

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Identify:

- (a) **Alexander Mackenzie**; He set out to follow one of its rivers all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Instead, the river (now called the Mackenzie River) took him to the Arctic Ocean
- (b) **Meriwether Lewis**; shy and thoughtful, keen in business, curious about plant and animal science, and somewhat knowledgeable about Indian cultures.
- (c) **William Clark**; outgoing, good with the men, an accomplished mapmaker, and a genius at geography
- (d) **Sacagawea**; a Lemhi Shoshone woman who is known for her help to the Lewis and Clark Expedition in achieving their chartered mission objectives by exploring the Louisiana Territory.
- (e) **Corps of Discovery**; was a specially-established unit
- (f) **Wolf Calf**; a Piegan Blackfoot
- (g) **François Antoine Larocque**; a 20-year-old French Canadian
- (h) **David Thompson**; explored vast areas of western Canada and was the first to survey the entire length of the Columbia River.

(i) **John Colter**; a skilled mountain man and explorer who journeyed to the Pacific with the Lewis and Clark Expedition

(j) **Louisiana Territory**; 828,000 square miles of flat land the United States of America purchased.

2. Define:

(a) **Northwest Passage**; a water route across North America from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean that would connect them to the markets of Asia the Far East

(b) **indigenous**; native to a particular land

(c) **confluence**; where two rivers of the same size come together

(d) **headwaters**; the source of a river

(e) **capitalism**; an economic system in which privately owned businesses carry on trade for profit

(f) **sextant**; a tool that measures the angle between two points

(g) **chronometer**; a very accurate clock

3. **Why did Europeans want to find a way across**

**the North American continent?** The Europeans wanted to find a way across North America so they could get to India.

and other natural resources.

**4. What countries were most interested in exploring the West and why?** The countries most interested in exploring were the French and British. They were interested in the west for a source of fur, and the northwest passage.

**5. Why was Thomas Jefferson eager to claim new land for the United States?**

Thomas Jefferson sent them because he had long dreamed of sending explorers across America, the purchases of Louisiana made his idea for an expedition all the more important.

**6. What was the main purpose of the Corps of Discovery's expedition?**

The main purpose was Lewis and Clark were searching for the Northwest Passage.

**7. What was one of the most important contributions made by Sacagawea to the success of the Corps of Discovery's expedition?**

One of the most important contributions was her translating. She also showed that they were peaceful.

**8. Describe the areas in Montana explored by the Corps of Discovery, François Larocque, and David Thompson.**

They followed the Little Missouri River into southeastern Montana, then turned up the Powder River until, peering through a scope, they saw the jagged peaks of the Bighorn Range, which they thought were the Rocky Mountains. They continued south into Wyoming, then turned northward again along the Powder River to the Bighorn River, and down to the Yellowstone River.

**9. What was the primary information given by early explorers that brought more people to the western lands?**

The fur-bearing animals.

**10. Describe some of the navigational instruments used by explorers in the early 1800s.**

chronometer (a very accurate clock)

sextant (a tool that measures the angle between two points)

**CRITICAL THINKING**

**1. How was the Corps of Discovery unlike other expeditions into the western lands?**

The corps of discovery expedition is not like any other because they are looking for a passage. It was a military expedition and the purpose was more complex.

**2. Compare (and contrast) the relationship the Lewis and Clark Expedition had with the Indian tribes they encountered and the relationships other explorers had with Indians. What do you think accounts for the similarities and differences?**

The early explorers depended on the native to care for them and saw them as trading partners. The United States thought they were citizens.

**3. The men of the Corps of Discovery had believed the Rocky Mountains to be similar to the Appalachian Mountains of the eastern United States. How do you think they felt when they realized this was a far different kind of the mountain range? How do you think it made them feel about the return trip?**

The Rocky Mountain journey must have been one of the hardest. The trip was very daunting to encounter peak after peak.

**4. The Corps of Discovery stayed close together throughout their westward journey. On the return journey through Montana, however, they separated into three small groups. Why do you think they did this and was it a wise decision?**

The Corps of Discovery had not found the passage. They separated to explore different rivers. They had great success. Separating into groups may have not have been the safest solution though.

**5. Two of the major obstacles faced by the Corps of Discovery were the Great Falls and the Rockies. Compare and contrast the difficulties each physical landform presented. Which difficulty do you think was the most discouraging to the group?**

The rocky mountain was a letdown. Great Falls was a quick downfall.

**PAST TO PRESENT**

**1. Are there any lands left in the world today that have not been explored by modern people?**

**What might be new frontiers for people today?**

**What are the reasons we would want to explore new places?**

I bet there have been vast amounts of the earth that we have not discovered yet. A lot of the ocean has not been discovered, there may be a underwater city of fish people. You never know. They could help us without everyday life maybe.

**2. Many white Americans looked forward to “celebrating” the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in 2006. Many Indian people objected to calling it a celebration. They wanted to call it a commemoration (memorial) instead. What is the difference between a celebration and a commemoration? What different attitudes do the two words imply? What do you think accounts for these differences?**

A commemoration is a remembrance, typically expressed in a ceremony. While a celebration is an action of marking one's pleasure at an important event or occasion by engaging in enjoyable, typically social, activity.

## MAKE IT LOCAL

**1. Are there any places near you that early explorers passed through? If so, why were they there and what did they do? If not, why do you think they did not come to your area? Are there any historic sites near your home marking early Euro-American exploration? Are any places named after these explorers in your area?**

Lewis and Clark camped out at the headwaters, they were following Missouri and passed through here and it happened to be night time. There is multiple things named after Lewis and Clark, like the caverns, though Lewis and Clark never went through the caverns.