



## On the Trail with Lewis and Clark

**Grade Level:** 4 - 8

**Time:** 60 minutes

### Program objectives:

- Students will use the concept of cause and effect and work together as a team to complete a mission.
- Students will have to make critical thinking decisions for an expedition.
- Students will learn what skills the Corp utilized to obtain food throughout their mission.
- Students will view how the Louisiana Purchase affected the US and France.

### Program description:

Take an imaginary trip with Lewis and Clark to explore President Jefferson's recent acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase for the U.S. Government. Find out how the purchase affected our country and discover the preparations and training necessary for your journey. Why were they going, what did they pack, what did they discover along the way? You will answer these questions and more as we head for adventure.

### Major vocabulary and concepts:

Corps of Discovery

France

Napoleon Bonaparte

Sacagawea

Westward Expansion

Equal Representation

Louisiana Purchase

Northwest Passage

Scientific Discovery

William Clark

Exploration

Meriwether Lewis

Thomas Jefferson

United States

York

### Suggested pre-visit activities:

- Set up a trade station in your classroom. Discuss how Lewis and Clark traded with the Native Americans for supplies they needed along the way.
- Set up a trail to follow on your playground or in your school. Have the students use compasses and a map to find their way.
- Have students keep a journal of their day-to-day activities like Lewis and Clark.
- Have the students go to the playground and document any bugs, plants, animals or physical features that they can see. Students should record and describe each item as if they were the first person to make the discovery.



### **Suggested post-visit activities:**

- The Corps of Discovery represented the first truly democratic system with equal representation after giving Sacagawea and York the right to vote along the journey. Have the class research how long it took the US to finally give women and African Americans the right to vote and ask why they believe it took so long.
- Visit the Museum of Natural History & Science to see the Jefferson's Ground Sloth on our *Ice Age Trail*.
- Have students make their own maps. Depending on their age they can be as simple as recording a route from their house to a friend's house or as complex as a trip across their community. See if others can tell the route to take by looking at their classmates' maps.

### **Academic Standards:**

Ohio Revised Academic Standards:

- History – grades 4, 5 and 8
- Geography – grades 4, 5 and 8
- Government – grades 4 and 6
- Economics – grades 4, 5, 6 and 8

### **Related exhibits and features:**

- See a surveyor and explore early Ohio in the Cincinnati History Museum's *Cincinnati: Settlement to 1860s* exhibit
- Visit the Jefferson Ground Sloth and the marsh's representing Big Bone Lick on the *Ice Age Trail* in the Museum of Natural History & Science
- OMNIMAX® film: *Lewis and Clark: The Great Journey West*

### **Resources:**

- Lewis And Clark On The Trail Of Discovery: The Journey that Shaped America: A Museum in a Book by Rod Gragg
- Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West by Stephen E. Ambrose
- The Lewis and Clark Trail: Then and Now by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
- PBS web site - <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>
- National Geographic website - <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/>
- Discovering Lewis and Clark - <http://lewis-clark.org/>
- Lewis and Clark's Historic Trail - <http://www.lewisclark.net/index.html>
- National Park Service - <http://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm>

