

Data Sheet - Equipment for Lewis and Clark

January 18, 1803 – President Jefferson sent a message to Congress about the plan.

March 15, 1803 – Lewis arrives in Harpers Ferry to start buying supplies for the trip.

August 1, 1803 – Clark begins to hire men to go on the expedition.

December 7, 1803 – Everyone meets near St. Louis, the starting point for the trip.

What would you take if you were going on a trip across an entire continent in 1803? The numbers next to each item show the weight in pounds. Put a number on each line to show how many of that thing you would take for 25 men:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> rifles for hunting meat (12) | <input type="checkbox"/> bullets and powder for the rifle (12/pound) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> repair parts for the rifles (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> gun slings for carrying rifles (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> knives for cutting things (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> axes for chopping down trees (6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drills for making holes in wood (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> chisels for shaping wood (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> saws for cutting wood (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> hammers and nails for building things (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> whetstones for sharpening tools (14) | <input type="checkbox"/> chains and locks for protecting boat (18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> paint for painting wood (10/gallon) | <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of iron and copper for repairs (15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heavy awls for sewing leather (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> telescopes for seeing things far away (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> compasses for finding directions (3) | <input type="checkbox"/> thermometers (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flints for starting fires (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> metal pans for cooking soup (8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottles for carrying water (2) | <input type="checkbox"/> boxes for protecting food from rats (8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spoons and metal cups (2) | <input type="checkbox"/> glasses for drinking (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> raincoats for rainy weather (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> thick coats for cold weather (10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> regular pants for easy walking (6) | <input type="checkbox"/> heavy pants for walking in weeds (10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sets of socks and underwear (2) | <input type="checkbox"/> shirts and light jackets (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blankets for sleeping (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> cloth to make tents (20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rugs for putting on tent floor (20) | <input type="checkbox"/> mosquito nets for sleeping (10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> needles and thread for repairs (1) | <input type="checkbox"/> straps for tying things together (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> short ropes for tying horses (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> long ropes for pulling boats (12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> extra wheels for wagons (40) | <input type="checkbox"/> oars for boats (5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lines and hooks for fishing (2) | <input type="checkbox"/> shovels for digging holes (12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> loud horns for calling people (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> fat-burning lamps for making light (8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> medicines and bandages (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> pens and paper for making notes (4) |

Circle what you would take as gifts:

beads knives scissors telescopes fish-hooks tomahawks
shirts rings earrings medals ribbons colorful handkerchiefs haircombs
metal wire small pans bottles of wine cups tobacco

Thought-and-discussion questions:

What items on these lists are needed for the whole trip?

What items would you need only in grassland? mountains? desert? near the coast?

What items are useless in the grassland? mountains? desert? near the coast?

What items could you catch, make, or trade for (therefore do not need to carry)?

Notes from the Diary of William Clark

Here are two notes from the diary of William Clark.

September 9, 1804 Near the river, I saw at least 500 Buffalo. Those animals have been in view all day feeding on the grass of the Plains.

Clue words: river buffalo view grass plains

Logic: They must be on a flat grassland, not in mountains or a forest.

October 17, 1804 The river here is wider than usual and full of sandbars. The wind is from the northwest and very strong We were forced to use the towline [a rope to pull our boats] and therefore went only six miles today.

Clue words: river sandbars towline

Logic: They must be going upstream (otherwise they could just float along as the river flows downhill).

Unfortunately, his other notes got mixed up. Your job is to put them in order. Start by circling clue words. Then use logic to decide where he wrote each note.

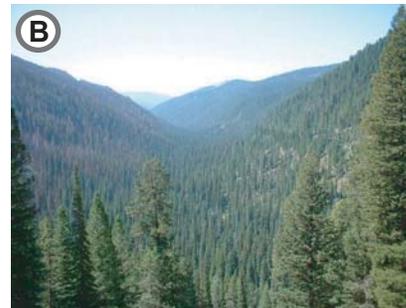
- N.** The mountains are close and there is a steep cliff on each side. . . . The water runs with great violence, foaming and roaring through rocks in every direction.
- O.** The ice is passing in great quantities The Plains are on fire on both sides of the river. It is common for the Indians to set the old dry grass on fire near their village. This makes new grass for the horses and the Buffalo.
- P.** We continue to cut the straight balsam pine trees - and we are much pleased to find that the timber splits beautifully into boards It rained last night as usual and most of today. The men finished building the chimneys for our fort today.
- Q.** The Indians have informed us that we will soon leave the buffalo country. . . . This I much regret for I know when we leave the buffalo we shall sometimes be under the necessity of fasting [having nothing to eat for a whole day].
- R.** The morning was cloudy and cool; we proceeded down the creek and on the way we met a hunter I can see very high mountains covered with snow and timber [trees]. We could not camp until dark for the want of a good place.

