

The Lewis & Clark Expedition
(1804 – 1806)

The Aims

- The ***Lewis and Clark Expedition*** (1804–1806) was the first United States expedition to the Pacific Coast.
- It was sent by President Thomas Jefferson and led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.
- Their objects were both scientific and commercial - to study the area's plants, animal life, and geography, and to discover how the region could be exploited economically.
- Jefferson placed special importance on declaring U.S. sovereignty over the Native American tribes along the Missouri River, and getting information about the resources in the recently-completed Louisiana Purchase.

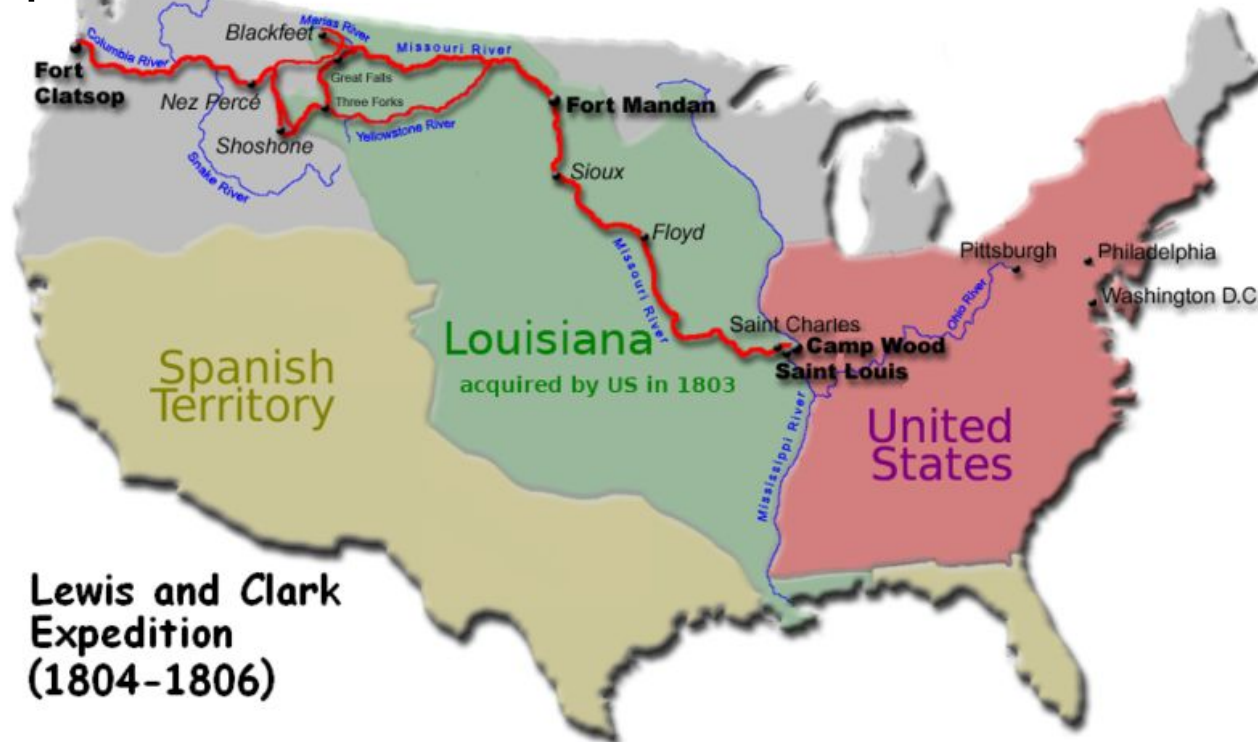
Sacagawea



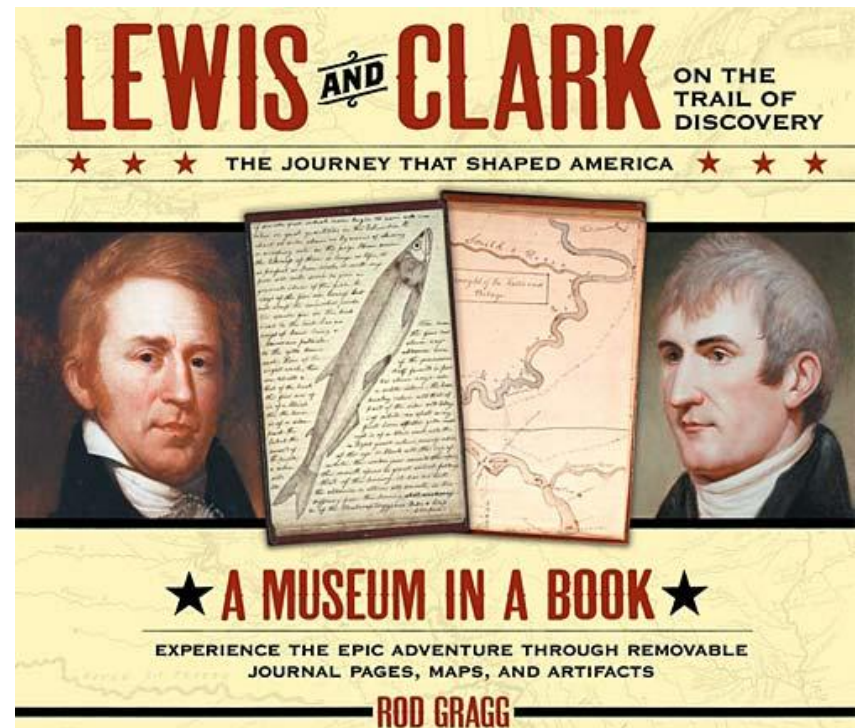
- They were accompanied by a fifteen year old Shoshone Indian woman, Sacagawea, the slave wife of a French-Canadian fur trader.
- Her son was born in 1805 with the help of the expedition.
- She served as an interpreter.

Journey

- There were 33 people, including 29 participants in training at the 1803–1804 Camp Dubois winter staging area in Illinois Territory.
- They left on May 14, 1804.
- The ships followed the Missouri River westward.



- Soon they passed La Charrette, the last Euro-American settlement on the Missouri River.
- During the final week of August, Lewis and Clark reached the edge of the Great Plains.



- The Lewis and Clark Expedition established relations with two dozen indigenous nations.
- Without their help, the expedition would have starved to death or become hopelessly lost in the Rocky Mountains.



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Results

- During the journey, Lewis and Clark drew about 140 maps.
- The expedition recorded more than 200 plants and animals that were new to science and noted at least 72 native tribes.
- In 1807 Patrick Gass published a book of the journey.



Lewis & Clark Expedition meant a lot for discovering new-owned American land, for science and for establishing relations with different tribes.

