

# Mountain Man Education Trunk

## Teacher Info: Curriculum Overview

The Wyoming State Museum is extremely excited for you to try out this new and improved curriculum. This overview will tell you what to expect within each section of the curriculum. The following pages will dive deeper into each activity. Some of these sections can even be completed before you receive the trunk or after you send it back.

- **Section 1: Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark Expedition**  
This introduction lesson teaches students how the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition were instrumental to creating the mountain men. These activities focus on reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- **Section 2: Exploring History through Artifacts**  
This activity allows students to get hands on with one mountain man artifact, analyze it, and determine what it would have been used for. This activity utilizes group work and critical thinking.
- **Section 3: How Mountain Men Trapped Beavers**  
This activity is two parts worksheets and one part classroom discussion. Your students will use independent research to learn about the American beaver and figure out the steps that mountain men used to trap beavers. Then, you'll use a couple of the trunk's artifacts to teach your students more about this topic.
- **Section 4: Creating a Mountain Man**  
In this fun activity, your students will create their own mountain man. They'll name him, choose his country of origin, give him abilities and skills, and dress him. You will also have a classroom discussion about mountain man clothes, showing the clothes from the trunk. This activity cannot be skipped if you're doing Section 5 or 6.
- **Section 5: A Year in the Life of a Mountain Man**  
This is the main activity of the entire trunk. Students will go through 22 "encounters" with their mountain man, led by you. You will utilize cards (created by the museum) to easily walk your students through different good and bad things that happened to mountain men while trapping. Their mountain man abilities and skills will help them survive and thrive.
- **Section 6: Mountain Man Rendezvous**  
After their first year in the mountains, your students will use mathematics to determine how many beavers they obtained, and how much money they're worth. Then, they'll go through the rendezvous store, purchasing items they'll need for their next year in the Rocky Mountains.
- **Section 7: Mountain Man Tall Tales**  
Finally, your students will use writing skills to create tall tales about their mountain man's experience in the mountains, during their first year.

# Mountain Man Education Trunk

## Teacher Info: Setting Up the Era of the Mountain Men

### Section 1: Setting Up the Era of the Mountain Men

This section utilizes English Language Arts to allow your students to learn about what caused the mountain men to move into the Rockies in the first place. They will learn a bit about the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition; both of these were the impetus for the era of the mountain men. **This activity can be completed before you receive the trunk in your classroom.**

- Activity 1: The Louisiana Purchase

- Part 1: “The Louisiana Purchase” Vocabulary Worksheet

Students will use computers, tablets, or dictionaries in the classroom to define vocabulary terms. You can print this document from the Mountain Man Trunk page of the Wyoming State Museum website or photocopy it from the “Student Worksheets” section of this book.

- Part 2: Reading Activity

Students will read a short synopsis about the Louisiana Purchase to learn about it. This reading activity is already printed and ready to go. It is combined with the Lewis and Clark Expedition reading activity in the trunk.

- Part 3: “The Louisiana Purchase” Test Your Knowledge Worksheet

Students will answer a few questions about what they just read. This document is on the back of the vocabulary sheet.

- Activity 2: The Lewis and Clark Expedition

- Part 1: “The Lewis and Clark Expedition” Vocabulary Worksheet

Students will use computers, tablets, or dictionaries in the classroom to define vocabulary terms. Like above, you can print this document or photocopy it.

