

The Adventures of Lewis & Clark 🌅 Timeline

Spring, 1803

Lewis is picked as commander of the expedition. He writes to ask William Clark to join him and share command. Clark accepts.

Summer, 1803

A large keelboat is constructed in Pittsburgh, and overseen by Lewis. After construction Lewis takes it down the Ohio River picking up Clark and recruits along the way.

August 3, 1804

Corps of Discovery meet with representatives of the Oto and Missouri Indians. Lewis and Clark give peace medals, 15 star flags and other gifts.

Spring/Summer, 1803

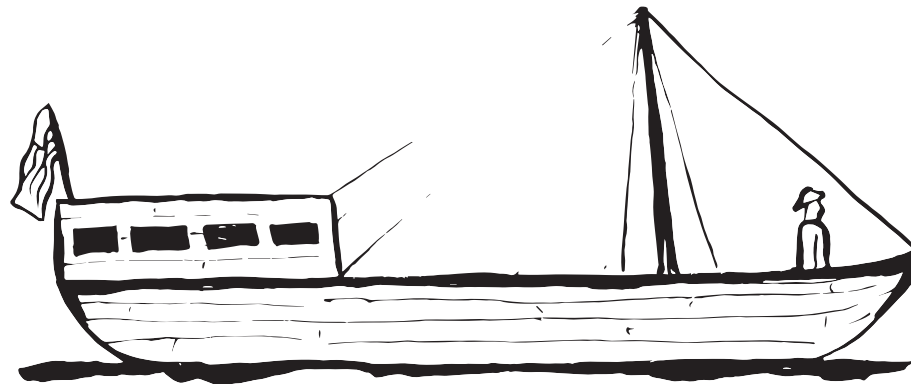
Announcement of Louisiana Purchase. This almost doubles the size of the U.S.

May 14, 1804

Expedition begins.

November 4, 1804

Toussaint Charbonneau, a French Canadian fur trapper living with the Hidatsas, is hired as an interpreter. His wife, Sacagawea, a Shoshone who had been captured by the Hidatsas and sold to Charbonneau, also comes and is considered helpful because the Shoshones are said to live at the headwaters of the Missouri.



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June 13, 1805

Scouting ahead of the rest of the expedition, Lewis comes across the Great Falls of the Missouri River. He discovers four more water falls farther upstream. The expedition has to carry their boats and supplies over eighteen miles, taking nearly a month, to get past the falls.

November 7, 1805

Clark, who believes he can see the ocean writes his most famous journal entry: "Ocian in view! O! the joy." The expedition is actually still 20 miles from the sea. They reach the Pacific Ocean two weeks later. Then they must decide where to spend the winter before heading back east.



September 23, 1806

The expedition reaches St. Louis.

August 8, 1805

Sacagawea recognizes Beaverhead Rock and says they are getting close to the headwaters of the Missouri, and her people, the Shoshones. Lewis and three others scout ahead.

May - Late June, 1806

The expedition reaches the Bitterroot Mountains in Montana, but have to wait for the snow to melt before crossing them. During this time the expedition stays with the Nez Perce tribe. Lewis describes them as "the most hospitable, honest and sincere people that we have met with in our voyage."

Fall, 1806

Lewis and Clark are treated as national heroes. They return to Washington, D.C. The men receive double the pay they were promised and 320 acres of land as a reward; the captains get 1,600 acres. Lewis is named governor of the Louisiana Territory, Clark is made Indian agent for the West and brigadier general of the territory's militia.