

Lewis and Clark – Sequencing Focus

After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, Thomas Jefferson selected Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition to explore the wilderness, Native Americans, botany, and geology of the new lands acquired in the deal. Lewis selected William Clark to help him in this colossal effort. The expedition became known as the Corps of Discovery. Little did they know, that this adventure would become one of the most storied in American history.

On May 14, 1804, the historic journey began, as Lewis, Clark, and 38 other Corps members sailed from St. Charles, Missouri, west on the Missouri River. Averaging about 20 miles of distance per day, the Corps sailed past La Charette, the last White settlement on the Missouri River on May 25. On July 4, the Corps celebrated the first Independence Day spent west of the Mississippi River by firing their keelboat cannon and naming a creek (near present day Atchison, Kansas) Independence Creek.

On August 3, 1804, the Corps encountered Native Americans for the first time near present day Omaha, Nebraska. The Native Americans were presented with such gifts as peace medals and flags and told of a "Great Father to the East" that would ensure their prosperity provided they didn't attack White settlers. On August 20, the Corps experienced their first and only death when Charles Floyd died of a burst appendix. Nevertheless, the expedition continued. As the Corps entered the Great Plains, new animals previously unknown such as coyote and antelope were recorded. As the Corps sailed north, they met up with the Teton Sioux. Near present-day Pierre, South Dakota, the Teton Sioux (Lakota) demanded one of their boats as a toll for moving farther upriver. A fight nearly ensued, but was defused by the diplomacy of a chief named Black Buffalo. For three more anxious days, the expedition stayed with the tribe.

On October 24, the Corps reached the villages of the Mandan near present-day Bismarck, North Dakota. The villages were huge, and contained more people than many major cities in America. Lewis and Clark decided to build a fort, which they named Fort Mandan, across the river from the Indian villages. Communication was constantly an issue between the Corps of Discovery and local Indian tribes. For this reason, Lewis and Clark hired Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur-trapper and his wife, Sacagawea, to translate for them when they headed west toward the mountains.

1.) Which of the following happened before August 20, 1804?

- a.) Lewis and Clark decided to hire translators
- b.) Lewis and Clark told the Native Americans of their "Great Father to the East."
- c.) Lewis and Clark decided to build Fort Mandan
- d.) Black Buffalo defused a fight between the Corps and the Teton Sioux

2.) When did Lewis and Clark reach lands near present-day Pierre, South Dakota?

- a.) Before they celebrated the first Independence Day west of the Mississippi River
- b.) Before Charles Floyd died
- c.) After they reached the Mandan villages
- d.) Before they hired translators

3.) What happened first?

- a.) Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery sailed past La Charette
- b.) The Corps encountered Native Americans for the first time
- c.) July 1, 1804
- d.) The Corps named Independence Creek

4.) What happened last?

- a.) August 20, 1804
- b.) The Corps reached areas near Bismarck, North Dakota
- c.) The Corps encountered Native Americans near Omaha, Nebraska
- d.) Armed conflict nearly ensued between the Corps and Teton Sioux

ANSWERS:

1.) B

2.) D

3.) A

4.) B