A. clothing
 - B. boats
 - C. a number of tools
 - D. a stone marker
6. Who also wrote in a journal?
 - A. Patrick Gass
 - B. Sacagawea
 - C. Toussaint Charbonneau
 - D. York
7. Based on a misleading translation, the Lakota are often referred to as?

Yankton Sioux

Pawnee

Teton Sioux

Tatanka

8. Which tribe welcomed and educated the Corps of Discovery more than any other?
- A. Shoshone
 - B. Blackfeet
 - C. Nez Perce'
 - D. Mandan
9. Because of a sign language translation error, the Corps of Discovery mistakenly renamed what tribe the Flatheads?
- A. Nez Perce'
 - B. Madocians
 - C. Salish
 - D. Sioux
10. Whose journal was published first?
- A. Patrick Gass
 - B. John Ordway
 - C. William Clark
 - D. Merriwether Lewis

Answers

- 1. D
- 2. A
- 3. C
- 4. B
- 5. D
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. D
- 9. C
- 10. A

Standards

Fifth Grade History Standards

2. locate the routes and evaluate early explorations of the Americas in terms of reasons for explorations, obstacles and accomplishments of key expeditions from Spain, Portugal, France, and England; life changing impact on the first Americans; and competition that developed among European powers for control of North America.

9. summarize the growth and change in America from the Revolution to 1861 with emphasis on territorial exploration, expansion, and settlement of the Louisiana Purchase; acquisition of Florida, Texas, Oregon, and California; the influence of geographic, economic, and climatic factors on the movement of people, goods, and services; the effect of American relationships with other countries on our westward expansion; and the impact of inventions such as the steamboat, cotton gin, and locomotives on life in America.

Fifth Grade Geography Standards

2. determine the purpose of and use appropriate maps, including relief, product, road maps and mileage tables, time zones, migration/movement patterns, population, and historical.

Reasons for the Expedition

LEWIS AND CLARK: THE TWO NAMES ARE FOREVER CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE EXPEDITION THEY LED---THE EXPEDITION THAT HELPED CREATE AMERICA

THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY CONSISTED OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE: MERIWETHER LEWIS (*Video of Re-enactor*) WILLIAM CLARK (*video of re-enactor*) CLARK'S SLAVE YORK AND SACAQAWEA THE SHOSHONE WOMAN WHO HELPED AS TRANSLATOR AND NEGOTIATOR BETWEEN THE AMERICAN EXPLORERS AND THE NUMEROUS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE WAY. BUT DOZENS OF SOLDIERS WERE ACTIVE AND INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF THE MISSION

PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXPEDITION. SECRETARIES OF STATE AND TREASURY JAMES MADISON AND GALLATIN, AS WELL AS ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI LINCOLN HELPED THE PRESIDENT CONVINCING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE EXPLORATION – WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY.

THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE JOURNEY WAS ECONOMIC EXPANSION. IN A LETTER TO MERIWETHER LEWIS, PRESIDENT JEFFERSON WROTE, "YOUR MISSION IS TO EXPLORE THE MISSOURI RIVER OR ANY OTHER RIVER THAT MAY OFFER THE MOST DIRECT WATER COMMUNICATION

ACROSS THIS CONTINENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMERCE.”

TO CONVINCING CONGRESS THAT THE MISSION WAS IMPORTANT
PRESIDENT JEFFERSON EMPHASIZED THE ENORMOUS ECONOMIC
POTENTIAL OF THE UNEXPLORED AND THE UN-EXPLOITED LAND.

CONGRESS AGREED TO FINANCE THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION FOR
TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. BY THE TIME THE JOURNEY WAS
COMPLETED THE TOTAL COST WAS ESTIMATED BETWEEN THIRTY FIVE
THOUSAND AND FOURTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

PRESIDENT JEFFERSON HAD OTHER REASONS FOR WANTING TO EXPLORE
THE LAND BETWEEN ST. LOUIS AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN. HE LOVED
LEARNING AND SEEKING KNOWLEDGE WAS AS VITAL AS ANY BUSINESS
PROJECT. IN A LETTER TO A SPANISH DIPLOMAT PRESIDENT JEFFERSON
REFERRED TO THE EXPEDITION AS A “LITERARY PURSUIT”. PRESIDENT
JEFFERSON LATER SAID THE REASON FOR THE MISSION WAS “THE
ADVANCEMENT OF GEOGRAPHY”.

JEFFERSON IMPRESSED ON CAPTAIN LEWIS THAT, IN ADDITION TO
SEARCHING FOR A WATER TRADE ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, THAT
THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY WOULD BE A JOURNEY CONCENTRATING ON
SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION.

Glossary

Cartography—the art and technique of making maps.

Commerce—the buying and selling of goods, especially between nations.

Corps—a group of people working together.

Discovery—the act of obtaining knowledge through observation, search, or study.

Expedition—a journey undertaken by an organized group with a common goal; also, the group going on the journey.

Exploitation—to selfishly or unethically taking advantage of a person or situation.

Exploration—the act of investigating, examining, or searching in a systematic way.

