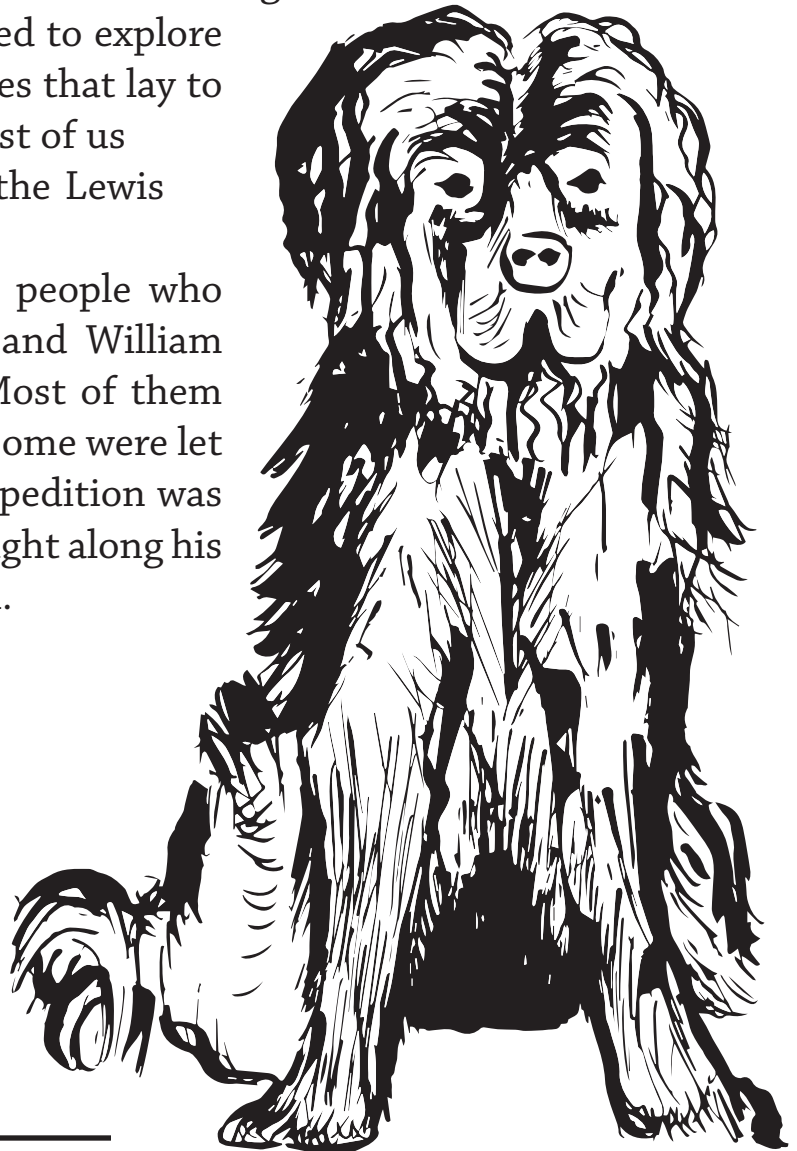


Lewis & Clark

The Corps of Discovery

The Corps of Discovery was a visionary project that President Thomas Jefferson brought to life in February of 1803. He wanted to explore the Spanish and Oregon Territories that lay to the west of the United States. Most of us know the Corps of Discovery as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

There were actually 31 other people who accompanied Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their adventure west. Most of them were affiliated with the military. Some were let go, and others joined after the expedition was already underway. Lewis also brought along his Newfoundland dog called Seaman.



Lewis & Clark Supplies

Captains Lewis and Clark did a great deal of preparation for their journey. They spent months gathering supplies and training their crew. Congress allotted them a sum of \$2,500 for the journey. This is a list of what they brought.

Mathematical Instruments:

- surveyor's compass
- hand compass
- quadrants
- telescope
- thermometers
- 2 sextants
- set of plotting instruments
- chronometer (needed to calculate longitude)

Camp Supplies:

- 150 yards of cloth to be oiled and sewn into tents and sheets
- pliers
- chisels
- 30 steels for striking to make fire
- handsaws
- hatchets
- whetstones
- iron corn mill
- two dozen tablespoons
- mosquito curtains
- 10 1/2 pounds of fishing hooks and fishing lines
- 12 pounds of soap
- 193 pounds of "portable soup" (a thick paste concocted by boiling down beef, eggs and vegetables)
- three bushels of salt
- writing paper, ink and crayons

Presents for Indians:

- 12 dozen pocket mirrors
- 4,600 sewing needles

- 144 small scissors
- 10 pounds of sewing thread
- silk ribbons
- ivory combs
- handkerchiefs
- yards of bright-colored cloth
- 130 rolls of tobacco
- tomahawks that doubled as pipes
- 288 knives
- 8 brass kettles
- vermilion face paint
- 33 pounds of tiny beads of assorted colors

Clothing:

- 45 flannel shirts
- coats
- frocks
- shoes
- woolen pants
- blankets
- knapsacks
- stockings

Arms and Ammunition:

- 15 prototype Model 1803 muzzle-loading .54 caliber rifles
- knives
- 500 rifle flints
- 420 pounds of sheet lead for bullets
- 176 pounds of gunpowder packed in 52 lead canisters
- 1 long-barreled rifle that fired its bullet with compressed air, rather than by flint, spark and powder

Medicine and Medical Supplies:

- 50 dozen Dr. Rush’s patented “Rush’s pills”
- lancets
- forceps
- syringes
- tourniquets
- 1,300 doses of physic
- 1,100 hundred doses of emetic
- 3,500 doses of diaphoretic (sweat inducer)
- other drugs for blistering, salivation and increased kidney output

Traveling Library:

- Barton’s *Elements of Botany*
- Antoine Simon Le Page du Pratz’s *History of Louisiana*
- Richard Kirwan’s *Elements of Mineralogy*
- A Practical Introduction to Spherics and Nautical Astronomy*
- The Nautical Almanac and Astronomical Ephemeris*
- a four-volume dictionary
- a two-volume edition of Linnaeus (the founder of the Latin classification of plants)
- tables for finding longitude and latitude
- map of the Great Bend of the Missouri River

Response Questions

1) If you were going on an expedition, could you buy all the necessary supplies for just \$2,500?

2) Identify and circle any words you do not know. Look them up and write down their definitions.

3) Technology has gotten much more advanced since their journey 200 years ago! If they were to make the expedition today, what would their supply list look like?
