



Stream Team Academy  
Fact Sheet Series

#1: Tree Planting Guide

#2: Spotlight on the Big  
Muddy

#3: Lewis & Clark

Watch for more Stream  
Team Academy Fact  
Sheets coming your way  
soon. Plan to collect the  
entire educational series  
for future reference!

# LEWIS & CLARK

## An Educational Series For Stream Teams To Learn and Collect

2004 marks the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Meriwether Lewis and his chosen companion, William Clark, were given a very important and challenging task by President Thomas Jefferson. Lewis was a long-time friend of Jefferson's and his personal secretary. They shared common views on many issues but, perhaps most importantly, they both agreed on the importance of exploring the west. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 made this possible as well as critical for a growing nation to learn about the recently acquired lands and peoples that lay between the Mississippi River and a new western border.

Both Lewis and Clark have been described as relatively young, intelligent, adventurous, resourceful, and courageous. Born leaders, experienced woodsmen-frontiersmen, and seasoned Army officers, they were cool in crisis and quick to make decisions. In temperament Lewis and Clark were opposites. Lewis was

introverted, melancholic, and moody; Clark, extroverted, even-tempered, and gregarious. The better educated and more refined Lewis, who possessed a philosophical, romantic, and speculative mind, was at home with abstract ideas; Clark, of a pragmatic mold, was more of a practical man of action. Each supplied vital qualities which balanced their partnership.

The men and their accompanying party were brave and courageous. They had no way of knowing what they would encounter on their journey or if they would make it back alive. They set out with American pride to explore the unknown, a difficult task that many times goes against human nature. The hours they spent planning and preparing for their trip were immense. Imagine their dreams, fears, and hopes as they embarked on such a great journey. Enjoy the celebration of this journey with us by sharing in some of the facts from their trip.

Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory, 820,000 square miles from France for \$15 million, only about \$.03/acre.

Before the expedition began, Lewis purchased a Newfoundland dog, Seaman, for \$20. Although not mentioned very often in their journals, it is believed that Seaman made the entire journey.

Among the items taken on the journey were more than 20 dugout canoes to carry their supplies and equipment. The crew made some and bartered with Indians for others.

The expedition traveled over 8000 miles over a period of 2 years, 4 months, and 10 days.



*Around the Next Bend*  
by artist Mark Raithel



*Sacagawea was fifteen-years-old and six months pregnant when she joined the Lewis and Clark journey with her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau. She assisted with translation and knew the topography of the area well. She and her baby, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, also served the important role of showing Indian tribes that the party was a peaceful group. The Indians realized that a war party would not be accompanied by women and children. She showed her courage and bravery when, with her son bound to her back, she rescued a year's worth of Captain Clark's journals from the Missouri's waters after a boat capsized.*



When game was plentiful, each man ate about nine pounds of meat a day.

Their route included traveling by boat 2,575 miles up the Missouri through challenging rapids, maneuvering difficult snags to the Missouri's Great Falls. They then portaged over 18 miles on land and traveled 200 more river miles, followed by 140 miles across the Bitterroots. The end of their journey took them downstream on the Snake, Clearwater, and Columbia Rivers for 640 miles to the Pacific Ocean.

Congress approved \$2,500 for the expedition; the final cost was \$38,727.

Near the present-day town of Jefferson City, Lewis and Clark recorded an abundance of elk and buffalo.

Channelization has shortened the Missouri River by 127 miles since Lewis and Clark's journey.

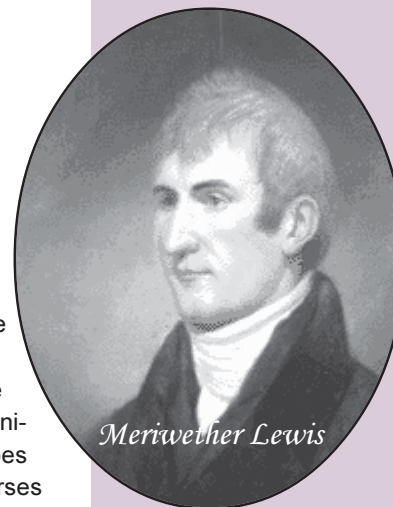
Silas Goodrich, a member of the Corp of Discovery, was generally acknowledged as the best angler of the group. Clark recorded in his journal that on August 16, 1804, they caught "upwards of 800 fine fish," including 79 "pike," 127 "Buffalow and red horse" and 490 catfish.

The famous Sacagawea was not an

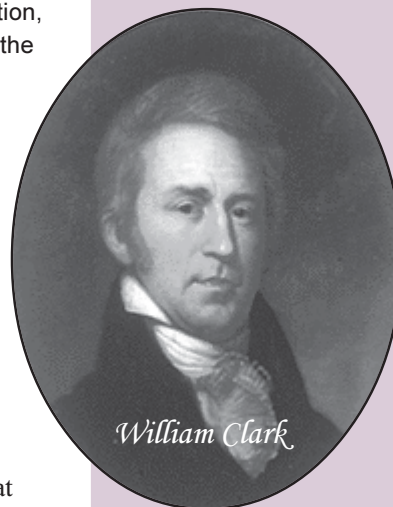
official member of the expedition party. Her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, was hired as an interpreter and took Sacagawea along. She was allowed to join the party as an unofficial member because the captains thought she would be useful to help in communicating with some of the Indian tribes they met and also in obtaining horses from her native tribe, the Shoshone.

At the conclusion of the expedition, Lewis was appointed governor of the Louisiana Territory and Clark to Brigadier General and Chief of Indian Affairs. Lewis lived only three years after the expedition, dying in 1809. Clark lived until the age of 68, dying in 1838. He tried for a chance at governor of Missouri in 1820, but failed and served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs until his death.

Both these heroes, and those that traveled with them, will live long in our nation's history as we take pride in a journey that links both our past and our future as well as our industrial and our natural worlds.



*Meriwether Lewis*



*William Clark*

Sources:

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Portrait of Meriwether Lewis

Artist: Charles Willson Peale, 1807-08

Oil on paper on canvas H 23" W 19"

Independence National Historic Park INDE 11870

Portrait of William Clark

Artist: Charles Willson Peale, 1807

Oil on board H 23" W 18 3/4"

Independence National Historic Park INDE 14096

Around the Next Bend

Artist: Mark Raithel

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