- Part 2: Reading Activity

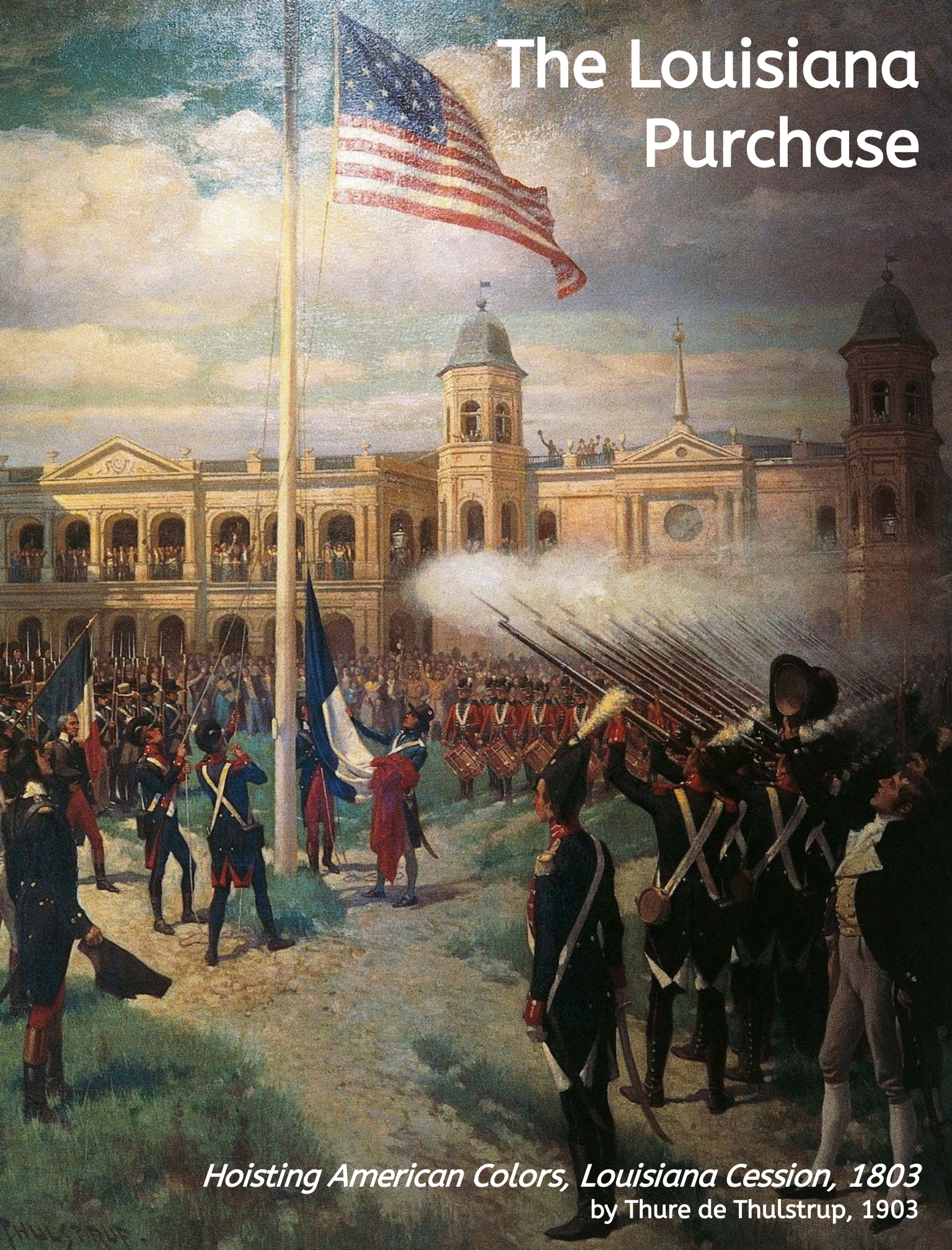
Students will read a short synopsis about the Lewis and Clark Expedition to learn about it. This reading activity is already printed and ready to go. It is combined with the Louisiana Purchase reading activity in the trunk.

- Part 3: “The Lewis and Clark Expedition” Test Your Knowledge Worksheet

Students will answer a few questions about what they just read. This document is on the back of the vocabulary sheet.



# The Louisiana Purchase



*Hoisting American Colors, Louisiana Cession, 1803*  
by Thure de Thulstrup, 1903