Write the letters of these quotes in geographical order from West to East:

West _____ East



Environments Along the Route of Lewis and Clark



To the left of each number, write the letter of the photo that matches that numbered place along Lewis and Clark's route. On the long line, note what features led you to make that choice:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

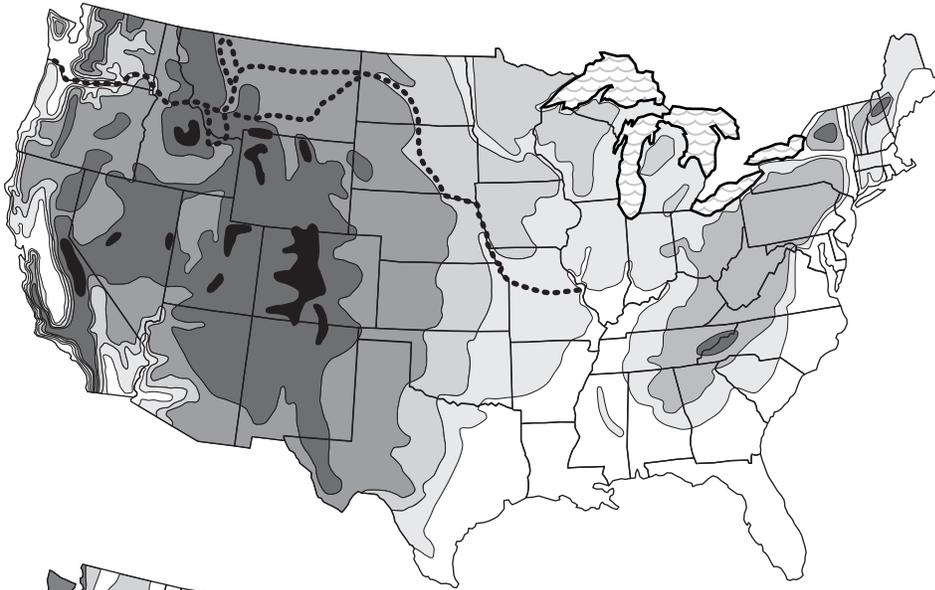
4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

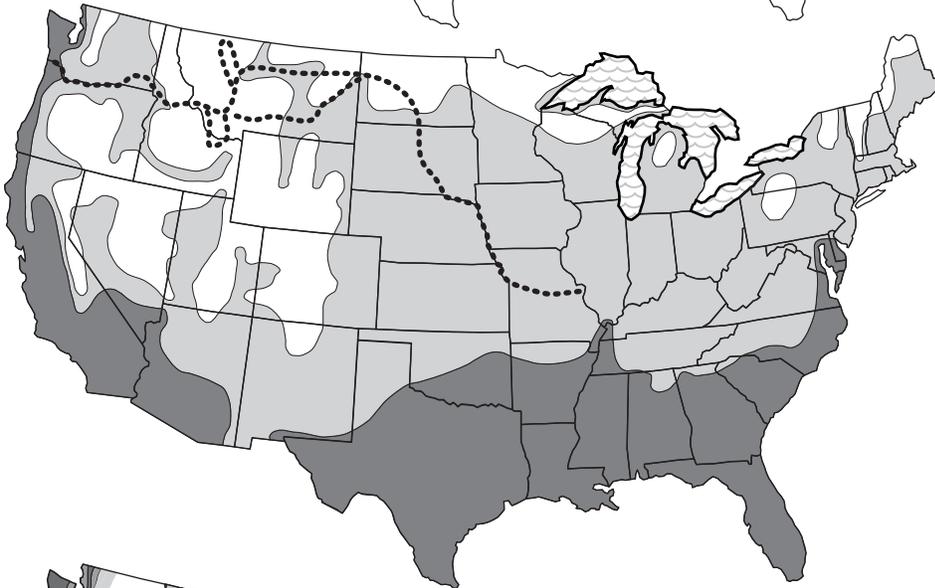
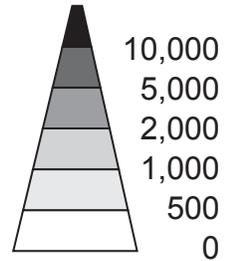
D 7) *needleleaf trees near a foggy coastal marsh*

