



## LEWIS AND CLARK SUB PLANS

President's Day Substitute Plans

Date: May

Academic Time: 195 minutes

See all printable activities at the end of this document.

### **Starter Activity (15 minutes)**

**Activate Student imagination with this narrative:**

#### **IMAGINE THIS**

- \* Your arms are numb from fighting the raging current of the Missouri River for eight hours each day;
- \* Your life and the lives of every member of the expedition are threatened by hostile Native Americans;
- \* You've endured a winter in which soul-piercing temperatures regularly fell to -45 Fahrenheit, not including the wind;
- \* Vicious animals such as Grizzly Bears and rattlesnakes and thundering herds of Buffalo were constant threats;
- \* Torrential rains threatened to wash out the expedition and rock-sized hailstones relentlessly pounded on you from above;

\* Scorching temperatures during arduous summer portages tested every fiber of your being;

\* Fleas, lice, and dense swarms of mosquitoes sucked away your blood;

\* Needle-sharp spines from pesky prickly pears, seemingly destined to pierce your feet did their job and destroyed your moccasins at the same time;

\* Miles and miles of towering snow-capped mountains stood in your way. Crossing them would result in frostbite, near-starvation, and the hopeless realization that the ranges might never end, and you may die, lost forever among the rocky peaks and snowdrifts.

\* Finally, after you manage to survive and endure all of the hardships and physical and mental challenges, and at the climax of an epic journey, you spend an entire winter devoid of sunshine, soaked by an unrelenting, cold rain in a 50 square foot, fetid cabin with at least 40 other people.

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Does this sound like an EPIC dystopian novel or movie that sounds incredible? This journey was every bit as amazing as those from the Hunger Games or Divergent, except it was real. This was the reality of any of the 42 members of the Corps of Discovery in the Lewis and Clark adventure. Can you imagine?

The 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark journey was a real-life adventure story that could rival any in fiction or nonfiction today. It is a story of adventure and discovery, of reunion and redemption, and perseverance and innovation. Over the course of two years, William Clark, Meriwether Lewis and 40 other pioneers traversed and mapped the unexplored Louisiana Territory by boat and by foot and documented over 300 new species of animals and plants as well as numerous Native American groups. Miraculously, only one member of the Corps of Discovery died during the two-year journey, and he died of a burst appendix early in the journey.

- Tell students that Lewis and Clark, Sacagawea, and the Corps of Discovery were among the most important explorers in American history. They explored the land that America acquired from France in the Louisiana Purchase. This land stretched from the Mississippi River to the source of the Missouri River and included parts of 15 states. It nearly doubled the size of America in 1803.

- But they didn't stop at the Missouri River, they pushed on over the Rocky Mountains and made it to the Pacific Ocean. They traveled nearly 4,000 miles in all. They put to rest the notion that a Northwest Passage, or, shortcut to the Pacific Ocean existed in America.

### **Introductory Activity: The Long Lost Picture of Sacagawea (20 min.)**

- Read the instructions and narrative on the activity page and allow students to draw the "long lost" picture of Sacagawea

### **Language Arts activity 1: Lewis and Clark Reading Comprehension: Main Idea Focus (25 minutes).**

- Explain activity.
- Have students work independently.
- Give 15-25 minutes to read and finish questions
- Have students volunteer to read portions of the narrative aloud. Use your discretion to stop and discuss.
- Review answers to questions.

### **Language Arts activity 2: The Unsung Hero (35 minutes)**

- Describe what an unsung hero is.
- Read the narrative and instructions on the activity to students.
- Ask for volunteers who can tell the class about an unsung hero in movies or literature.
- Have students work independently.
- Monitor
- Allow students to share their writing.

### **Science Activity 1 - The Lost Journal Pages of Meriwether Lewis (30 min.)**

- Describe to students that just about everything we know about the Lewis and Clark expedition comes from the journal of Meriwether Lewis.
- Ask students if they keep a journal or if they have ever kept a journal. Ask them to volunteer reasons for keeping a journal.
- Explain to students that at one point in the expedition, the precious journal was nearly lost when a boat capsized. It was supposedly saved by Sacagawea who reached into the rigid water to retrieve it.

- Reiterate that Lewis and Clark discovered about 300 new species of wildlife during their journey, many of which were first described in Lewis' journal.
- Read the activity instructions to students and allow them to create the content of the "lost pages."
- Monitor and allow students to share when complete.

### **Geography Activity 1 - Louisiana Purchase Map (30 minutes)**

- Explain to students that the Lewis and Clark expedition was necessitated by the Louisiana Purchase.
- Reiterate that the Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of America.
- Read the activity instructions and allow students to work independently.
- Use your discretion as to whether or not students can access a map of America.
- Monitor and review the map when students have completed it.

### **Ending Activity - Dynamic Duo (30 minutes)**

- Read the activity instructions, explain that Lewis and Clark shared command, and worked very well together as a duo.
- Brainstorm dynamic duos in sports, literature, movies, or history if necessary.
- Allow students to work independently.
- Monitor and allow students to share.

## What did she look like?

Did you know there are no known pictures of Sacagawea? The images that you may have seen of her, on the United States \$1 coin, or, 29 cent postage stamp, are simply educated guesses of what she looked like. Look at the commemorative images of her below and craft your own picture of her.