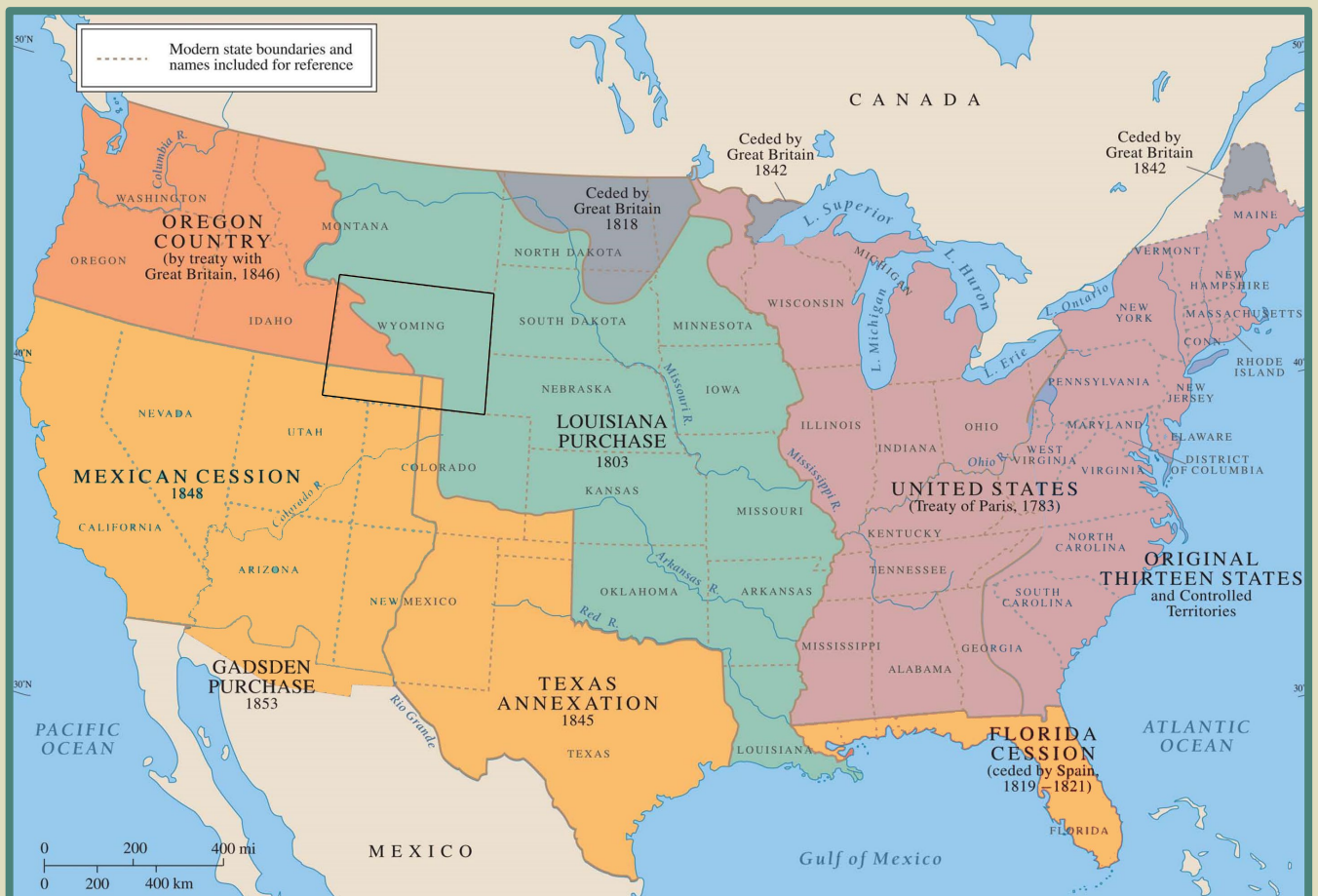
# The Louisiana Purchase

## Learn about the Louisiana Purchase

### European Conquest in the Future USA and the Louisiana Purchase

The land that would eventually become the United States of America had been home to Native American tribes for thousands of years. But, by the late 1700s, multiple colonial powers had claimed ownership over this land. Even though the land was already inhabited, Great Britain, Spain, France, and the newly independent United States now claimed it as their own.

The map below shows what you probably recognize as the United States. But, it took many years for the USA to acquire all of it! The colors tell you which countries claimed the different regions at the end of the 1700s. The map also shows the dates when these sections of land became part of our country.



# The Louisiana Purchase

## Learn about the Louisiana Purchase

### United States

After winning the Revolutionary War (war for independence), the Treaty of Paris (1783) set the new boundaries of the USA. At this time, the United States spanned from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. But, a few spots of land were still owned by other nations. Florida Territory was owned by Spain, and Great Britain owned two northern sections of land. This map was what the United States looked like before the Louisiana Purchase.

### French Territory

France claimed ownership to all of the land labeled “Louisiana Purchase” on the map.

### Spanish Territory

Spain claimed all of the land labeled “Texas Annexation,” “Florida Cession,” and “Mexican Cession.”

### Oregon Territory

“Oregon Country” was claimed by two different countries, Great Britain and the United States. Both of these countries had reached the land from the Pacific Ocean and believed they had the right to the territory.

