LEWIS AND CLARK

In 1803, the United States purchased 827,000 square miles of land now known as the Louisiana Purchase from the French. President Thomas Jefferson bought the land for $15 million. If that purchase were made today, it would be equivalent to over $350 million!

President Jefferson wanted to know what was in the west, so he put his trusted friend in charge of the expedition. Meriwether Lewis was just [illegible] years old when he was put in charge of exploring the land of the Louisiana Purchase. Lewis asked his long-time army friend William Clark to accompany him on the journey and both men spent time researching and preparing for the trip. Jefferson had set aside $2,500 for the expedition but in the end it cost $38,000.

Lewis and Clark studied plants and animals they might come across along the way as well as maps and star charts to help them journey west. They also learned a lot about medicine and herbs they might be able to use for their health and food on the trip.

Finally, Lewis and Clark were on their way. They loaded their boat with equipment like compasses and telescopes, and things they would need for everyday life like [illegible] and cooking supplies, fishing equipment, clothes, maps, and journals to record their journey. Lewis and Clark also packed gifts to give to the Native Americans they might meet on their journey. They had beads, knives, tobacco, mirrors, ribbons, and brightly colored cloth.

In 1804, the Corps of Discovery set off from St. Charles, Missouri with Lewis and Clark, and a crew of over 40 men. A dog named Seaman joined the group as well. They had a rough plan to head west and stay on the Missouri River as long as possible, but otherwise, no one had ever really set out into this territory with the purpose of mapping it and coming back to tell the rest of the country what was out there.

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PREVIEW

TEXT MARKING

YELLOW

How much did the expedition end up costing?

GREEN

When was the Louisiana Purchase?

BLUE

What supplies did Lewis and Clark take with them?

PINK

Where did the Corps of Discovery set off from?

WORDS TO KNOW

UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE) THEN DEFINE

expedition -

accompany -

Along the journey west, Lewis and Clark met many Native Americans, all of whom were friendly and welcoming to the Corps of Discovery. At Fort Mandan, in what is now North Dakota, the Corps rested for the winter. The group later met a French-Canadian trapper named Toussaint Charbonneau and his pregnant Native American wife, Sacagawea. Their family continued with Lewis and Clark's expedition to the west coast and the Pacific Ocean. The journey was not easy for the travelers because they encountered wild animals, mountains, and raging river rapids.

Sacagawea led the expedition by foot and horseback through the Rocky Mountains after the Corps discovered that there was no river that would take them all the way to the Pacific Ocean. They finally reached the Pacific Ocean in late 1805. They set up Fort Clatsop in present-day Oregon to rest for the winter of 1805-1806, then set out to return to St. Louis, Missouri when the snow melted. When the Corps returned to Fort Mandan they parted ways with Sacagawea and her family, grateful for all her help. The expedition lasted 2 years and covered over 7,000 miles.

In September 1806, Lewis and Clark and their men returned to St. Louis with lots of information to share with President Jefferson. Lewis and Clark brought back maps of the region, new plants, and a log of the animals they saw, such as buffalo, grizzly bears, and coyotes. Lewis and Clark's expedition paved the way for more people to go west and settle the western part of the country. Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea deserve their place in our country's history as brave travelers in exploring the land of the Louisiana Purchase.

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PREVIEW

TEXT MARKING

YELLOW

How long did the expedition last?

GREEN

In what present-day state is Fort Mandan?

BLUE

What ocean was the expedition trying to reach?

PINK

How many new maps did Lewis and Clark bring back?

WORDS TO KNOW

UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE) THEN DEFINE

Corps -

encountered -

OREGON TRAIL

The Oregon Trail is a very important part of the history of the United States of America and the settlement of the American West. In the 1800's, hundreds of thousands of pioneers made their way in covered wagons on the 2,000-mile-long Oregon Trail. The trail crossed the middle of the country through the current states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and finally into Oregon.