	
U.S. Dollar Coin	U.S. Postage Stamp
	
Sacagawea Statue	Your Picture

### **Lewis and Clark – Main Ideas Focus**

After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, Thomas Jefferson selected Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition to explore the wilderness, Native Americans, botany, and geology of the new lands acquired in the deal. Lewis selected William Clark to help him in this colossal effort. The expedition became known as the Corps of Discovery. Little did they know, that this adventure would become one of the most storied in American history.

On May 14, 1804, the historic journey began, as Lewis, Clark, and 38 other Corps members sailed from St. Charles, Missouri, west on the Missouri River. Averaging about 20 miles of distance per day, the Corps sailed past La Charette, the last White settlement on the Missouri River on May 25. On July 4, the Corps celebrated the first Independence Day spent west of the Mississippi River by firing their keelboat cannon and naming a creek (near present day Atchison, Kansas) Independence Creek.

On August 3, 1804, the Corps encountered Native Americans for the first time near present day Omaha, Nebraska. The Native Americans were presented with such gifts as peace medals and flags and told of a "Great Father to the East" that would ensure their prosperity provided they didn't attack White settlers. On August 20, the Corps experienced their first and only death when Charles Floyd died of a burst appendix. Nevertheless, the expedition continued. As the Corps entered the Great Plains, new animals previously unknown such as coyote and antelope were recorded. As the Corps sailed north, they met up with the Teton Sioux. Near present-day Pierre, South Dakota, the Teton Sioux (Lakota) demanded one of their boats as a toll for moving farther upriver. A fight nearly ensued, but was defused by the diplomacy of a chief named Black Buffalo. For three more anxious days, the expedition stayed with the tribe.

On October 24, the Corps reached the villages of the Mandan near present-day Bismarck, North Dakota. The villages were huge, and contained more people than many major cities in America. Lewis and Clark decided to build a fort, which they named Fort Mandan, across the river from the Indian villages. Communication was constantly an issue between the Corps of Discovery and local Indian tribes. For this reason, Lewis and Clark hired Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur-trapper and his wife, Sacagawea, to translate for them when they headed west toward the mountains.

**1.) Which of the following WAS NOT something likely experienced by the Lewis and Clark expedition as described in the third paragraph?**

- a.)boredom
- b.)sadness
- c.)tension
- d.)discovery

**2.) The last paragraph tells...**

- a.)the number of expedition members who survived the winter at Fort Mandan.
- b.)how Lewis and Clark managed to avoid armed conflict with the Teton Sioux.
- c.)about trade between Lewis and Clark and the Mandan.
- d.)why Lewis and Clark hired a translator to travel with them.

**3.) What is the purpose of the first paragraph?**

- a.)To explain who Thomas Jefferson was
- b.)To explain who Lewis and Clark were
- c.)To inform the reader that Lewis and Clark would encounter Native Americans
- d.)To provide background and purpose for the expedition

**4.) Which of the following could be a title for the second paragraph?**

- a.)Lewis and Clark and the naming of Independence Creek
- b.)Lewis and Clark: Sailing the Mississippi River
- c.)Lewis and Clark: The Beginning of an Epic Journey
- d.)Lewis and Clark: The Last Days of a Disastrous Journey

ANSWERS:

- 1.) A
- 2.) D
- 3.) D
- 4.) C



## **Sacagawea – the Unsung Hero**

An unsung hero is someone or something that is key to a successful outcome, but who gets little or no credit. For much of history, Sacagawea was simply a side note in the Lewis and Clark expedition. While historians are still in disagreement concerning her role in the epic adventure, more and more, she is seen as an integral ingredient to its overall success. Sacagawea served as the expedition's guide through much of mountain country, and also helped identify edible roots and plants for men who were often on the verge of starving. Most importantly, however, her very presence served to disarm Native Groups, enabling the expedition to communicate and trade.

Can you think of an unsung hero in movies, the literature or sports? If not, think of one in your own life. Describe in detail below and discuss why and how your hero was unsung.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Lost Journal Pages of Meriwether Lewis

When Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the vast Louisiana Territory, he had visions that they'd find exotic creatures such as wholly mammoths and undiscovered landforms such as mountains made of salt. While Lewis and Clark discovered over three hundred species of animals and plants, and even sent a magpie and prairie dog as pets to Thomas Jefferson, they never found the kind of creatures that legends are made of (though they did find massive grizzly bears). What if Lewis and Clark actually did discover an unworldly plant, animal, and landform, but those pages were somehow lost from Lewis' journal forever when their keelboat capsized? In the spaces provided below, use your imagination to name, draw, and describe these lost discoveries.

Name of Discovery and Picture	Description



## A Dynamic Duo

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark personified teamwork through the duration of their legendary expedition. Both men had qualities that complemented one another. For example, Lewis was an excellent and fair leader, a prolific writer, and a skilled outdoorsman. Clark excelled at making maps and finding his way through difficult or unfamiliar terrain. Together, their actions and decisions had much to do with the expedition only losing one person in the entire voyage (and Charles Floyd died of a burst appendix). Can you think of other dynamic duos in literature, television, the movies, or sports? Draw them below and describe why they work well together.

Name of the Duo	Why do they Work Well together?