Environments of Lewis and Clark



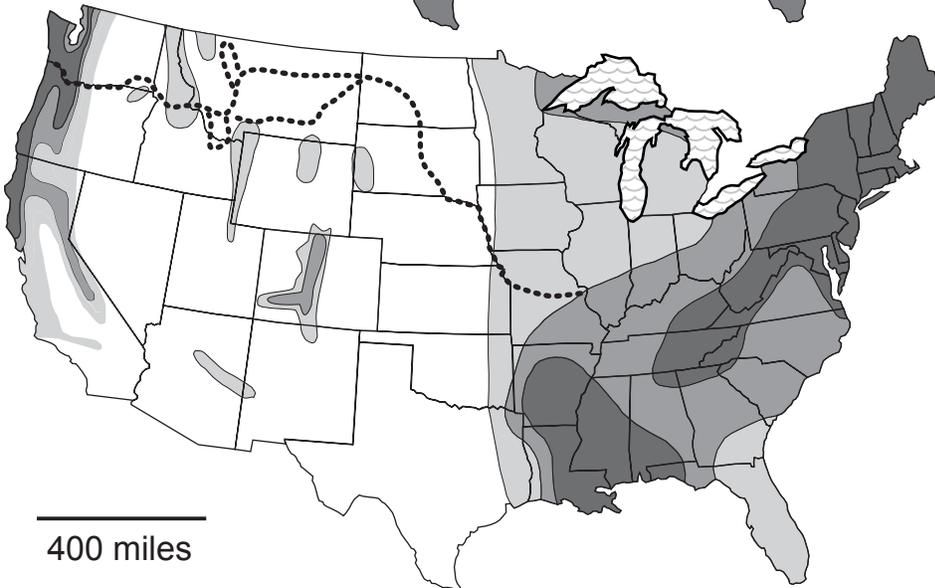
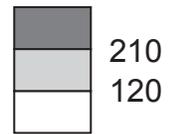
Elevation

Feet above mean sea level



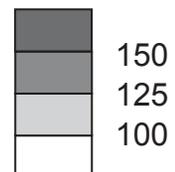
Growing Season

Average number of days between last spring frost and first autumn frost



Water Balance

Amount of rain and snow as a percentage of the amount that trees need



400 miles

THE JOBS OF A RIVER

What are the “jobs of a river”?

- 1.** Rivers gather water from the land after it rains or when snow melts.
- 2.** In populated places, rivers also get water from streets, roofs, sinks, even toilets.
- 3.** Rivers carry the water downhill and put it in the ocean (or, sometimes, a salt lake).
- 4.** Then the air evaporates some water from the ocean, blows onto the land, and makes new rain or snow. That starts the cycle all over again. Go back to step 1!

Science fact: rivers obey the law of gravity and always flow in one direction: downhill.

(The Hudson River in New York City is not really a river; it is an **estuary**, a branch of the ocean, and its flow is governed by the tides in the ocean.)

Which statement about the Missouri River is the most accurate?

- 5a.** It starts in the Rocky Mountains, flows east across the Plains, joins the Mississippi River near St. Louis, and empties into the Gulf of Mexico.
- 5z.** It starts in the Gulf of Mexico, flows north, splits from the Mississippi River at St. Louis, goes west across the Plains, and ends in the Rocky Mountains.

Which statement about rivers is the most accurate?

- 6a.** As you go upstream, away from the ocean, rivers usually get bigger.
- 6z.** As rivers flow downhill, they usually join other rivers and get bigger.

Which statement about boats and rivers is the most accurate?

- 7a.** It is easier to use a boat on a river close to the ocean where the river ends.
- 7z.** It is easier to use a boat on a river in the mountains where the river starts.

Science fact: the air gets about 4 degrees colder every thousand feet you go up.

Which statement about temperature and rivers is the most accurate?

- 8a.** Rivers tend to be colder in the mountains, close to the snow.
- 8z.** Rivers tend to be colder in the lowlands, close to the deep ocean.

Which statement about waterfalls and rivers is the most accurate?

