



# TRAILBLAZERS OF AMERICA

PragerU



## LEWIS & CLARK



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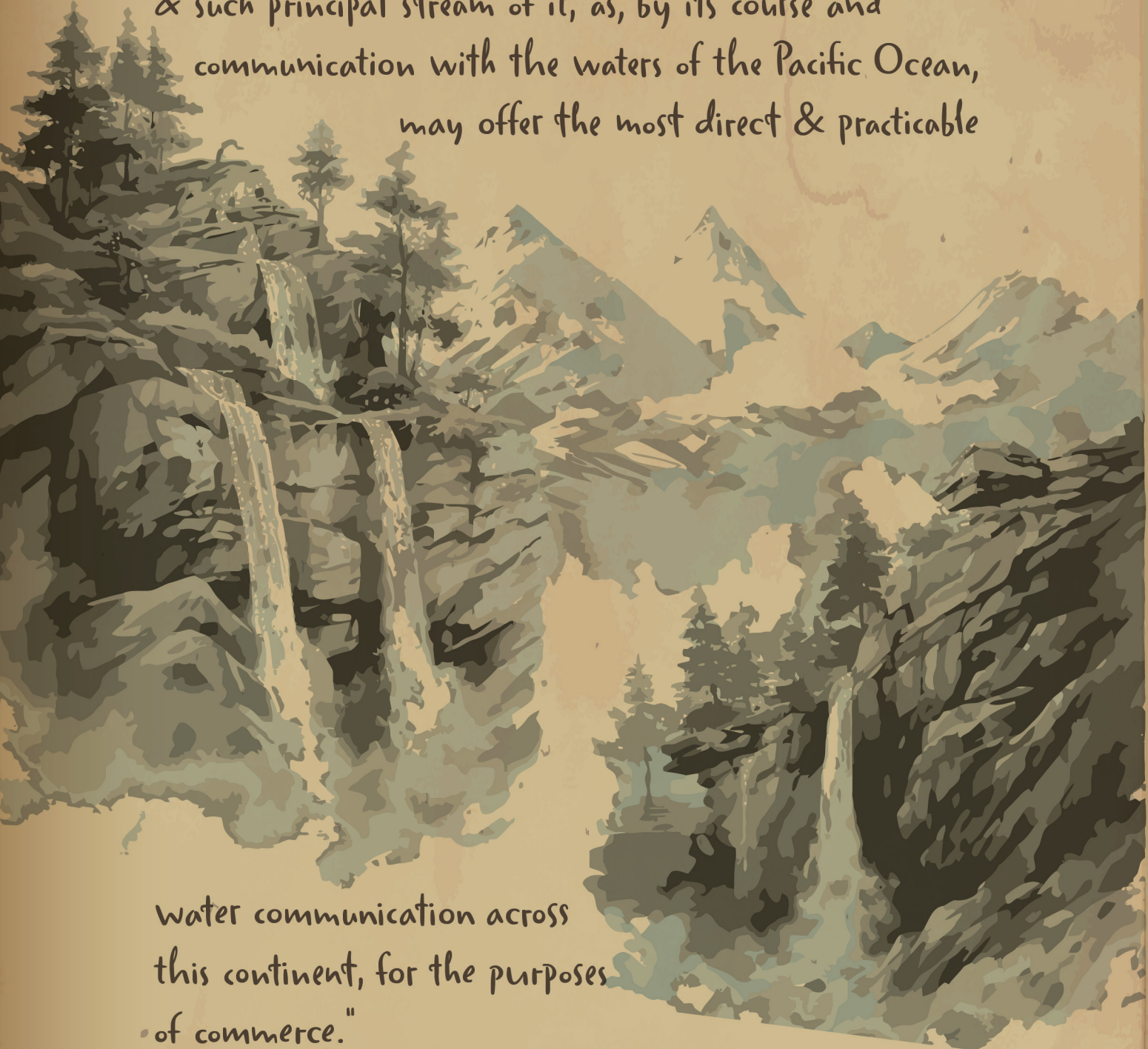
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"The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River,  
& such principal stream of it, as, by its course and  
communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean,  
may offer the most direct & practicable



water communication across  
this continent, for the purposes  
of commerce."

- Thomas Jefferson, 1803

# Standoff

*Banks of the Missouri River (near modern Pierre, South Dakota), September 1804*

The worried chief, Black Buffalo, stood watching as the strong breeze carried the boats away. *These white men are different.* The French trappers and Spanish hunters who came before them into the lands of the **Teton Sioux** had been easy to intimidate and turn away.

These outsiders called themselves Americans, and for four days and nights, Black Buffalo's warriors had tried everything to keep the two captains and their team of 40 explorers from continuing upriver—but they failed.

