

Lewis & Clark's Missouri

Newspaper Activities

These activities correlate to the Lewis & Clark's Missouri Newspaper In Education series published in your newspaper and are aimed at helping students connect the past with the present through newspapers. Provided by Missouri Press Foundation.

Written by Carol Craig

Missouri Geographic Alliance, UMSL

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Feature 1: The Expedition Begins

This feature tells you that the United States secretly purchased the Louisiana territory from France in what has been called one of the best real estate deals in history. Research how much the Louisiana Purchase cost per acre. Look in the real estate section of the paper's classified advertising and see how much an acre of land in your local area costs today.

When the United States bought the Louisiana Purchase, most of the people who lived there were Native Americans who had lived on the land for centuries. Who lives in your local area today? Use the newspaper to find clues to cultural names, food, or other life styles.

This Lewis and Clark feature tells you that the skills of these two men would prove useful in the months and years to come when dealing with a variety of different situations. Compare the skills that these two leaders used on their expedition with someone who is a modern day leader reported on in your newspaper.

Feature 2: **Winter near St. Louis**

This feature tells you that Meriwether Lewis' main mission in St. Louis before the Expedition left there was gathering information. It says that he talked with anyone he could find to acquire needed information. Find a newspaper article you think gives interesting information. What are some other ways that you could get information on this topic today? Is it primarily by word of mouth as it was for Lewis?

Initially, the men of the Corps often fought. Throughout the winter they gradually learned to trust each other and to work together. Study the messages of the comics in your local paper and draw a comic showing this change in the men as Clark trained and drilled them to act as a unified military group.

Clark wrote in his journal that his men had several shooting competitions, which they first lost but several months later won. Practice helps people succeed. Find an article in the paper that illustrates this idea.

Feature 3: **Meeting Early Settlers**

Pierre Cruzatte was half French and half Omaha Indian. Why was he important to the Expedition? Check your newspaper for locations of articles (their datelines) involving Americans across the world. Would it still be important to have an interpreter working with you?

Study the picture of Pierre Chouteau. Note the details of his clothing and appearance. He was an important man in St. Louis, and he was wearing what was fashionable. Check the newspaper to compare the fashions of today for political leaders. Tell how they are alike and different.

Make a short list of the names of important men in St. Louis from this feature. After each, write their job. Then make a list of important people in your community who are featured in your newspaper. What are their jobs?

Feature 4: **Encountering Indians**

Meriwether Lewis was interested in learning. Note that this feature tells you that he had studied the various tribes and customs and brought a list of questions to ask Indians he encountered so he could learn more about their way of life. When you begin to read a newspaper article, read the headline to focus on the topic. You might think of some immediate questions you hope the article will answer. The dateline tells you the location of the article, and the first paragraph gives you the who, what, where, when, and how. If you practice reading this information carefully, you will be a better reader and learn more. Try it.

This feature tells you that the Indian tribes were very different from each other. Research the tribes that are named. Many boys and girls think Indians are similar, but each tribe looks different and has different customs and living styles. Then check your newspaper and see if you can find an article about people whose customs and way of life are very different from yours. Find out more about these people. Maybe you will find out that they also have similarities to your way of life. Write a three paragraph story: first about these Indians, then your chosen cultural group, then how both of these groups are alike or different from you.

Many boys and girls think that the Indians who Lewis and Clark encountered were all warriors. Reread and find details about the daily lives of the Indians mentioned in this feature. Why were so many Indians hunting buffalo in July? They all had their daily chores as we have ours.

Only one Corps member died on the journey. Was it Indian-related? You will have to research to find this out. There is a page in the newspaper to give notice when someone dies. Lewis or Clark would have had a long obituary notice since they were famous men of their time.

Feature 5: **Animals along the Way and River Challenges**

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark used drawings to illustrate what they found along the trail. In the newspaper, drawings are called graphics. Design a graphic for an article you find in the newspaper.

Choose a section of The Journals of Lewis and Clark describing animals or river challenges in Missouri. (Younger children could take a section of a children's book about Lewis and Clark.) Rewrite that section of the journal or book in a brief, concise newspaper style of writing. Look at articles in the newspaper to get an idea of a reporter's style. Add a headline and dateline for your article.

In this feature it tells you that the *Corps* weathered huge thunderstorms like we have today. Find the weather map in the newspaper and check your local forecast for the next few days. Look at the other locations in the United States. Find the weather for your grandparents, other relative or friend. How similar or different will it be? Why?

Feature 6: **To the Pacific**

This feature mentions Sacagawea and that she would travel with the Expedition. Research her important role with the *Corps*. The role of women in American society has changed. Find an article in the paper that shows a woman in a role of importance politically or in the business world. What can she do now that she couldn't have done in Sacagawea's day?

Study the editorial page in your newspaper. Write a commentary about the role of women in today's society. Remember to state your opinion and then defend it with facts.

List the ways that Indians helped the *Corps of Discovery* in this feature. Could the *Corps* have reached the Pacific and returned without their help? State your opinion and debate it with someone else who thinks differently. Check out your newspaper and find ways that people are working together and helping each other to achieve goals in life.

Feature 7: **York's Life**

An editorial cartoon is a drawing with a message. Study some editorial cartoons in your newspaper. They usually give a person's opinion about an event or topic. Draw an editorial cartoon about York as a slave to Clark yet experiencing more freedom on the Expedition than back home.

This feature shows differing viewpoints on slavery. Find an article in the newspaper where viewpoints differ and choose one side to debate with others.

Lewis and Clark named natural features after members of the Corps. What natural feature would you name after yourself? Use the newspaper's weather map as a guide and redraw it locating natural features named after yourself and your friends. Be sure you show the weather in those locations.

Feature 8: **Making Missouri Home**

Each man received land warrants from the U.S. government entitling them to 320 acres of land. From the real estate section, figure out what 320 acres would be worth today. You could call local real estate agents to see what their estimates would be.

William Clark became governor of the Missouri Territory in 1813. What are some of the duties of a governor? What is the name of our governor today? See if you can find him in your local paper, and decide what his official role is for that occasion.

There are six men who are listed in this feature as making Missouri their home. Who is the unnamed seventh *Corps* member to live in Missouri? (Think about last week's feature.) Each of the six named men had a job during his residence in our state. What kind of a job would you like to have as an adult? Look at the classified advertising section of the newspaper and find a job that interests you. Find out more about it. What kind of education do you need, what does it pay, what kind of skills do you need to succeed at it? Write your own classified ad for your ideal job.