Geography—the study of the earth and its features, including animal, plant, and human life.

Journey—travel from one place to another.

Pursuit—the art of searching, chasing, or striving.

Quiz

1. What official position did Merriwether Lewis hold before leading the Corps of Discovery?
 - A. commander in Continental Army
 - B. senator from Virginia
 - C. respected New York lawyer
 - D. personal secretary to president
2. Which country controlled the Louisiana Territory before the U.S. purchased it from the French?
 - A. Spain
 - B. Portugal
 - C. Britain
 - D. Russia
3. The waterway connecting the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean had a special name, what was it?
 - A. Inside Passage
 - B. Northwest Passage
 - C. Transcontinental Route
 - D. Passage to India
4. Who was president as the Corps of Discovery crossed the continent?
 - A. George Washington
 - B. Thomas Jefferson
 - C. James Monroe
 - D. John Adams
5. The acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase increased the area of the U.S. by how much?
 - A. doubled
 - B. tripled
 - C. quadrupled
 - D. one and half times larger
6. In addition to leading the Corps of Discovery, what were Captain Clark's primary duties?
 - A. hunting and fishing
 - B. maintaining boats and firearms
 - C. navigating and map-making
 - D. collecting data on plants and animals

7. In addition to leading the Corps of Discovery, what were Captain Lewis's primary duties?
- A. hunting and fishing
 - B. maintaining boats and firearms
 - C. navigating and cartography
 - D. zoological and botanical studies
8. In the beginning, how many men left St. Louis as members of the Corps of Discovery?
- A. 26
 - B. 19
 - C. 37
 - D. 45
9. What did President Jefferson value most when he considered the exploration of Louisiana?
- A. gold
 - B. land
 - C. oil
 - D. animals
10. How did President Jefferson want the Corps of Discovery to deal with Native Americans?
- A. avoid them
 - B. conquer them
 - C. treat them with respect
 - D. He knew little about Native Americans.

Answers

- 1. D
- 2. A
- 3. B
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. C
- 7. D
- 8. D
- 9. B
- 10. D

Discoveries

During the more than two years traveling through the Louisiana Territory, what did the Corps of Discovery discover? In all honesty, they discovered nothing. For a millennium, Native Americans had already seen, experienced, or used everything that surprised or amazed the men of the Corps.

For their young country, and its president, Thomas Jefferson, however, the Corps of Discovery revealed a land of plenty. The explorers saw, smelled, touched, and tasted the environment and its inhabitants. They encountered and recorded 122 animals and 178 plants species that were before then unknown to Western science. From the prairie dog and cutthroat trout and magpie to ponderosa pine and orange honeysuckle and western red cedar, the Corps of Discovery brought back much of the new territory for their fellow Americans to see. The Corps' efforts helped Americans understand the vastness of their expanding country.

“IT WAS A MOST TREMENDOUS LOOKING ANIMAL, AND EXTREMELY HARD TO KILL. NOTWITHSTANDING HE HAD FIVE BALLS THROUGH HIS LINS AND FIVE OTHERS IN VARIOUS PARTS. HE SWAM MORE THAN HALF THE DISTANE ACROSS THE RIVER....BEFORE HE DIED.”

The Corps of Discovery met and communicated with more than 50 Native American tribes—from the Arikara to the Yakima.

“THEY HAVE BUT FEW AXES AMONG THEM, AND THE ONLY TOOL USUALLY EMPLOYED IN FELLING THE TREES OR FORMING A CANOE IS A CHISEL... A PERSON WOULD SUPPOSE THAT THE FORMING OF A LARGE CANOE WITH AN INSTRUMENT LIKE THIS WAS THE WORK OF SEVERAL YEARS: BUT THESE PEOPLE MAKE THEM IN A FEW WEEKS.”

In a few short decades, adventurers, settlers, and government representatives will follow the Corps of Discovery. With this flood of newcomers the native people will deal with overwhelming changes to their land and lifestyle.

For the individuals who comprised the Corps, the encounters were less obvious than specimen gathering. The leaders and men found they could travel great distances without supplies, living off the land. They learned their own resources and the land's bounty were enough for them to traverse the continent twice.

BUT WHEN I REFLECTED ON THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THIS SNOWY BARRIER WOULD PROBABLY THROW IN THE WAY TO THE PACIFIC, AND THE SUFFERINGS AND HARDSHIPS OF MYSELF AND PARTY...IT IN SOME MEASURE COUNTERBALANCED THE JOY I HAD FELT IN THE FIRST MOMENTS WHICH I GAZED UPON THEM

What do students discover when they learn about the Lewis and Clark expedition? In a positive light, those first learning about the explorers will inevitably be impressed by the Corps ability to meet adversity and overcome. During their various adventures and travails only one man died. Students might recognize the importance of teamwork and leadership. By all accounts, the two captains never fought, rarely disagreed, and had the skill to motivate a diverse crew of soldiers and guides. Students could also recognize that the expedition was the beginning of the taming of the American West. In less than a century, the frontier would be closed.

To this day, historians still uncover artifacts that better illuminate the expedition. Studying the Corps of Discovery and their accomplishments usually leads to more discoveries.