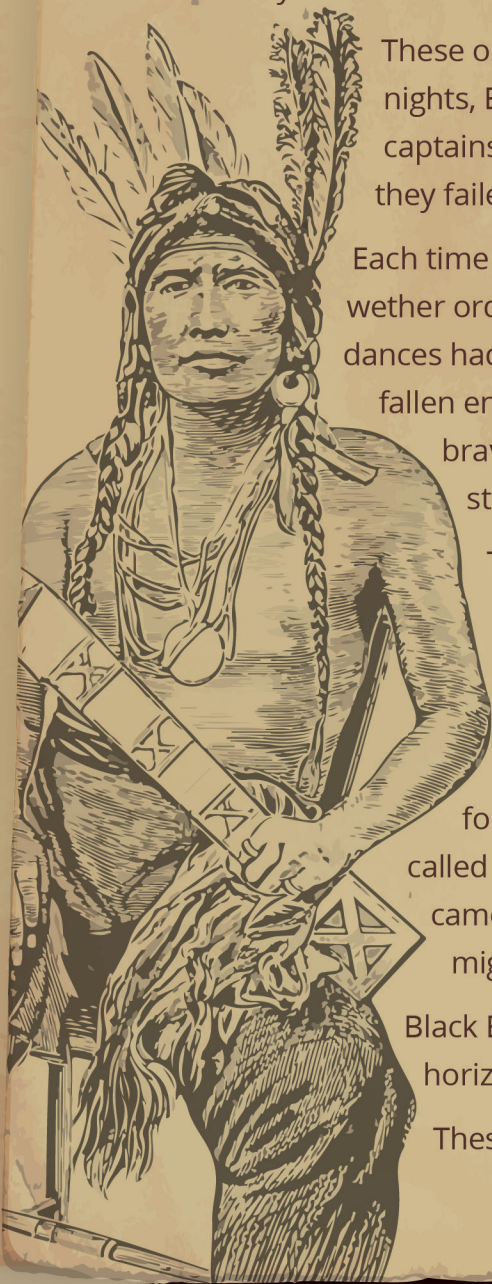
Each time the Indians had drawn their weapons, the captain called Meriwether ordered his men to ready and aim their muskets in return. War dances hadn't frightened them, nor had the display of scalps from the fallen enemies in past battles. When bullying didn't work, his Indian braves had tried trickery and sabotage... but these Americans stayed patient and alert.

The Americans even met the Sioux's demand for a lofty **toll**. However, instead of turning back like the others had, these captains presented Black Buffalo with a gift from the "Great Father"—silver medals and a red, white, and blue flag.

Desperately, Black Buffalo had warned that his warriors would follow these Americans and wait for them to tire, but the captain called William had not flinched. He'd simply replied that if any harm came to them, the "Great Father" who sent them would unleash a mighty army and destroy the entire Sioux nation.

Black Buffalo watched as the sails of the **keelboats** faded into the horizon. *The world is changing,* he thought.

These Americans were fearless, and they hadn't backed down.



# Close Call

News of the standoff quickly spread across the plains, influencing tribes big and small. Getting the mighty, and often violent, Sioux to back down was no small feat, and for the remainder of their journey, the fearless captains were respected by the many different Native American groups they met along their way.

However, respect from locals didn't mean the exploration would be easy or without danger. The exciting 8,000-mile trip across the wild, uncharted **Louisiana Territory** took over two years to complete, and it was filled with challenges.

Ultimately, the expedition didn't achieve everything the "Great Father" (President Thomas Jefferson) had hoped when he hired the two brave captains. Nonetheless, the journey made them celebrities. When they finally made it back to their starting point near St. Louis, a crowd was waiting onshore to celebrate their safety and success, and from that moment, their fame spread across the country. Their young Shoshone Indian guide, **Sacagawea**, became widely known as well, but the two captains remained front and center.

You probably know them by their last names, "Lewis and Clark."



# Exploring a Continent

In the early 1800s, Americans were eager for land. Fortunately, Thomas Jefferson—our country's third president after George Washington and John Adams—had just purchased over 800,000 square miles of land from Napoleon, the ruler of France, in a momentous deal. For only \$15 million dollars (roughly four cents an acre), the United States nearly doubled its size. Napoleon needed cash for a possible war with Great Britain, so he was willing to sell far-off lands in America at a bargain. The agreement was called the **Louisiana Purchase**, and once it was completed, Jefferson needed to explore and map the vast, uncharted lands that were now part of the United States.

To complete this task, Jefferson turned to his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, and Lewis's former army commander, William Clark. Lewis and Clark were both in their early thirties and seasoned military leaders. Their leadership and **camaraderie** would be crucial to the journey's success.

With a team of forty-five men and three custom-built riverboats, the two set out to explore the far-reaching **Missouri River**. They also hoped to establish trade routes and find a possible water route to the Pacific Ocean. Throughout the journey, Lewis and Clark would map new territory, gather samples of plants and wildlife, and meet dozens of native inhabitants across the **Great Plains** and the Northwest.

For land-hungry American settlers, the expedition's success was the news they needed. Lewis and Clark proved that travel across the plains and all the way to Oregon was possible. With that proof, the great race of **Westward expansion** would soon intensify.





MAP OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES

FROM THE PERIOD OF THE  
SPANISH FUR TRADE  
TO THE YEAR  
OF ST. LOUIS BETWEEN THE YEARS  
1803  
AND 1843.  
Showing Indian Tribes, Trading Posts, Routes  
and other features of interest.

SCALE OF MILES:  
0 50 100 150 200

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115° 113° 111° 109° 107° 105° 103° 101° 99° 97° 95° 93° 91° 89°

# THE MAIN PLAYERS

WILLIAM  
**CLARK**



CAPTAIN

WILLIAM  
**CLARK**

AGE: 33

**SKILLS**  
Leadership, military tactics, marksmanship, journaling, map-making.


**BACKGROUND**  
Born in Caroline County, Virginia, to a wealthy family—the ninth of ten children.

**MILITARY BACKGROUND**  
Five of William's brothers fought in the Revolutionary War.

William volunteered for the militia at age 19 and fought in the Northwest Indian War. He eventually rose to lieutenant, and his company contributed to a stunning battle victory in 1794.

