

## An Historic Trip

In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson bought from the French government all the land west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. This historic deal is known as the Louisiana Purchase. The United States had now doubled in size by **acquiring** 800,000 square miles of undiscovered territory. President Jefferson hired Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to take a troop of men to document and record all their observations in this new land. Lewis and Clark's **courageous** journey became one of the most famous expeditions in United States history.



Their main goal was to explore and map the new territory and find out what kinds of plants, animals, and people inhabited this land. Along the way they met many Native American tribes. In North Dakota they met a Shoshone Indian woman named Sacajawea. She was hired to travel with the expedition to the Pacific Ocean. Sacajawea became a very important member of the group by guiding them through very difficult land, helping them to find food, and **interpreting** the different Native American languages.

Lewis and Clark traveled by river and by land from St. Louis, Missouri to the Oregon coast and back again. When they returned, there was much excitement. They had been gone so long that no one was sure whether they were still alive. They had traveled over 8000 miles in their journey of over two years. They collected many plants and animals and had also made many maps to show the president. Lewis and Clark were great explorers and made a very important **contribution** to American history.

Circle the correct answer.

1 What is a synonym for expedition?

- A journey
- B story
- C country
- D person

2 What did Thomas Jefferson buy from the French?

- A clothes
- B food
- C land
- D corn

3 What kind of people did Lewis and Clark meet?

- A Germans
- B Native Americans
- C English
- D Swedish

4 What tribe did Sacajawea belong to?

- A Shoshone
- B Sioux
- C Cheyenne
- D Lakota

5 Which of the following statements is a fact?

- A The Native Americans were very nice.
- B Lewis and Clark were very smart.
- C Sacajawea was a guide for Lewis and Clark.
- D They had traveled for over five years.

6 Where did the famous journey start?

- A France
- B Louisiana
- C Oregon
- D St. Louis



7 Mark each sentence true or false according to the passage.

- Jefferson bought this land from the French.
- Lewis and Clark's journey is part of history.
- Sacajawea never got to the Pacific Ocean.
- No one lived in the Louisiana Purchase.

8 Where is the Louisiana Purchase located?

- A land in south France
- B land west of Mississippi River to Rocky Mts.
- C land from Mississippi River to Louisiana
- D land from Rocky Mountains to Oregon

9 Sacajawea helped the explorers in all of these ways EXCEPT:

- A She translated languages for them.
- B She guided them through the land.
- C She helped them build cabins for shelter.
- D She helped them find food.

10 What was the purpose of this trip?

- A to explore the new land
- B to fight the Native Americans
- C to meet new people
- D Answer not given

11 In this story, what does document mean?

- A paper
- B to write down
- C to tell
- D to send

12 Put these sentences in order.

- Sacajawea guided Lewis and Clark.
- Their journey was over 8000 miles.
- Jefferson bought land from the French.
- Lewis and Clark's journey was very famous.