Lewis and Clark Discovery Quotes

The Lewis and Clark expedition saw and recorded for Western science many animals and plants. Of course, Native Americans had known of the flora and fauna for hundreds of years. Upon entering the Great Plains for the first time, Captain Lewis expressed his awe of the landscape and wildlife in simple terms in his Sep. 17, 1804, entry:

“This scenery already rich and pleasing and beautiful was still further heightened by immense herds of buffalo, deer, elk and antelopes which we saw in every direction feeding on the hills and plains.”

The grizzly bear, before the expedition an animal no one in America had ever seen, earned a great deal of respect from the explorers. On May 5th, 1805, Captain Lewis wrote this about the grizzly:

“It was a most tremendous looking animal, and extremely hard to kill. Notwithstanding he had five balls through his lungs and five others in various parts. He swam more than half the distance across the river . . . before he died.”

Like the land animals on the prairie, a run of salmon impressed the explorers. Captain Lewis wrote about it on April 19, 1806:

“There was great joy with the natives last night in consequence of the arrival of the salmon; one of those fish was caught, this was harbinger of good news to them. They informed us that those fish would arrive in great quantities in the course of about five days.”

Entering territory that had been basically uncharted, the expedition met tribes that were unknown the people in the eastern part of the United States. On Nov. 1, 1805, Captain Clark wrote about one of the Corps’s encounters:

“The natives of the waters of the Columbia appear healthy. Some have tumors on different parts of their bodies, and sore and weak eyes are common. Many have lost their sight entirely, great numbers with one eye out . . . This misfortune I must again ascribe to the water.”

In his Feb. 1st, 1806, journal entry, Captain Lewis noted the differences between the Indians of the Northwest and those tribes the expedition had encountered earlier:

“They have but few axes among them, and the only tool usually employed in felling the trees or forming a canoe is a chisel . . . A person would suppose that the forming of a large canoe with an instrument like this was the work of several years; but these people make them in a few weeks.”

In addition to the animals and people of the frontier, the Corps of Discovery explored and wrote about the Rocky Mountains, a geological formation quite unlike anything they had seen before. In his May 26th, 1805, entry, Captain Lewis recorded his thoughts about the mountains and the immensity of the Missouri River:

“. . . I beheld the Rocky Mountains for the first time . . . These points of the Rocky Mountains were covered with snow and the sun shone on it . . . While I viewed these mountains I felt a secret pleasure in finding myself so near the head of the heretofore conceived boundless Missouri.”

Seeing into the future, Lewis tempered his enthusiasm because he knew he and the Corps would have to cross the same mountains:

“But when I reflected on the difficulties which this snowy barrier would probably throw in the way to the Pacific, and the sufferings and hardships of myself and party . . . It in some measure counterbalanced the joy I had felt in the first moments in which I gazed upon them.”

Glossary

1. Arikara: Native American tribe of the Dakotas
2. Artifact: something produced by a person that has archeological value
3. Frontier: a region just beyond or at the edge of the settled area
4. Illuminate: to make understandable
5. Resources: an ability to deal with a challenging situation
6. Species: a category of an animal, plant, or other organism
7. Specimen: a sample or part of a group
8. Travail: strenuous mental or physical effort
9. Yakima: Native American tribe of the Northwest

Quiz

1. Which animal was new to the Corps of Discovery?
 - A. whitetail deer
 - B. black bear
 - C. pronghorn antelope
 - D. cottontail rabbit
2. What bird survived being shipped to Washington, D.C., and lived in the Whitehouse?
 - A. magpie
 - B. bald eagle
 - C. osprey
 - D. blue jay
3. What mammal survived being shipped to Washington, D.C., and lived in the Whitehouse?
 - A. raccoon
 - B. prairie dog
 - C. black squirrel
 - D. jackrabbit
4. About how many tribes did the Corps of Discovery meet?
 - A. 150
 - B. 100
 - C. 10
 - D. 50
5. Who followed the Corps of Discovery into the Louisiana Territory?
 - A. U.S. Navy
 - B. Spanish trappers
 - C. freed slaves
 - D. settlers
6. How did the Corps of Discovery survive day to day?
 - A. lived off the land
 - B. brought large stores of supplies
 - C. supplies shipped to Corps
 - D. Native Americans fed them from start to finish.
7. How did the Corps of Discovery record scientific discoveries?
 - A. photographs
 - B. paintings
 - C. only written account
 - D. sketches and writing

8. What was the Corps of Discovery's greatest asset?
- A. small engine
 - B. teamwork
 - C. repeating rifle
 - D. radio
9. Approximately how many new plants did the Corps of Discovery record for science?
- A. more than 1000
 - B. about 100
 - C. almost 200
 - D. between 500-1000
10. Which is NOT a tribe encountered by the Corps of Discovery?
- A. Seminole
 - B. Yakima
 - C. Arikara
 - D. Lakota

Answers:

- 1. C
- 2. A
- 3. B
- 4. D
- 5. D
- 6. A
- 7. D
- 8. B
- 9. C
- 10. A