**SPECIAL ABILITY**  
Clark commanded Lewis during the Northwest Indian War, and the two became lifelong companions.

**YORK**



WILLIAM CLARK'S  
**SLAVE**

**YORK**

AGE: 30-35

**SKILLS**  
Hunting, service, camping, exploration, physical strength.

**BACKGROUND**  
William Clark inherited York from his father around 1799. York accompanied William on the expedition and made crucial contributions to its success.

**SPECIAL ABILITY**  
According to recorded history, York was the first African-American to cross the continent and see the Pacific Ocean. York also possessed a skill that many others on the journey did not have—the ability to swim.

**SACAGAWEA**



GUIDE AND INTERPRETER

**SACAGAWEA**

AGE: Approximately 16

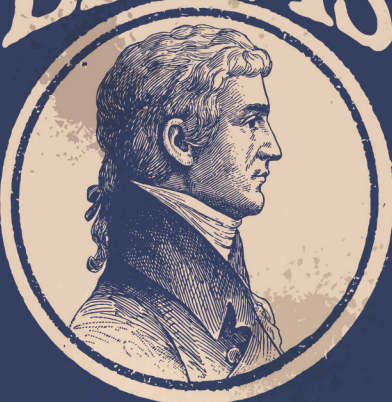
**SKILLS**  
Wayfaring, geographic knowledge, speaking and interpreting tribal languages (Hidatsa, Shoshone).

**BACKGROUND**  
After being born near the Continental Divide in present-day Idaho, Sacagawea was taken during a raid by the Hidatsa tribe.

Charbonneau purchased her as a bride when she was about thirteen years old, and the two were hired as guides and interpreters by Lewis and Clark.

**SPECIAL ABILITY**  
Sacagawea gave birth to Charbonneau's son Jean-Baptiste during the journey. She also helped arrange passage, horses, and other supplies for the group that allowed them to complete the journey to the Pacific Ocean.

MERIWETHER  
**LEWIS**



**CAPTAIN**

MERIWETHER  
**LEWIS**  
AGE: 29

**SKILLS**  
Wayfaring (navigation), medicine, botany, and zoology (perfect for identifying new plants and animals).

**BACKGROUND**  
Born near Charlottesville, Virginia, but grew up in Georgia, where he learned hunting and outdoor survival skills.

Formally educated and became an amateur scientist.

Served as a soldier in William Clark's rifle company during the Northwestern Indian War.

**SPECIAL ABILITY**  
As Jefferson's personal secretary, Lewis was the president's choice to lead the expedition.

**BOATMEN**



**&**

**HUNTERS**

TOUISSANT  
**CHARBONNEAU**



**INTERPRETER**

TOUISSANT  
**CHARBONNEAU**  
AGE: 37

**SKILLS**  
Hunting, trapping, interpreting French and Hidatsa.

**BACKGROUND**  
Born in present-day Quebec, of French and Iroquois ancestry. Charbonneau and his wife Sacagawea joined the expedition in the winter of 1804 when they were hired as interpreters.

**SPECIAL ABILITY**  
As a fur trapper, Charbonneau lived among the Hidatsa tribe and learned their language. During that time, he purchased (or possibly won) Sacagawea and another young bride named Otter Woman.

**BOATMEN & HUNTERS**

AGE: 25-30

**SKILLS**  
Hunting, boat repair and maintenance, camping, exploration, physical strength.

**BACKGROUND**  
For their 45-man crew, Lewis and Clark selected men with military backgrounds, boat-making experience, and outdoor survival skills.

**SPECIAL ABILITY**  
A French-speaking member of their crew named Drouillard helped them speak to Charbonneau, a French fur trapper.


# Why Go West?

President Jefferson never traveled West himself, but he spoke often about seeing the frontier expand. He believed that Americans moving West would spread liberty, productivity, and national unity across a sprawling continent. Jefferson described this grand vision as an “Empire of Liberty.” With so much land available, he thought the United States could reach its full potential as a country filled with **yeoman** farmers and newly incorporated states.

With such lofty goals, Lewis and Clark’s expedition was a vital step in opening up the continent, and it was unknown just how far the Missouri River would take them westward.

Jefferson was fascinated with the idea of a **Northwest Passage**—a **waterway** he hoped would connect the heart of the country to the Pacific Ocean, and one of Lewis and Clark’s goals was to find this Northwest Passage if it existed.

The expedition was officially called the  
*“Corps of Discovery.”*  
Lewis and Clark earned the nickname  
*“Captains of Discovery.”*



To transport supplies along the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark built a custom keelboat—perfect for navigating shallow, gentle water. The keelboat could flow with the current or catch wind with a sail... but for the first part of the expedition, the crew had to pull it upstream with ropes and horses.



**THE EXPEDITION CARRIED  
200 POUNDS  
OF GUNPOWDER.**

THE CREW NEEDED THIS TO "LIVE OFF THE LAND" BY HUNTING MEAT AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES.

IF THEY FACED HOSTILITIES, THE GUNS AND GUNPOWDER WOULD OFFER PROTECTION.



**EXPEDITION FACTS**

U.S. Congress gave the expedition a budget of \$2,500 (or about \$1.6 million adjusted for today's prices).



Those funds paid for the three boats, gifts, guns, clothing, medical supplies, paper, math instruments like a compass and three thermometers, and supplies for forty-five men.

THE KEELBOAT WAS FITTED WITH A MOUNTED BLUNDERBUSS, OR "SWIVEL GUN" FOR SELF-DEFENSE.

THE EXPEDITION ALSO INCLUDED TWO

MORE BOATS — PIROGUES.



