

*HANDS ON

ART & ENGLISH ACTIVITIES

Lewis & Clark Hands On by Sharon Jeffus Published by Geography Matters Cover design and layout by Alex Wiggers

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Anthony Harris and Susan Harris.

These two people have been dramatic lights for the kingdom of Christ.

Thank you for what you have meant in my life and in the lives of so many others.

"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles." Psalm 34:17

The Lewis & Clark Expedition

You are about to begin studying one of the greatest adventures in American history, through hands-on art activities and personal journaling. The adventure: The Lewis and Clark Expedition.

President Thomas Jefferson was a **visionary** president who was fascinated with the territory west of the Mississippi River. He arranged for the United States to pay France \$15 million dollars for 800,000 square miles located in the middle and northwestern parts of what is now the United States. This was called the Louisiana Purchase and it is the largest land **acquisition** in American history. President Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis to organize an expedition to explore a portion of this land. They hoped to find a water route that would link the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Here is a quote from Thomas Jefferson's instructions to Meriwether Lewis:



"The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River and such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable communication across this continent and for the purpose of commerce..."

- Thomas Jefferson

Because President Jefferson had so much confidence in Lewis, he appointed him leader of the expedition and allowed him to choose a second in command. If you were named for a great journey of exploration, who would you choose to travel with you?

Meriwether Lewis chose William Clark to join him in this great adventure, and they selected other men to help them explore this vast territory. This group, known as The Corps of Discovery, consisted of 48 men including Lewis and Clark, one woman, and one child. They set out on May 14, 1804, from St. Charles, Missouri. A large keelboat and several smaller boats were used to carry the members of the Corps and a large amount of supplies on the first leg of their journey. They reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805. Although they were disappointed to learn there was no water route linking the two oceans, they did accomplish the greatest parts of their mission—exploring and mapping the northwest territory. In the same way that the astronauts are our heroes today, explorers of the west were the heroes of that time period.

Arriving back home on September 23, 1806, their exploration took nearly two years to complete. Think about what you were doing two years ago, and then imagine being on a journey lasting that long.

Preparation for the Journey

Explorers need to be prepared for their journeys. Some things they learn from experiences in their lives. Others must be studied before leaving on an adventure. Meriwether Lewis learned from his mother while growing up and, as an adult, from two very interesting individuals, Benjamin Barton and Andrew Ellicott.

Benjamin Barton

Benjamin Barton was invaluable to the success of the Corps of Discovery. He was a scientist who published the first text-book on **botany** in the United States. Even though Lewis' mother had taught him a great deal about nature, before setting out on the expedition he spent time with Barton to learn even more. Barton taught him how to preserve plant, bird, and animal specimens, and about the importance of properly labeling everything he collected. One of the most important things he taught Lewis was how to use the Linnaean system for classifying specimens using Latin



In this pictures the black is **negative space** and the white is **positive space**.

names. All this came in very handy, because when Lewis returned from his journey into the northwest he brought back specimens of an amazing 226 new plants, painstakingly collected, labeled, dried, stored, and transported. They can all be seen today at the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Andrew Ellicott

When Meriwether Lewis needed to learn celestial observation to help map his journey, he went to Andrew Ellicott. Ellicott was America's foremost surveyor and an accomplished mathematician. He had already conducted several large surveys that established state and territorial boundaries, including the boundary between the United States and Spanish possessions in Florida. In 1791 President Washington asked him to survey the bounds of the District of Columbia, and in 1803 he published *The Journal of Andrew Ellicott*. This book mapped the mouth of the Mississippi River and also accurately fixed the position of the mouth of the Missouri River. Ellicott was a strong supporter of the Louisiana Purchase. This naturally led him to be enthusiastic toward Lewis, who later wrote that he found Ellicott to be "extremely friendly and attentive." Ellicott taught Lewis how to use a sextant, octant, chronometer, and other surveying equipment during Lewis' nearly three-week visit.

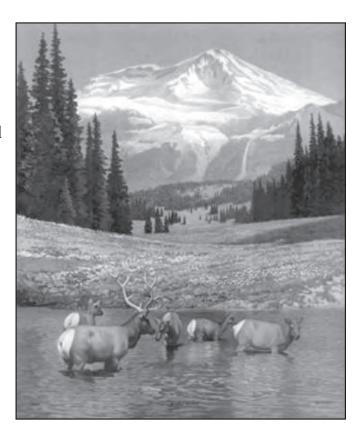
Draw a starry sky at night.

Think about what Lewis and Clark might have seen in the sky on a starry night. Draw on black paper using white chalk for stars.

Journaling

One of the most exciting things about the Lewis and Clark Expedition is reading the wonderful journals that were produced. The journals describe what the early American wilderness was really like. Several men on the expedition contributed to the journals and many kept their own personal journals.

You may notice as you read the different excerpts in this book that the grammar and spelling was poor and inconsistent by today's standards. Selected passages from their journal entries are included throughout this book in their pure form. No attempt is made to correct them, yet you can still understand what they communicated. Notice how the following passage gives readers a feel for the geography of the area.



May 22, Wednesday 1805

The wind continued to blow so violently hard we did not think it prudent to set out untill it luled a little, about 10 oClock we set out the morning cold, Capt Lewis walked out before dinner & killed a Deer, I walked out after dinner and assended a But[te] a few miles [off] to view the countrey, which I found roleing & of a verry rich stickey soil producing but little vegetation of any kind except the prickley pear, but little grass & that verry low, a great deal of scattering Pine on the Lard Side & Some few on the Stard. Sd. Game not so abundant as below, the river continues about the same width, fewer Sand bars & current more regular, river falls about an inch a day

We camped on the Stard. Side, earlier than we intend on account of saveing the oil of a bear which the party killed late this afternoon.

Many of the Creeks which appear to have no water near ther mounths have streams of running water higher up which rise & waste in the sand or gravel. the water of those creeks are so much impregnated with the salt substance that it cannot be Drank with pleasure.

- John Ordway

Monday May 14, 15 1804

Rained the fore part of the day. I determined to go as far as St. Charles a french Village 7 Leags up the Missourie, and wait at that place until Capt. Lewis could finish the business in which he was obliged to attend to at St. Louis and join me by Land from that place 24 miles... at 9 o'clock Set out and proceeded on 9 miles passed two Islands and inclamped on the Starbd. Side at a Mr. Pipers Landing opposet an Island, the Boat run on Logs three times to day, owing her being too heavy loaded a Sturn, a fair afternoon, I saw a number of Goslings today on the Shore, the water excessively rapid and the Banks falling in.

- Clark



Keep a journal while using this book.

Some of the greatest minds in history have kept a journal or sketchbook, like Thomas Edison, Marco Polo, and Leonardo da Vinci and others. Record your thoughts every day and do the activities and drawings assigned. If you can, use a journal with half blank paper and half lined paper on each page. If this is not possible, journal in a sketchbook. Use an ebony drawing pencil for your sketches. Journals and drawing pencils can be obtained through VisualManna.com or at most art supply stores.

When you write your journal entries, first focus on writing your thoughts and ideas, not spelling and grammar. After you have communicated your thoughts, ask your teacher or parent to show you any spelling or grammar errors. You can learn to spell the words you missed on your own or add to your weekly spelling list.