- 9a.** Waterfalls are more likely near the mouths of rivers (where they go into the ocean).
- 9z.** Waterfalls are more likely near the sources of rivers (where they start in high land).
- 10.** Lewis and Clark started out by using boats on the Missouri River near St. Louis. Predict what is going to happen as they go west across the Great Plains.

ORIGINAL ENTRIES IN THE DIARY OF WILLIAM CLARK

Here are two quotations from the diary of William Clark.

September 9, 1804 I saw at one view near the river at least 500 Buffalo, those animals have been in View all day feeding in the Plains.

Clue words: river view buffalo plains

Logic: must be on flat grassland, not in forested mountain

October 17, 1804 the river wider than usual and full of sandbars. wind from the northwest then became so strong . . . we were forced to use the towline and therefore made only six miles.

Clue words: river sandbars towline

Logic: must be going upstream (otherwise could just float)

Unfortunately, his other notes got mixed up. You have been asked to put them in order. Start by circling clue words. Then use logic to decide where he wrote each note.

- N.** the Mountains Close and is a perpendicular Clift on each side, . . . the water runs with great violence from one rock to the other on each Side foaming & roeing thro rocks in every direction,
- O.** The ice is passing in great quantities . . . The Plains are on fire on both Side of the River. it is common for the Indians to set those plains on fire near their village for the advantage of early Grass for the horses & as an inducement to the Buffalo to visit them
- P.** we continue to put up the streight butifull balsom pine on our houses - and we are much pleased to find that the timber splits most butifullly and to the width of 2 feet or more . . . rained last night as usial and the grater part of this day, the men complete Chimneys & bunks to day
- Q.** I slept but verry little last night for the noise kept dureing the whole of the night by the Swans, Geese, white & Grey Brant Ducks on small Sand Island . . . we are determined to go into Winter quarters as soon as possible
- R.** the Indians have informed us that we should shortly leave the buffaloe country . . . this I much regret for I know when we leave the buffaloe that we shall sometimes be under the neccessity of fasting occasionally.
- S.** set out early in a cloudy cool morning; we proceeded down the creek and in our way we were met by a hunter . . . south of this place there are very high mountains covered with snow and timber.

Write the letters of these quotes in geographical order from West to East:

West _____ East

ENTRIES IN THE DIARY OF WILLIAM CLARK

<http://www.lewisandclarktrail.com/diary.htm>

- September 9, 1804 I saw at one view near the river at least 500 Buffalow, those animals have been in View all day feeding in the Plains. Gregory and Charles Mix Co, SD
- September 13, 1804 Made twelve miles today through a number of sandbars, which make it difficult to find the proper channel. At night the mosquitoes were very troublesome. Brule Co, SD
- September 16, 1804 The ground having been recently burnt by the Indians, is covered with young green grass, and in the neighborhood are great quantities of fine plums. Oacoma SD
- September 20, 1804 Passed a long chain of bluffs on the north side, of a dark colour. From these and others of the same kind the Missouri gets its muddy colour. The earth of which they are composed dissolves like sugar; every rain washes down great quantities of it, and the rapidity of the stream keeps it mixing and afloat in the water. island in Hughes County, SD
- October 17, 1804 the river wider than usual and full of sandbars. wind from the northwest then became so strong that we could not move after ten o'clock, until late in the afternoon, when we were forced to use the towline and therefore made only six miles. Sioux Co, ND
- March 25, 1805 a fine day wind SW but few Inds visit us to day the Ice having broken up in Several places. The ice began to break away this evening and was near destroying our Canoes as they were descending to the fort, river rose only 9 inches to day preparing to depart
- March 29, 1805 The ice is passing in great quantities, river ran a little, The Plains are on fire on both Side of the River. it is common for the Indians to set those plains on fire near their village for the advantage of early Grass for the horse & as an inducement to the Buffalo to visit them-
- April 9, 1805 The Bluffs of the river which we passed today were upwards of a hundred feet high, formed of yellow clay and sand – many horizontal strata of carbonated wood, having every appearance of pit coal* at a distance. SW of Garrison ND
- May 27, 1805 the river becomes more rapid and is intercepted by shoals and a greater number of rocky points at the mouths of the little gulches that we experienced yesterday. The bluffs are very high steep rugged. Choteau Co, MT
- June 9, 1805 today we examined our maps and compared the information derived as well from them as from the Indians and fully settled in our minds the propriety of adopting the South fork for the Missouri, as that which it would be most expedient for us to take.
- June 17, 1805 I set six men at work to prepare four sets of truck wheels with couplings, tongues and bodies, that they might either be used without the bodies for transporting our canoes, or with them in transporting our baggage. Great Falls, MT
- June 22, 1805 about 8 miles on the portage where we halted and dined; we were obliged here to renew both axeltrees and the tongues and hownes of one set of wheels which took us no more than 2 hours. the prickly pears were extremely troublesome to us sticking our feet through our mockersons
- July 3, 1805 the Indians have informed us that we should shortly leave the buffaloe country after passing the falls; this I much regret for I know when we leave the buffaloe that we shall sometimes be under the necessity of fasting occasionally.
- July 6, 1805 a roar of thunder rain and hail which was as large as musket balls covered the ground. we had some of it collected which kept very well through the day and served to cool our water.