PACIFIC  
OCEAN

FORT CLATSOP

COLUMBIA RIVER

GREAT FALLS

LOUISIANA  
TERRITORY

★ FT. MANDAN

MISSOURI RIVER

LOUISIANA  
TERRITORY

# AMERICA

IN THE TIME OF

# LEWIS & CLARK



WISCONSIN TERRITORY

MICHIGAN TERRITORY

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

CHICAGO

DETROIT

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

OHIO

KENTUCKY

OHIO RIVER

TENNESSEE

NEW ORLEANS

Appalachian Mountains

CUMBERLAND GAP

NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

Appalachian Mountains

VIRGINIA

D.C.

VERMONT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY

RHODE ISLAND  
CONNECTICUT

NEW JERSEY  
PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE

MARYLAND

PHILADELPHIA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

# On Through Winter

Having met the Lakota Sioux and lived to tell about it, Lewis and Clark pushed further along the Missouri River into the unknown north. In his journals, Lewis recorded scenes of incredible wildlife—silver salmon flickering in the river, herds of buffalo rippling over golden hills.

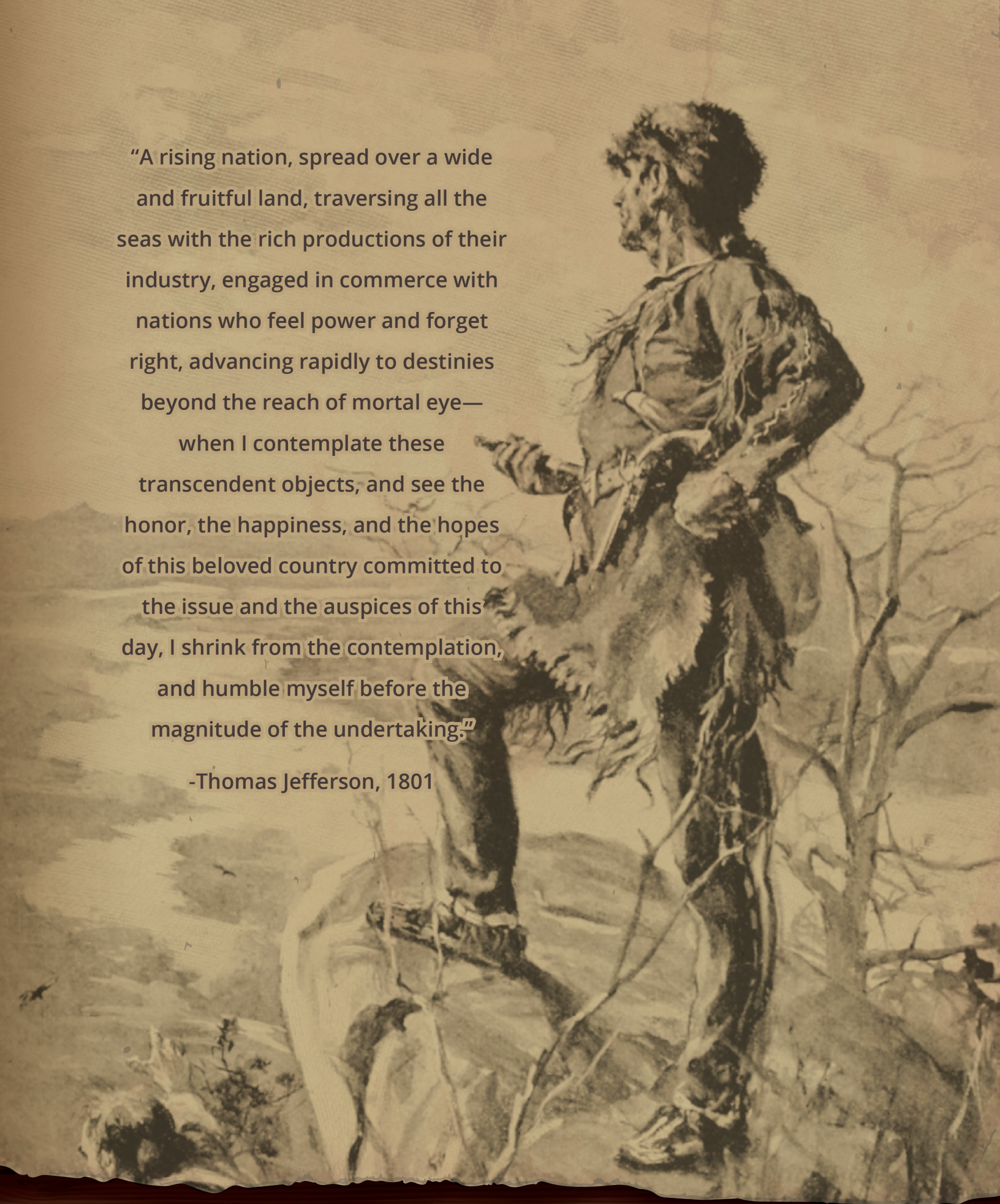
But, as the expedition reached present-day North Dakota, new challenges arose. Mosquitos swarmed. Heavy rain and uprooted trees made pushing the boats upriver even more difficult. When they reached the rocky, rugged waterfall near **Great Falls**, Montana, they had to unpack and **portage** the boats. This alone took a month. Knowing that winter and heavy snow would be coming soon, the captains searched for a place to build a shelter. They chose to build a **fortification** near the campgrounds of the friendly Mandan Indian tribe—Fort Mandan.

There, among the dreary, snow-covered plains, Lewis and Clark would gain a huge advantage—the knowledge of a pregnant, teenaged Shoshone girl named Sacagawea they'd hired to guide them.



