

ADVENTURES WITH LEWIS AND CLARK

Join the Corps of Discovery: The Next Generation

In 1804 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out from Illinois with the Corps of Discovery to explore the Louisiana Purchase, to befriend the American Indians and negotiate trade relations, to collect plants and animals new to science and to map the route over the Rocky Mountains for those who might follow. They were ordered by President Jefferson to keep careful records. Their journals are full of exciting stories and anyone interested in Lewis and Clark should start by reading the journals!

<http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu>

If you were going on a three year expedition, covering more than 4000 miles and could only carry one small bag with ten items what would you carry? ***Make a list of ten items and write a few sentences explaining why you would bring each item.***



Lewis and Clark were both **zoologists**, people who study animals. They collected skeletons, horns, antlers, and skins of more than 120 animals new to science, including grizzly bears, prairie dogs, and this Lewis' Woodpecker drawn by John James Audubon. ***Choose a wild animal that lives in your neighborhood, one that you can observe regularly, and study its life.*** Spend time each day observing this same animal.

Take notes. Describe the animal and its habitat. Describe what it does. Ask questions and look for answers. Hypothesize. Write a story about a day in its life, what it eats, the problems it faces and how it solves them. The animal is the character, the habitat is the setting and the behavior is the plot. Try telling the story from the animal's point of view. Clark was a great **cartographer**, a map maker. He drew a map representing a 4000 mile journey and was only off by a few miles. ***Draw a map to scale of a journey you have made***, maybe even your trip to school. Include symbols and a key to help others interpret your map. Use the map as a starting point to tell the story of your journey, beginning, middle and end. What problems did you encounter along the way? How did you solve them? Tell your story to a friend and then write it down. A journey tale is always an adventure!



Lewis was an amazing **botanist**, a person who studies plants. He collected more than 160 species that were new to science. He wanted to know which plants were poisonous and which were edible, which were medicinal and which plants were related to plants he already knew. ***You can make a detailed study of the plants in your backyard or schoolyard.*** First choose a plant that is new to you. Draw a picture including all the parts, the roots, stem, leaves, flower, petals, pistil and stamen. Pay special attention to the shape of the leaves and how the leaves attach to the stem. Write a few paragraphs describing everything you observe about this plant. Look it up in a field guide to wildflowers. Working as a class, add all of the locations of all the plants together to make a botanical map of your schoolyard. What do you notice about the relationships of plants to location? How could you use this map to improve your schoolyard habitat?

The Corps of Discovery traded with many American Indian tribes along the way and brought back a wide range of artifacts. One of the orders from President Jefferson was to study the tools and languages of the tribes they met, this is **ethnology**, the study of culture. These artifacts tell stories. Visit some of these web sites to find pictures of some of the artifacts. Answer any of these questions: What is it? How was it made? What are the raw materials and how were they collected? Who made it? How was it used? Use the answers to these questions to write a story about this artifact.



www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org/index.html
www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/index.html
www.lewisandclark200.org & www.lewis-clark.org