The first people to make their way West in covered wagons were Christian missionaries wanting to spread their faith to Native Americans. Lewis and Clark had proved through their expedition (1804-1806) with the Corps of Discovery that people could make it from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean. While those first missionaries, Marcus Whitman and his wife, proved that men and women could move their whole lives and families out West. Joel Walker was the first non-missionary settler to complete the trip along the Oregon Trail in 1840.

In 1843, the Great Migration took place. Marcus Whitman left his new home in Oregon to seek more funding for his mission. He joined a wagon train when he went home again but successfully got 120 wagons and more than 1,000 people safely to Oregon. This trip helped pave the way for even more people to consider settling in the West on the Oregon Trail.

The Oregon Trail was a very difficult journey. The trail was difficult to follow because it was a path through the existing landscape and rugged terrain. Many travelers carved their names in stones along the trail. A large granite stone in Wyoming called Independence Rock had thousands of signatures.

Part of the struggle of the Oregon Trail was the five or six month journey that had to be **endured**. Planning to travel for months along the trail left several things to be considered. Pioneers had to plan for all types of weather, how they would find enough food, and take care of the needs of

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PREVIEW

TEXT MARKING

YELLOW

Who was Joel Walker?

GREEN

What was Independence Rock?

BLUE

What current states did the Oregon Trail pass through?

PINK

What ocean did Lewis and Clark reach?

WORDS TO KNOW

UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE) THEN DEFINE

terrain - stretch of land

endured - experienced

their family on the trip. That meant hundreds of pounds of dry groceries like sugar, flour, salt, bacon, and coffee. It also meant they needed to pack ammunition and weapons so they could hunt for food along the way. A four-person family needed about 1,000 pounds of food to survive the trip.

Many people sold all they had and packed as much as they could into their covered wagon to make the trip. Most people joined other wagons heading west in what were called Wagon Trains. Wagon Trains were good because **pioneers** could stay together for better protection along the trail from Native Americans who were rightly unhappy with the pioneers taking over their land. The Wagon Trains usually consisted of 20-40 wagons and families.

Leaders of the wagon train were called Wagon Masters. Cowboys would ride along the side and help when needed. There were also **scouts** that would ride ahead to see what the terrain was like. The most difficult part of the journey west was getting through the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains. Chimney Rock was a landmark used to show the settlers that the trail would get steep as they headed to the Rocky Mountains. Fort Laramie in Wyoming gave the pioneers the opportunity to refill their food and supplies. Accidents happened while crossing rivers, lightning and storms were dangerous. The biggest threat on the Oregon Trail was cholera, a bacterial infection that could cause death through dehydration.

Covered wagons or Prairie Schooners were often pulled by oxen and mules. Oxen were slow, but had great strength. They could also be eaten in an emergency. Oxen were less expensive than horses. Since the wagons weighed up to 2,000 pounds, many settlers walked alongside their wagons.

The Oregon Trail was a very important part of the history of the American West. It is how hundreds of thousands of immigrants made their way across the middle of the country into the West. People went West for a chance at better lives, the ability to farm their own land, and to try something new.

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TEXT MARKING

YELLOW

What were leaders of the wagon trains called?

GREEN

How much food did a four person family need?

BLUE

What was the biggest threat on the Oregon Trail?

PINK

What was the most difficult part of the journey?

WORDS TO KNOW

UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE) THEN DEFINE

pioneers - the first to explore

scouts - person sent ahead

PREVIEW

SPARK SOME *creativity*

ESCAPE ROOMS

SCAVENGER HUNTS

SPY MYSTERY

THINKTIVITY

SECRET MESSAGES

TEXT DETECTIVE

BREAKOUTS

READING CHALLENGE

INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK

COLOR BY NUMBER

DIGITAL ESCAPES

DIGITAL BOARD GAME

GOOGLE SLIDES

TASK CARDS GAME

GOOGLE FORMS

PUZZLE STATIONS

BOOM CARDS

READING PASSAGES

LET'S CONNECT

BLOG

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