

Northwest History Consortium

Lewis and Clark Expedition Game

A Problem-Based Learning Project

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4th Grade

National Standard

Era 4: Expansions and Reform (1801-1861) / Standard 1

Standard 1: United States territorial expansion between 1801 and 1861, and how it affected relations with external powers and Native Americans.

K-4 Standard 1: Chronological Thinking

Washington State Standards

EALR 4.1: Understands Historical Chronology

- *Construct a timeline with events from Lewis and Clark that are related to artifacts and/or primary sources*

Essential Learning Goals:

- *Students gain experience using research skills in technology, print and nonprint sources.*
- *Students are able to sequence real life events and place them chronologically.*
- *Students can make connections and find relevance in past events with their own lives.*

PROBLEM

Thomas Jefferson had long wanted to send out an expedition to explore the lands to the west of the United States. He had even gone to Roger Clark nearly twenty years before his presidency to see if Roger would be interested in leading such an expedition, but Roger declined.

When Thomas Jefferson became president he sent a secret communiqué to Congress requesting money in the amount of \$2,500. The money would enable Meriwether Lewis, William Clark (younger brother of George Rogers Clark), and about 30 other explorers to map a water route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. On February 28, 1803, Congress appropriated funds for this small US Army unit to explore the Missouri and Columbia Rivers. Those chosen to explore these unknown lands were to make detailed reports on its geography, climate, plants, and animals, studying the customs and languages of the Indians they met.

Plans for this expedition were on the verge of completion when President Jefferson was given some good news! He learned that France had offered to sell all of the Louisiana Territory to the United States in order to raise money for the war they were waging in Europe. This transfer was completed within a year, and it more than doubled the area of the United States! It also meant that Jefferson's yearned for army expedition could travel all the way to the crest of the Rockies on American soil. There was no longer a need to ask permission from the former French owners to traverse this land.

Another goal Jefferson had was to gain knowledge that would perhaps lessen the dangers of future westward expansion.

After a great deal of preparation, particularly by Meriwether Lewis, Lewis and Clark arrived at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers near St. Louis in December 1803. This was to be their staging point—point of departure. While there, the two captains recruited young

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frontiersmen and enlisted soldiers who volunteered from nearby army outposts. Over the winter final selections were made. In the spring, the Expedition's roster included approximately 45 people, including some military personnel and local boatmen who would go part way up the Missouri with the Corps of Discovery. The Expedition broke camp on May 14, 1804 at about 4:00 in the afternoon; they were camped on Wood River. Thus began one of the most epic expeditions in U.S. History.

SCENARIO

Microsoft has just announced a competition for a new Lewis and Clark Expedition computer game! Bill Gates, one of the founders of Microsoft, has decided that this game will be created by actual fourth grade students who are studying the Corps of Discovery's historic trek through unknown territory across western North America. The winning student will have his or her game idea marketed by Microsoft. Bill Gates has even promised to personally promote it nationwide!

TASK

Amazingly, your classroom has just been selected in a random drawing to be the creators of this new Lewis and Clark Expedition game! What Bill Gates needs from you is a board game mock-up. In other words, you will create a board game that has the elements that Microsoft will use for their new computer game.

What your game needs to include is:

- A timeline starting with the Corps of Discovery leaving St. Louis, May 14, 1804 and returning triumphantly to St. Louis on September 23, 1806
- Some Native American tribes that the Lewis and Clark Expedition meets
- Events that happened along the way
- Places visited
- Animals, plants, artifacts, and geological features discovered

Be sure to include the dates that these events and discoveries occurred on your game board timeline.

Be creative, have fun, and good luck in becoming the creator of Microsoft's newest computer game!

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RESOURCES

Form A

Lewis and Clark Expedition KWL Chart

B Hypotheses, ideas, or hunches	K What is already known?	W What you need or need to know – your questions	H How you will find your information – your POA?	L What you learned

“Extended KWL Chart.” Adapted from a handout created by Nan Lombardo, Washington State Coordinator for Teaching American History Institute.

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Books

Atlases

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Hamilton, John. The Corps of Discovery. Edina, MN: ABDO & Daughters, 2000.

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Murphy, Claire R. I am Sacajawea, I am York: Our Journey West with Lewis and Clark. New York, NY: Walker Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Quiro, Patricia R. The Lewis and Clark Expedition (We the People). Mankato, MN: Compass Point Books, 2000.

Redmond, Shirley-Raye. Lewis and Clark: A Prairie Dog for the President. New York, NY: Random House Publishers, 2003.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark. Washington, DC: National Geographic Children's Books, 2002.

Smith, Roland. The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe. Fairbanks, AK: Gulliver Books, 1999.

Internet

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"Central Elementary Library." Destiny. ©2002 – 2010 Follett Software Company. Sedro Woolley, WA. 25 May 2010 <<http://destiny.swsd.k12.wa.us/common/servlet/presenthomeform.do;jsessionid=23DC10350BA0F884EE634EDE65744037?l2m=Home&tm=Home&l2m=Home>>.

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“Get in Step with Lewis and Clark: Exploring the Possibilities.” Center for Educational Technologies (Wheeling Jesuit University). ©2002 – 2010. Wheeling, WV. 25 May 2010 <<http://lewisclark.cet.edu/student/videos/seaman.html>>.

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“Lewis and Clark.” 12 April 2010. National Park Service. 2010. Washington, DC. 25 May 2010 <<http://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm>>.

“Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery.” Public Broadcasting System: WETA (PBS.Org). ©1995 – 2010. Washington, DC. 26 May 2010 <<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>>.

“The Lewis and Clark Journey of Discovery.” 8 May 2007. National Park Service. 2010. Washington, DC. 25 May 2010 <<http://www.nps.gov/archive/jeff/LewisClark2/HomePage/HomePage.htm>>.

“The Ultimate Adventure: Lewis and Clark” from *Time Magazine*, 8 July 2008. Time.Com. ©2010. New York, NY. 25 May 2010 <http://www.time.com/time/2002/lewis_clark/>.

Video/DVD

Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery. Dir. Ken Burns. DVD/VHS. PBS Home Video, 1998.

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ASSESSMENT

Lewis and Clark Project Assessment Rubric

Project Rubric	Captain (Excellent) 4 Points	Sergeant (Good) 3 Points	Private (Progressing) 2 Points	Beginning 1 Point
Quotes from Expedition	used at least 4 quotes accurately/all sources cited	used 3 quotes accurately/all sources cited	used 2 quotes accurately/at least 1 source cited	used 1 or less quotes accurately/at least 1 source cited
Six Traits	6 traits are evident and/or there are few convention errors	6 traits are evident and/or there are less than 20 convention errors	6 traits are not as evident and/or there are more than 20 convention errors	6 traits are only slightly evident and convention errors make reading difficult
Project	shows exemplary creativity and historic accuracy	shows knowledge of history and is well done	shows some knowledge of history	shows very little knowledge of history
Historical Facts	has at least 15 accurate facts/all sources cited	has 10-14 accurate facts/all sources cited	has 4-9 accurate facts/at least half of sources cited	has 0-3 accurate facts/at least one source cited

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