### British Territory

Besides claiming “Oregon Country,” Great Britain also controlled a few small sections of land in what would eventually become the United States.

### Wyoming

While Wyoming was not a state yet, you can see that the land that would one day become it! Parts of Wyoming were actually claimed by four different countries at the end of the 1700s.

# The Louisiana Purchase

## Learn about the Louisiana Purchase

### Louisiana Purchase

After the United States' war for independence in 1776, the country was growing and looking for more land. In 1803, the leader of France – Napoleon Bonaparte – agreed to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States. This was known as the Louisiana Purchase.

The Louisiana Purchase cost \$15 million and almost doubled the size of the United States! If you compare that to today's money, it would have been about \$368 million. That's more than enough to buy every single person in Wyoming two Xboxes! In total, the Louisiana Purchase only cost four cents per acre; it was a quite a bargain for the USA!

Additionally, the Louisiana Purchase gave the United States control of the Mississippi River and the incredibly important port city of New Orleans!

It is very important to note, that no Indigenous people were consulted during the negotiations for the Louisiana Purchase. France did insist that the United States honor all existing treaties with the Native people. Unfortunately, the United States would soon go back on their word and begin forcefully removing Native American people from their ancestral lands.



*The Emperor Napoleon in His Study at the Tuileries*  
by Jacques-Louis David, 1812



# The Lewis & Clark Expedition



*Lewis and Clark at Three Forks*  
by Edgar S. Paxson, 1912



# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

## Learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition

### The Beginning of the Expedition

After the United States acquired the Louisiana Territory in 1803, they were eager to explore and map their new territory!

In order to learn more about this land, President Thomas Jefferson created the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This expedition was made up of a team of 45 people, including Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Clark's slave York, 27 soldiers, a boat crew, a French-Indian interpreter, and Seaman the dog. Eventually, they would be joined by a Native American woman from the Shoshone tribe named Sacagawea and her French-Canadian trapper husband.



*Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia*  
by Charles Marion Russell, 1905



# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

## Learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition

### The Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific

Thomas Jefferson tasked the expedition with finding a river route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. The journey began on May 14, 1804, from Camp Dubois near St. Louis, Missouri. Their journey would last two and a half years and they would travel 8,000 miles. That's the same distance as boating from the USA to Africa two and a half times!

### How They Traveled to the Pacific

The expedition left Missouri with one massive keelboat, which was 55 feet long, 32 feet tall, and weighed 20,000 pounds! This means it was the length of two and half elephants, the height of two giraffes, and the weight of two killer whales!

Keelboats could be moved through the rivers by paddling, sailing, pulling with ropes, or pushing off the riverbed with poles.

The group also brought two pirogues (rowboats with sails) and 13 dugout canoes. They would also make more canoes along the journey.

On their long journey to the Pacific Ocean, they would paddle, sail, and drag their boats through miles of rivers. To travel over the mountains and in between different rivers, they would either walk or trade with Indigenous people for horses.



*Above:*

*Lewis and Clark Keelboat Replica  
by National Park Service*

*Below:*

*The Red Pirogue Scale Model  
By Richard Boss*



# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

## Learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition

### Goals of the Expedition

President Jefferson had three main goals for the expedition: create an United States presence in the new territory, find a river route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, and research and catalog the geography, plants, and animals of this region. The expedition was considered an overwhelming success by most people in the USA.

### Facts About the Expedition

The expedition saw the Yellowstone area and crossed the continental divide. They were the first people from the United States to do either.

They created 140 maps and gathered samples of more than 200 plants and 120 animals. Many of these species were new to modern science.

They gathered numerous rocks, minerals, fossils, and other natural resource samples.

They ate many different items, including more than 200 dogs they obtained by trading with tribes.

Sacagawea, who was a vital member of the expedition, gave birth to a baby boy while on the journey.

York, William Clark's slave, was treated like an equal for much of the trip. But those freedoms were taken away after the journey, and he was quickly returned to the life of a slave.