- August 12, 1805 men much fatigued and waekened by being continually in the water drawing the Canoes... men complain verry much of the emence labour they are obliged to undergo & wish much to leave the river. I passify them near Lemhi Pass, ID
- August 23, 1805 the Mountains Close and is a perpendicular Clift on each side, and continues for a great distance and that the water runs with great violence from one rock to the other on each Side foaming & roeing thro rocks in every direction, So as to render the passage of any thing impossible Salmon R, ID
- Sept 7, 1805 set out early in a cloudy cool morning; we proceeded down the creek and in our way we were met by a hunter, who has not some in last night, and who had lost his horse. On the south of this place there are very high mountains covered with snow and timber. we did not camp untill dark for the want of a good place Grantsdale, MT
- Sept 12, 1805 The road through this hilley Countrey is verry bad passing over hills & thro' Steep hollows, over falling timber... Party and horses much fatigued. nr Lolo Hot Springs, MT
- Sept 16, 1805 the snow in the morning 4 inches deep on the old snow, and by night we found it from 6 to 8 inches deep ... I have been wet and as cold in every part as I ever was in my life. ... men all wet cold and hungary. Killed a Second colt which we Suped haritly on and thought it fine meat...To describe the road of this day would be a repitonal of yesterday excpt the Snow which made it much wors to proseed as we had in maney places to derect our selves by the appearance of the rubbings of the packs against the trees which have limbs quiet low and bending downwards Idaho Co, ID
- Sept 20, 1805 we passed a broken country heavily timbered great quantities of which had fallen and so obstructed our road that it was almost impracticable to proceed in many places Lolo Cr, ID
- Oct 13, 1805 rained a little before day, and all the morning, a hard wind from the S West untill 9 oClock, the rained Seased & wind luled, and Capt Lewis with two canoes Set out & passed down the rapid. The others Soon followed and we passed over this bad rapid safe. We should make more portages if the Season was not So far advanced and time precious with us... passed down the rapid the others soon followed and we passed over this bad rapid Safe snake river near Ayer, WA
- Oct 31, 1805 the Great Shute which commenced at the Island on which we encamped Continued with great rapidity and force thro a narrow channel... Dalles, OR
- Nov 5, 1805 I slept but verry little last night for the noise kept dureing the whole of the night by the Swans, Geese, white & Grey Brant Ducks on small Sand Island close; they were emensely noumerous and their noise horid OR across from Longview
- Nov 24, 1805 being now determined to go into Inter quarters as soon as possible, as a convenient Situation to preure the Wild animals of the forest which must be our dependence for subsistin this winter. voting on location of winter quarter
- Nov 28, 1805 rained all the last night we are all wet our bedding and stores are also wet, we haveing nothing which is sufficient to keep ourselves bedding or stores dry Several men in the point hunting deer without Suckcess... This wind and rain continued with short intervaes all the latter part of the night. O! how disagreeable is our situation dureing this dreadfull weather. near coast
- Dec 13, 1805 we continue to put up the streight butifull **balsom pine*** on our houses - and we are much pleased to find that the timber splits most butifullly and to the width of 2 feet or more building Clatsop
- Dec 17, 1805 all the men at work about the houses, some **chinking***, **dobbing**** cutting out dores
- Dec 26, 1805 we dry our wet articles and have the blankets fleed. The flees are So troublesom that I have slept but little for past 2 nights and we have regularly to kill them out of our blankets every day
- Dec 27, 1805 rained last night as usial and the grater part of this day, the men complete Chimneys & bunks to day