“A rising nation, spread over a wide and fruitful land, traversing all the seas with the rich productions of their industry, engaged in commerce with nations who feel power and forget right, advancing rapidly to destinies beyond the reach of mortal eye—  
when I contemplate these transcendent objects, and see the honor, the happiness, and the hopes of this beloved country committed to the issue and the auspices of this day, I shrink from the contemplation, and humble myself before the magnitude of the undertaking.”

-Thomas Jefferson, 1801

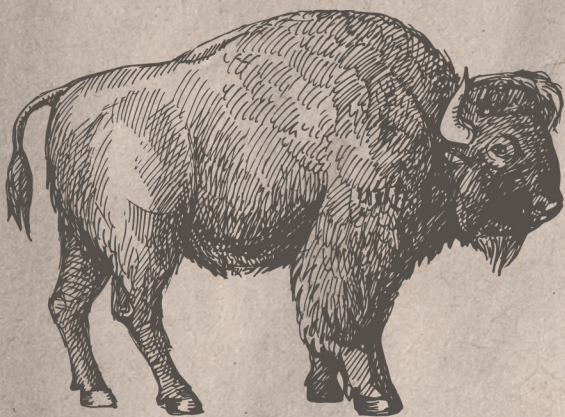


# PLAINS & MISSOURI RIVER ANIMALS



## BIGHORN SHEEP

As the name suggests, bighorn sheep are known for their large, tough, curved horns. A single pair of horns might weigh thirty pounds.

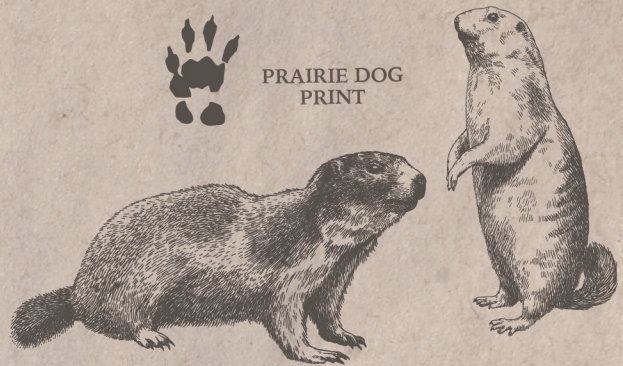


## AMERICAN BISON

Large, husky, and only found in North America! Bison are grass grazers who travel in herds. A single one can grow six feet high and weigh close to 2,800 pounds.



PRAIRIE DOG  
PRINT

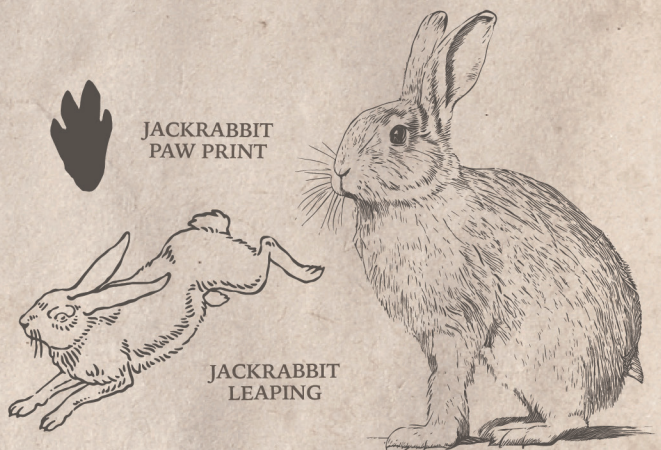


## PRAIRIE DOG

Lewis and Clark probably discovered prairie dogs on the Great Plains. The name "prairie dog" comes from the location (their burrows are vital to the ecosystem) and their likeness to little dogs.



JACKRABBIT  
PAW PRINT



JACKRABBIT  
LEAPING

## JACKRABBIT

Long legs, short tail, and insanely high leaps! When Meriwether Lewis first saw this springy prairie-dweller, he thought it was the "mountain hare of Europe." Jackrabbits actually are hares—ones who can jump four feet high.

A FIELD GUIDE TO  
**PLAINS & MISSOURI RIVER  
PLANTS**



**BUR OAK**

One of the few trees strong enough to survive in the Great Plains. Tough bark and thick, leathery leaves help shield the bur oak from scorching sun and wind.



**SHORTGRASS**

These prickly, dark yellow grasses cover much of the Great Plains. The harsh climate and shortage of rain makes these plants tough and resilient—a key food source for the buffalo who once grazed on them.



**SNOW-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN**

A sturdy plant with gray-green leaves and elegant white flowers. William Clark probably collected this flower when the expedition passed by the Yellowstone River in Montana.



**INDIAN HEMP**

A waxy, flowering plant that Native American tribes used to make textiles (clothing fabric). Indian Hemp is also called “dogbane” and grows wild all over modern-day Idaho.



# Continental Divide

*Modern-day Salmon National Forest, Idaho, August 1805*

*Feet, legs, ankles—everything ached, but Meriwether kept going. Behind him and down the embankment, the men formed a slithering line. In the distance, he heard the Corps' horses nickering. Here, the dirt was so steep that they'd given them a rest and started climbing on foot.*

*A little higher, Meriwether thought.*



He was keeping an eye on his friend William Clark, who was up ahead but not out of sight. William, always the fearless leader, climbed faster than anyone. *Soon, Meriwether hoped, any minute now, we'll toast a view of the **Columbia River**... maybe the ocean.* When he heard a grunt, Meriwether turned. Sacagawea was breathing hard; her dark hair gleamed with sweat.

