

NAME _____

Lewis and Clark Worksheet
National Geographic's Video "Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West"

1. In 1802, President _____ commissioned an exploration to go through the interior of North America to the _____ Ocean. To begin with, they were to follow the _____ River to its source.

2. Describe the two leaders. In your description, include at least 2 strengths or skills that made each man valuable to the success of the expedition.

Meriwether Lewis:

William Clark:

3. Before the expedition got under way in 1804, what important development changed the shape and size of the United States and made Lewis & Clark's journey even more important?

4. What was the main mission of the expedition?

5. In May of 1804, the expedition departed from St. Louis.

What river did they follow? _____

What challenges did the river journey pose to the group? (At least 2)

6. Match the person with his special interest.

a. Clark _____ Collecting and cataloging new plant and animal species

b. Lewis _____ Mapmaking

7. What were President Jefferson's instructions to Lewis & Clark about how to deal with the Native Americans?

8. What message from President Jefferson did Lewis and Clark give each of the tribes they met?

9. Lewis and Clark spent their first winter with the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians. During their 5-month stay, they spent their time preparing for the journey ahead. Describe the one arrangement they made during the winter that proved critical to their eventual success.

10. In June of 1805 they resumed their travels. They continued westward on the Missouri River until they reached a fork. How did they know which fork to take?

11. Why was it important for the expedition to find the Shoshone Indians?

12. Who did Sacagawea recognize when negotiating with the Shoshone?

13. What surprised Lewis & Clark about the mountains they encountered?

14. When they finally emerged from the mountains, they met and stayed with the Nez Perce Indians. During this stay they recuperated and built dugout canoes. Now they were traveling _____ (UPSTREAM or DOWNSTREAM) on the Columbia River.

15. After 1 and 1/2 years they finally reached the Pacific Ocean. They were forced to spend their 2nd winter away from home. How did they decide where to stay?

What was unusual about the way they made this decision?

16. What was the weather like at Fort Clatsop? _____

17. After 4 months at Fort Clatsop, they started home again in March of 1806.

How long did it take them to return to St. Louis? _____

How far had they traveled? (Total miles) _____

How long had they been gone? _____

18. On several occasions the expedition was extremely fortunate to survive an encounter with the Native Americans. Choose one occasion and describe how luck probably saved the expedition. Tell the story with details!

19. Describe at least 2 ways that Sacagawea contributed to the success of the expedition.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

20. At the opening of the film, the statement is made that this journey “was the equivalent in its day of a journey to the moon.” Brainstorm at least 2 more ways that the two journeys were similar.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____