National Park Service



Lewis and Clark Expedition

A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary



[Expedition Home](#) [List of Sites](#) [Maps](#) [Essays](#) [Learn More](#) [Itineraries](#) [NR Home](#)

Preparing for the Journey

Before his inauguration on March 4, 1801, President Thomas Jefferson asked Meriwether Lewis, a 29-year-old career officer in the U.S. Army, to join him in the White House as his personal secretary. Jefferson knew Lewis and Lewis's family, as they were neighbors of his [Monticello](#), Virginia, estate. Lewis, a staunch Jeffersonian Democrat, tested the loyalty of top Army officers to the President and reported back to Jefferson. Lewis was sent with sensitive messages to the ministers of foreign powers, and generally assisted the President. But most of all Lewis listened. Lewis absorbed Jefferson's ideas on geography, science, politics, American Indians, and diplomacy. It seems that Lewis was being groomed to lead Jefferson's expedition into the West.



Monticello, home of President Thomas Jefferson
National Park Service photo

Lewis was sent with sensitive messages to the ministers of foreign powers, and generally assisted the President. But most of all Lewis listened. Lewis absorbed Jefferson's ideas on geography, science, politics, American Indians, and diplomacy. It seems that Lewis was being groomed to lead Jefferson's expedition into the West.

On January 18, 1803, President Jefferson sent a special message to Congress about the proposed expedition. He noted with concern the fact that the British were carrying on a lucrative fur trade with American Indians along the northern border of the United States and into the West. He approached Congress with the idea that "an intelligent officer with 10 or 12 chosen men, fit for the enterprise and willing to undertake it, taken from our posts, where they may be spared without inconvenience, might explore the whole line, even to the Western ocean ..." (Jackson 10-13). In this message, Jefferson portrayed the major goal of the projected expedition as a diplomatic one, in which the explorers "could have conferences with the natives" about commerce, and gain admission for American traders among the various Indian tribes. The other major goal of the expedition, barely stated by Jefferson on January 18, was a scientific one--to not only explore but map and chronicle everything of interest, as he put it, along "the only line of easy communication across the continent." Jefferson took great care to describe the project as a cheap one which would not cost the taxpayers much money. "Their arms & accouterments, some instruments of observation, & light & cheap presents for the Indians would be all the apparatus they could carry, and with an expectation of a soldier's portion of land on their return would constitute the whole expense." Jefferson knew that diplomacy, especially with the goal of increased commerce, could be sold to Congress; scientific discovery and description could not. One seemed practical, the other less so. Thus Jefferson asked for

\$2,500 to fund the expedition (based on Lewis's initial estimates). (Jackson 8-9 and 13)



A large arsenal dominates this 1803 print of Harpers Ferry. Here, firearms manufactured in the adjacent Armory were stored.
From the Harpers Ferry NHP Historic Photo Collection (HF-21)

On about March 15, 1803, Lewis arrived in [Harpers Ferry, Virginia](#) (today's West Virginia), to obtain rifles and other equipment for the expedition, including an iron boat frame. The construction of the boat detained him longer than he had expected, and he stayed in Harpers Ferry for about a month. The boat was made in two sections, each weighing 22 pounds, which could be fitted together to form the skeleton of a boat of 40 feet in length, and would be covered with animal hides and sealed together with pitch.

This special boat could be used high in the mountains if they were unable to make dugout canoes.

Besides procuring equipment, Lewis was also expected to take crash courses in several disciplines to round out his training as leader of the expedition. With only the precedent of the voyages of James Cook, Lewis was instructed to compile scientific data on every aspect of the terrain through which he would pass. He was prepared for this by Jefferson during the period he served as the President's personal secretary, and during the Spring of 1803 by astronomer Andrew Ellicott, botanist Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, surveyor



American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia
Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society

and mathematician Robert Patterson, physician Dr. Benjamin Rush, and anatomist Dr. Caspar Wistar (Rush and Wistar were both members of the [American Philosophical Society](#)). Lewis also spent his time in Philadelphia procuring supplies, such items as "portable soup," medicine, special uniforms made of drab cloth, tents, tools, kettles, tobacco, corn mills, wine, gunpowder in lead canisters, medical and surgical supplies, and presents. In addition to all of these activities, Lewis most certainly visited the famous museum of Charles Willson Peale, then located on the second floor of [Independence Hall](#).