"How's he doing?" Meriwether asked, peering over at little Jean-Baptiste, who was strapped and bundled on his mother's back.

Sacagawea smiled.

Jean-Baptiste was only six months old, but he'd already traveled hundreds of miles. William adored him and had started calling him "Pomp." With words Meriwether could not **decipher**, Sacagawea pointed up the mountain and tilted her head.

"Yes," Meriwether nodded. "We're very close."

Ten minutes later, a chilled wind was rushing over them. Meriwether shielded his eyes from the glare and stood next to William. Neither one spoke. The view from the peak was breathtaking. The day was clear and they could probably see fifty miles or more.

But there was no ocean.

To the west sat more jagged, snow-tipped mountains.

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The view from fourteen-thousand-foot high along the Continental Divide must have been incredible—and no doubt, disappointing. After following the Missouri River thousands of miles and then continuing on foot, the view of more mountains confirmed a sad reality—there was no Northwest Passage linking the interior of the country to the Columbia River that fed into the Pacific. To reach the coast, they would have to keep climbing and stretch their meager supplies even further.

# Game Changers

To complete the journey on foot, Lewis and Clark needed to communicate with tribes they had never met. Fortunately, they found a team of interpreters who could translate English to French, and French to Hidatsa or Shoshone.

Even with a newborn on her back, Sacagawea proved **invaluable**. When her husband, Charbonneau, decided to join the expedition, she came right along with him. Her knowledge of edible plants like wild licorice and artichokes expanded the Corps' diet. Her presence, along with her baby, signaled peace to other tribes, which made encounters much safer. When one of the boats nearly **capsized**, Sacagawea calmly saved valuable equipment from the freezing water. Her guidance was crucial in the Idaho-Montana area, where she recognized landmarks leading to her native Shoshone tribe.

In a surprising plot twist, a meeting with the leaders of her own Hidatsa tribe reunited Sacagawea with her brother, Chief Cameahwait. When the chief and his long-lost sister recognized each other, everyone celebrated. This reunion may have convinced the tribe to give the expedition the supplies and horses needed to keep going on land.

Lewis's journals, along with other accounts of the journey, leave one thing clear: Sacagawea's knowledge and presence were game-changers. Translation, combined with cultural knowledge, made communication with natives fluid and helpful, unlocking more chapters of the expedition.



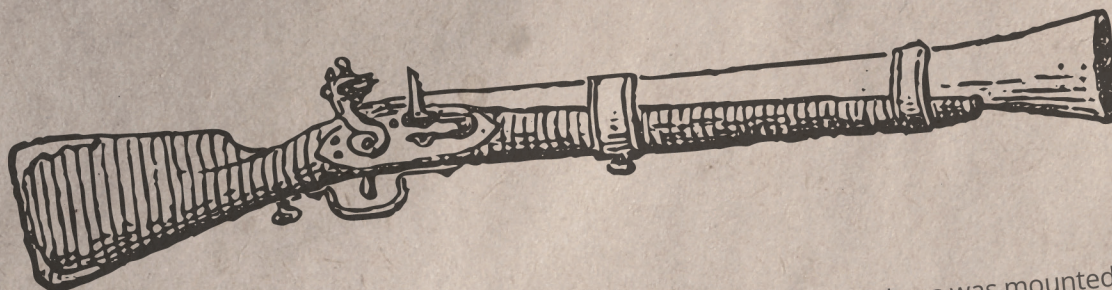
# Can You Hear Me?

Working as a team, Drouillard, Charbonneau, and Sacagawea helped interpret. Communication on the frontier often looked like a game of “telephone,” with several people working to pass a message accurately. The chain began with Lewis and Clark telling Drouillard what to say. Drouillard then translated English into French. Next, Charbonneau translated French to Hidatsa. Finally, Sacagawea translated Hidatsa to Shoshone or other **dialects**—and vice versa.



A FIELD GUIDE TO

# PLAINS & MISSOURI RIVER WEAPONRY & TECHNOLOGY



## BLUNDERBUSS

A short-range "thunder gun" similar to a shotgun. In the 1800s, a blunderbuss was mounted on wagons or boats as a defensive weapon that could stop a crowd. The gun's flared muzzle made loading lead balls, scrap iron, or even gravel fast and easy.



## BOW AND ARROW

Sioux Indians used this tried and true weapon to intimidate and attack their enemies. Bowstrings made from buffalo sinew could launch an arrow one hundred yards at a speed of 180 feet per second.