*York*

by Ed Hamilton, 2003



# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

## Learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition

### Interactions with and Impact on Native American Peoples

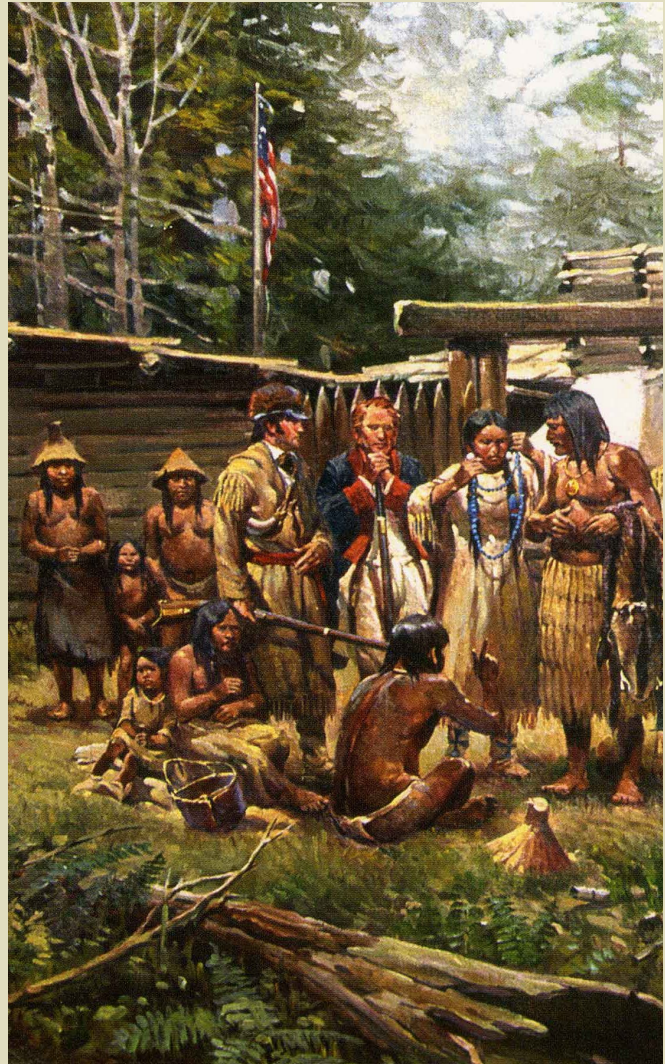
Through the Louisiana Purchase, the United States now claimed ownership over a vast amount of land. But remember, this land already had humans living on it for thousands of years. Lewis and Clark met over 50 different tribes on their way to the Pacific Ocean.

The incredible success of the expedition would have been impossible without the generosity, hospitality, knowledge, and patience of the tribes across the West.

The Shoshone people supplied them with horses to cross the Rocky Mountains. The Mandan and Clatsop people let them stay in their territories and build forts to survive two winters. Many tribes gave them food, information, and guides to help them find the Pacific Ocean.

Additionally, Sacagawea helped interpret, guided them through areas she was familiar with, showed them safe food to eat, and made the many tribes they met feel more comfortable with the expedition.

Unfortunately, the United States would not return the tribes' kindness over the next 100 years. Lewis and Clark marked the beginning of encroachment and settlement by the USA in the West. This had huge, disastrous consequences for generations of Indigenous people.



*Bartering Blue Beads for  
Otter Robe*

by Newman Myrah



# The Louisiana Purchase

## Vocabulary

Before we begin, let's learn some new words! Use the resources in your classroom to look up and define the following terms.

Colonial Power:

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Indigenous People:

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Treaty:

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Acre:

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Port:

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# The Louisiana Purchase

## Test Your Knowledge

In addition to the USA, what three European countries had claimed the land that would become Wyoming, before the Louisiana Purchase?

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Who had called this land their home for thousands of years before Europeans laid claim to it?

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Which nation sold the Louisiana Purchase to the United States?

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How much did the Louisiana Purchase cost in 1803?

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Which people were not included in the discussions to sell the land?

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What city (included with the Louisiana Purchase) was very important?

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# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

## Vocabulary

Before we begin, let's learn some new words! Use the resources in your classroom to look up and define the following terms.

Expedition:

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Slave:

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Keelboat:

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Continental Divide:

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Encroachment:

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# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

## Test Your Knowledge

How many people made up the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

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How many miles did the expedition travel during its journey?

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What three types of boats did the expedition use?

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They were the first from the USA to see what future national park?

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They were trying to find a route from which river to the Pacific Ocean?

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What is one way that Native people helped the expedition?

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