Lewis left Philadelphia on June 1 and traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with President Jefferson and make final arrangements for his journey to the Pacific. These included writing a long letter on June 19 to an old friend, William Clark, asking him to be a co-leader of the expedition and to recruit men in his area. Lewis told Clark the real destination of their mission (the Pacific Coast), but told him to use a cover story that the mission was to go up the Mississippi River to its source for his recruitment. Lewis also hinted at secret news just received by President Jefferson: the French had offered the entire territory of Louisiana to the United States for \$15 million. On July 3, 1803, official

news arrived in the nation's capital--Robert Livingston and James Monroe had purchased the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon's France.



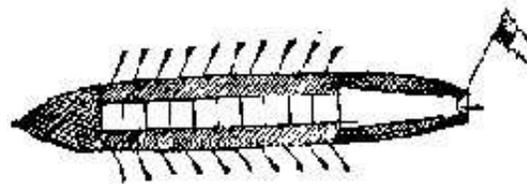
Detail of the reproduction 1792 militia rifle. Note the U.S. Army insignia and "Harpers Ferry 1803" inscribed on the lock

National Park Service photo by David T. Gilbert

Lewis left Washington on July 5 for Harpers Ferry, where he picked up the more than 3,500 pounds of supplies and equipment he had amassed to take overland to the Pittsburgh area. The Harpers Ferry-made items probably included 15 rifles, 24 pipe tomahawks, 36 tomahawks for American Indian presents, 24 large knives, 15 powder horns and pouches, 15 pairs of bullet molds, 15 wipers or gun worms, 15 ball screws, 15 gun slings, extra parts of locks and tools for replacing arms, 40 fish giggs such as the

Indians use with a single barb point, 1 small grindstone and the collapsible iron frame for a canoe. Lewis left Harpers Ferry for the West on July 8. He hired a man named William Linnard with a Conestoga Wagon to haul the supplies to Pittsburgh. The items were so heavy that Linnard had to obtain another wagon. At Elizabeth, Pennsylvania (south of Pittsburgh on the Monongehela River), Lewis was held up for more than a month waiting for his 55-foot keelboat to be built. During this time, Lewis received word from William Clark that he would join the expedition.

On August 31, the keelboat was completed and Lewis began his journey down the Ohio. It is believed that Lewis also purchased what later became known as the "Red Pirogue" at this time, a single-masted boat rowed with seven oars. Lewis investigated ancient Indian mounds on his way down the river at what is now Creek Mounds State Historic Site near Kent, West Virginia. The next day Lewis first mentioned his Newfoundland dog, Seaman, in the journals. The water in the Ohio was low, causing long portages at various points. Lewis reached Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 28, 1803, where he talked with Dr. William Goforth, a local physician who was excavating the fossil remains of a mastodon at the [Big Bone Lick](#) in Kentucky. Lewis traveled to Big Bone Lick himself by October 4, and sent a box of specimens back to President Jefferson, along with an extremely detailed letter describing the finds of Goforth--the lengthiest surviving letter written by Lewis.



A sketch of the keelboat *Discovery* by William Clark. Specially built to Meriwether Lewis's specifications, which carried the explorers to the upper Missouri River

Courtesy of Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

On October 14, the keelboat arrived at [Clarksville, Indiana](#), where Lewis finally joined William Clark, his slave York, and the "young men from Kentucky" including Joseph and Reubin Field, recruited by Clark on August 1, and Charles Floyd and George Gibson. John Colter officially enlisted on October 15, George Shannon and John Shields on the 19th, Nathaniel Hale Pryor and William Bratton on the 20th. These so-called "nine young men from Kentucky" formed the backbone of the expedition's crew. Whatever

inexperience they may have suffered from in October 1803 was rectified quickly at Camp Wood and along the trail in 1804-06. We don't know if these men met Lewis's initial criteria, but they certainly grew into the role as time went on, and hindsight shows that Clark could not have chosen better.



Reconstructed Fort Massac
Courtesy of Fort Massac State Park

The expedition got under way once more on October 27, moving down the Ohio to [Fort Massac](#), Illinois, by November 11. Today a replica of the American fort as it looked when Lewis and Clark visited in 1803 stands on the site. Lewis hired interpreter George Drouillard and gained volunteers from the U.S. military at Fort Massac: John Newman and Joseph Whitehouse of Daniel Bissell's 1st Infantry Regiment. These were the first active-duty military personnel added to the Corps of Discovery. The most important addition at Massac was Drouillard, or "Drewyer" as his name is most often spelled in the journals. Born north of present-day Detroit, Michigan, Drouillard was half French and half Shawnee Indian. Drouillard possessed skills that members of the expedition lacked to this point--he was a real frontiersman in the mold of Daniel Boone or Simon Kenton, by far the best hunter and woodsman of the entire expedition.