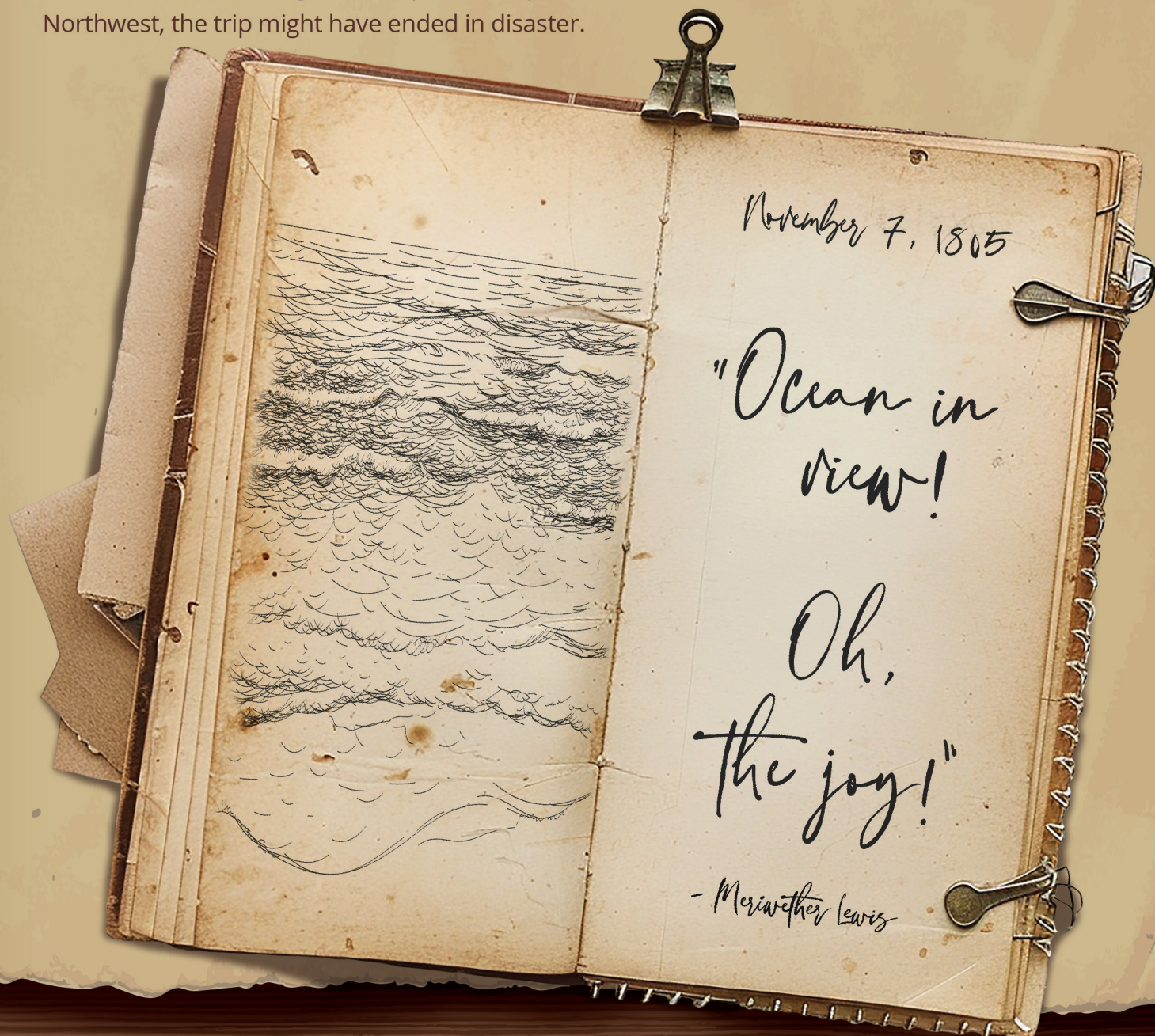
## DUGOUT CANOE

A skinny, lightweight boat made for two or three people. After friendly Indians showed Lewis and Clark how to make canoes by hollowing out a log with fire, the two explorers paddled them down the Columbia River to the Pacific.

# Onward to Oregon

With fresh supplies and a **canoe**-building lesson from the nearby Nez Perce tribe, the Corps of Discovery rallied. With perseverance and the incredible help of locals who knew the land and how to navigate it, Lewis and Clark made it through another set of mountains and started paddling on the Columbia River.

Without those advantages or the partnership of Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, the trip might have ended in disaster.



# Tiebreaker

*Oregon Coast, November 1805*

Clark's mind raced with questions. *Was it a huge mistake to leave this to a vote?* He knew giving each member of the expedition equal power was risky, and as the hands of his men continued rising, panic began sitting in. *We must move south of the river! It's for survival! How could Meriwether and I have been more clear?!*

As votes for the party to stay where they were continued coming in, Captain William Clark felt trapped. He knew at this point in the long journey, direct orders could lead to trouble. Everyone on the team had risked their lives and proved their value, and direct orders could easily have been met with **mutiny**.

Clark finished counting and paused... a *Tie!*

His heart sank, he hesitated, but just as the captain opened his mouth to speak, he was interrupted by a chorus of grunts and head nods towards the two in the corner. The black slave and the Indian girl. Neither York nor Sacagawea had voted yet.

Clark looked at the pair and couldn't hold back a small smile. He had no idea if either was about to vote in favor of his and Captain Lewis's favored plan, but he was in awe of the moment. Maybe nowhere else on earth, during this time in history, would the opinions of York and Sacagawea be considered, but here, things were different. At the end of the American continent, after thousands of miles of the entire team working together, the slave and the Indian were viewed as equals.

"OK, you two, you've been quiet long enough," Clark said, relaxing his grin and focusing sternly. "Hand up or down?"

Neither raised a hand, but both gave a nod of agreement towards Captain Clark. They each wanted to move south. *What a relief!*

"That settles it," Clark said cheerfully, but with respect for the defeated. "No time to waste. Let's get across this river and get to building a fort."

# An Equal Vote

Historians cite this as a remarkable moment—the first time a woman, Sacagawea, and a slave, York, shared an equal vote with American men. Descendants of slaves and women would not gain the right to vote until 1870 and 1920 respectively. The Corps' decision to give everyone a say in where they camped that winter was important for everyone's survival—and a promising preview of freedoms to come.

That vote illustrated another quality that continues to shape America: earned respect, regardless of one's background. Over chilled plains, tough mountains, and all the way to a rainy coastline, there was little room for prejudice or discrimination. To survive, everyone had to prove themselves. Proving one's self earned respect, regardless of race, gender, or where one came from.



