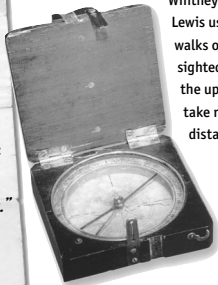


*"You will take observations of latitude & longitude, at all remarkable points on the river, & especially at the mouths of rivers, at rapids, at islands, & other places & objects distinguished by such natural marks & characters of a durable kind, as that they may with certainty be recognised hereafter."*

Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, June 20, 1803

This is probably one of the "3 Brass pocket Compasses" Lewis bought from Thomas



Whitney in Philadelphia. Lewis used it during his walks on the shore. He sighted through slits in the upright arms to take readings on distant landmarks.

Compass, 1803 — National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Behring Center

**What does the quote below say about this person's relationship to the land?**

*"In my country, we had an oral tradition ... The world around us was our book. We had a mountain range on my reservation in the southern part, and in a mountain range, you have high and low points. And these high points are mountains or buttes, and each of them are named differently ... Old Baldy or Eagle's Child Butte ... all of these things are imprinted in our stories that are teaching tools, and are the book, the map. And if you remove them, you burn our books, you destroy our books. And non-Indians don't understand that."*

George Horse Capture, A'aninin Gros Ventre, 2002

Sextant, late 1700s or early 1800s — National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Behring Center



The sextant was a device for measuring angles. Lewis used it to measure the sun's height to find the time and latitude. He also could use a sextant to measure the height of landmarks such as the Great Falls of the Missouri River.

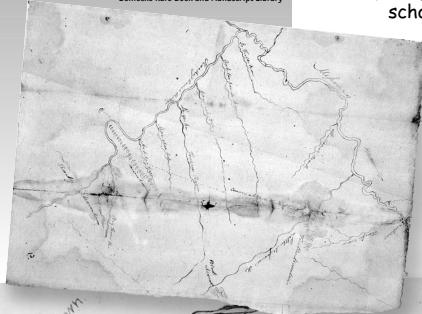


Shehek-Shote, 1807 by Charles B.J.F. de St.-Mémin — American Philosophical Society

Lewis and Clark relied in part on information from Indians to learn about the landscape ahead of them. One particular chief who proved helpful was Shehek-Shote of the Mandans, the principal chief of the village closest to Fort Mandan. His name meant "white coyote." On the expedition's return trip, he agreed to accompany the group east, where he met President Jefferson. In 1807 he was in Philadelphia, where a French artist made this portrait.

Clark carefully preserved many of the Indian maps he collected. One cold winter day at Fort

Shehek-Shote's map, 1805 — Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

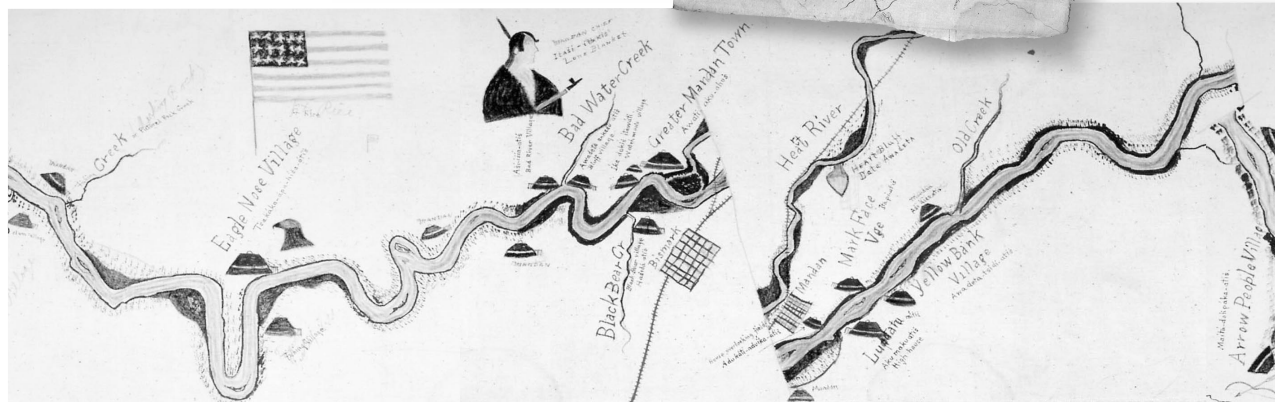


## Activity

Draw a map from your house to school. Include places and experiences along the way that mean something to you, that tell about your journey from home to school. Share your map, being sure to tell the details and why they are special to you.

Clark was the main mapmaker of the expedition and spent much of his time during the winter at Fort Mandan working on maps and using the statistics that both he and Lewis had gathered. Every step of the way, Clark kept a tally of how far they had traveled and in what direction.

Mandan, Clark invited Shehek-Shote to draw a map of the land to the west. In his society, Shehek-Shote did not have the right to pass on other people's knowledge, only his own. He most likely described his personal experience as part of a war party traveling to the Rocky Mountains. To him, the map would have been the story of his journey. Unfortunately, Clark did not write down the story that went with this map.



Sitting Rabbit's map of the Missouri River, 1906-07 — State Historical Society of North Dakota, photo by Sharon Silengo

This is a section of a map that Sitting Rabbit, a Mandan Indian, drew in 1905 at the request of a historian. It shows a section of the Missouri River near present-day Mandan, North Dakota. The pictures show sites and stories of the Mandan world as they had been passed down to him. English labels were added by a missionary. Look at the map. Near Eagle Nose Village is a bird's

head. The following Mandan oral tradition explains the story that goes with this site.

A little boy named Maggie heard the animals talking and said to his four brothers, "There's going to be a hard time coming." They paid no attention to the warning. Next day it began to rain and after four days the water was all about them. So they asked if

any hill was above the water. Maggie told them of the hill called Bird's Bill. They had to swim for the hill. They swam and they swam and they swam. The Magpie flew overhead and said, "Try harder! Don't give it up!" Spring Buffalo was the only one to reach land at Bird's Bill. At the top of the hill he and Maggie found some Indian lodges. They joined the old folks living there.