On November 13 the Corps left Fort Massac, arriving in the vicinity of modern Cairo, Illinois, on the 14th. Here Lewis and Clark worked jointly on their first scientific research and description; to study the geography at the junction of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. On November 16, they began the diplomatic phase of their journey when they visited the Wilson City area of Mississippi County, Missouri, and met with Delaware and Shawnee Indian chiefs. They ended their surveys at Cairo on November 19, and proceeded up the Mississippi River, now working against the current.

Lewis and Clark stopped to describe and climb Tower Rock on November 25, and arrived at [Fort Kaskaskia](#), Illinois, on the 29th. In 1803, Kaskaskia was the U.S. Army post furthest north and furthest west. Kaskaskia was a town of 467 people when Lewis and Clark visited in 1803. Six soldiers enlisted at Kaskaskia from Russell Bissell's Company, 1st U.S. Infantry Regiment: Sgt. John Ordway and privates Peter M. Weiser, Richard Windsor, Patrick Gass, John Boley, and John Collins. In addition, John Dame, John Robertson, Ebenezer Tuttle, Issac

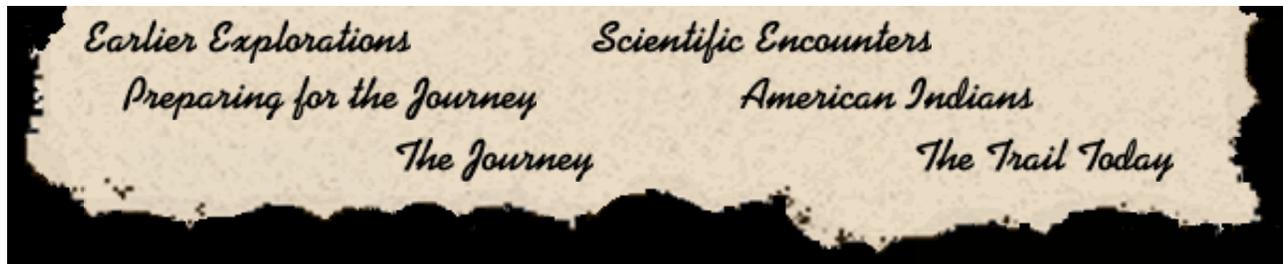


Historic image, c.1940, of the remains of Fort Kaskaskia's north bastion
Courtesy Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number ILL,79-FORGA,2-1

White, and Alexander Hamilton Willard of Capt. Amos Stoddard's company, U.S. Corps of Artillery, also enlisted for the journey. This was a very important crop of men who added immeasurably to the success of the expedition. Francois Labiche, another half-Indian half-Frenchman, enlisted with the expedition on November 30. Another boat,

the "White Pirogue," may have been acquired at Kaskaskia. Clark and the men of the Corps departed Kaskaskia on December 3, and camped just below Ste. Genevieve. Lewis remained at Kaskaskia, probably meeting with locals and taking care of the military and paperwork sides of the expedition. On December 4, Clark and the men moved further up the river, passing Ste. Genevieve on the left side, a very prosperous town of about 1,000 residents--equal in size to St. Louis in 1803. Clark and the men next viewed the remains of Fort De Chartres, abandoned for over 30 years, on the right side. On December 6, Lewis left Kaskaskia and traveled to Cahokia along the Illinois roads. Both Lewis and Clark arrived in Cahokia on December 7.

For more information please see [Preparing for Trip West](#), from which this is excerpted, on the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial's Lewis and Clark Journey of Discovery website. See also Donald Jackson, Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with Related Documents, 1783-1854. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1962.



[Expedition Home](#) | [List of Sites](#) | [Maps](#) | [Learn More](#) | [Itineraries](#) | [NR Home](#) |
Essays: [Earlier Explorations](#) | [Preparing for the Journey](#) | [The Journey](#) |
[Scientific Encounters](#) | [American Indians](#) | [The Trail Today](#)

[Journal Citations](#)
[Comments or Questions](#)

JPJ/RQ/SB