# There and Back Again

The decision to stay and build **Fort Clatsop** (near present-day Astoria) was not an easy one. During the wet, cold winter, the Corps could do little more than rest, journal, and gather supplies for the return journey.

On the way back, Lewis and Clark revisited the Nez Perce Indians in Idaho. There, and after waiting for the snow to melt, they collected their horses and took a smoother, faster route through the mountains. Further east, at a spot called Lolo Pass, the Corps separated to explore more of the Great Plains. The two groups met up about five weeks later, and their return journey along the Missouri River began in earnest.

When they returned to Camp Dubois near St. Louis, Lewis and Clark were celebrities. They had been gone well over two years; many doubted they would make it back at all. Balls and receptions carried them all the way to Washington D.C., where Clark presented their maps and journals to President Jefferson at the White House.

After returning, both Lewis and Clark were given 1,600 acres of land. Jefferson appointed Clark **Territorial Governor** of Missouri, a role he held from 1813 to 1820. Later, Clark married and had children. He also adopted Sacagawea's son, Jean-Baptiste, and her daughter, Lisette. Lewis received the role of Territorial Governor of Louisiana. Unfortunately, he died mysteriously in October 1809, only a few years after the expedition. Historians believe that Lewis suffered from depression, and many think that his bond with Clark as a friend and co-captain helped sustain him through the journey.

The surviving crew received double pay and 320 acres of land each. Clark reportedly freed his slave, York.

# Wide Open

When most of North America was mysterious and unexplored, Lewis and Clark kicked the door open. While proving travel across the West was possible, they charted many of the geography, waterways, and mountains we know today. They also discovered (and even named) many plants and animals. The jackrabbit, coyote, and prairie dog all owe their names to the expedition.

With Sacagawea's help, the pair successfully made contact with dozens of Native American tribes. This helped President Jefferson establish **diplomatic** ties for trade and cooperation.

Spurred on by land and opportunity, waves of people followed Lewis and Clark's route along the Missouri River. These early settlers formed communities that would eventually populate Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota—many of the states that would join the union by 1890. With the expedition's success, America's claim to land that stretched to the other "shining sea" was undeniable.

For opening up the West, Lewis and Clark remain legends—symbols of America's restless spirit of exploration. Following their example, millions of Americans would push boundaries into the unknown, keep going when all seemed lost, and like Sacagawea, go the extra mile to help strangers.

Looking over the gorgeous landscape of the American West, we remember that first, difficult journey and the values that made it successful.



# Glossary

**Camaraderie:** Feelings of friendship and trust among people who spend a lot of time together.

**Canoe:** A narrow boat with pointed ends, propelled by paddles.

**Capsized:** When a boat turns over in the water.

**Columbia River:** A major river in the Pacific Northwest region of North America. Lewis and Clark reached it near the end of their trip west and used it to reach the Pacific Ocean in canoes.

**Dialects:** Different forms of a language spoken in particular regions or by specific groups of people.

**Diplomacy:** Skillful communication with the goal of keeping a relationship on good terms. Countries and their representatives practice diplomacy, but the skills transfer to smaller situations like Lewis and Clark's interactions with native tribes.

**Decipher:** To figure out something difficult to understand, like a code or a foreign language.

**Fort Clatsop:** The winter of 1805-1806 encampment for the Lewis and Clark expedition. Fort Clatsop was built near the mouth of the Columbia River near the Pacific Ocean, near modern-day Astoria, Oregon.

**Fortification:** A defensive structure built to protect against enemy attacks.

**Great Falls:** A series of waterfalls on the Missouri River that Lewis and Clark had to navigate around during their expedition.

**Great Plains:** A large area of flat land covered with grass, stretching across the central United States. The Great Plains stretch across Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and parts of Montana.

**Invaluable:** Extremely useful or important; priceless.

**Keelboat:** A large, flat-bottomed boat that was very stable. Keelboats were perfect for transporting goods and people down a gentle river.

**Louisiana Purchase:** A tremendous land acquisition by the United States from France in 1803. With one deal, the Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the country.

**Louisiana Territory:** An unincorporated area of 828,000 square miles that stretched from the Mississippi River delta to modern-day Minnesota and out to modern-day Montana. The region was owned by Spain and France until Napoleon sold it to the United States in 1803.

**Missouri River:** The longest river in North America. The Missouri River stretches from St. Louis, where it meets the Mississippi River, up to the Continental Divide in Idaho, reaching roughly 2,341 miles in length.



## Glossary

**Mutiny:** A rebellion—often by soldiers or sailors against their commanding officers.

**Northwest Passage:** An imaginary sea route that 18th-century Americans hoped would connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Arctic Ocean.

**Pirogue:** Small, flat-bottomed boat similar to a canoe.

**Portage:** To carry boats and supplies overland between navigable waters.

**Sacagawea:** A young Lemhi Shoshone woman who joined the Lewis and Clark expedition as a guide and interpreter.

**Territorial Governor:** A person appointed to govern a territory, which is a region of land that is not yet a state.

**Teton Sioux:** One of three subcultures of the powerful Sioux Indian tribe. The Teton Sioux spoke a language called “Lakota” and occupied lands in the Great Lakes region and in North and South Dakota.

**Toll:** A fee or charge required to pass somewhere.

**Waterway:** A river, canal, or other body of water that boats or ships can travel through.

**Westward Expansion:** The movement of settlers and pioneers westward across the United States during the 19th century.

**Yeoman:** A farmer who owns and works on a small piece of land.

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