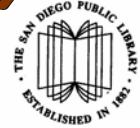




SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PATHFINDER

The Lewis and Clark Expedition



The Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806) was a widely celebrated geographic and scientific exploration of the northwestern area of the United States. Sponsored by the U.S. government and led by U.S. Army officers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the expedition began near St. Louis, Missouri in May 1804, journeyed up the Missouri River, across the Rocky Mountains and down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean, returning to St. Louis in September 1806.

Background

Soon after Thomas Jefferson became president in 1801, he began to make plans for an expedition that would chart a route through the Louisiana and Oregon regions—lands which were held by other European powers. The expedition would gather scientific information about the land and establish communications with the Indians who lived there. After the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, the expedition was also asked to trace the boundaries of the new territory and to lay U.S. claims to Oregon. Meriwether Lewis, a U.S. Army captain and Jefferson's private secretary, was chosen to lead the expedition. He, in turn, asked William Clark, a former Army acquaintance, to join him as co-captain of the expedition.

To prepare for the trip, Lewis spent the summer of 1803 in Philadelphia. There, he learned how to classify plants and animals and to locate geographic positions by using the stars. William Clark, who possessed considerable mapmaking skills, was responsible for recruiting the team of men who possessed the survival skills of woodsmen and hunters. Many of them were soldiers.

On May 14, 1804, the expedition set out from its wintering grounds near St. Louis and traveled up the Missouri River. By October they had reached North Dakota and established a winter camp at Fort Mandan. During the winter, a Canadian fur trapper and his wife Sacagawea, a Shoshone Indian, joined the expedition. Sacagawea became the expedition's interpreter. In the spring, the expedition continued westward through the Rocky Mountains and finally sighted the Pacific Ocean in November 1805. After wintering on the coast, they started their return trip on March 23, 1806. Following roughly the same route they had taken on the way out, they arrived in St. Louis on September 23, 1806.

The Lewis and Clark expedition, lasting 16 months and covering 8,000 miles, had a profound effect on the expansion of our nation. The expedition increased the geographical knowledge of America, especially for the Missouri and Columbia River valleys. This enabled the United States to challenge the British claim to the Oregon region and permitted the great westward movement of the mid-1800's. It also increased our scientific knowledge of the continent. The explorers collected and documented the plants, animals and mineral resources they encountered, some of which, like the prairie dog and the jackrabbit, were previously unknown. The explorers also established peaceful contact with most of the Indian tribes they met. They collected a variety of Indian goods and gathered information on Indian language and culture. The entire journey was recorded in Lewis and Clark's journals and expedition maps, which have been available in their entirety since 1905.

Library Resources

Search the library's online catalog by [SUBJECT](#) or [KEYWORD](#) for the *Lewis and Clark Expedition*. SUBJECT search results are subdivided into more specific subjects such as fiction and juvenile works. KEYWORD searching will yield a continuous list of results without subdivisions. In a KEYWORD search it is also possible to search two or more terms, for example, [Lewis and Clark Expedition AND Natural history](#) or [Lewis and Clark Expedition AND Explorers](#).

Fiction

Search the online catalog by [KEYWORD for fiction and Lewis and Clark Expedition](#) or search the [online research database NovelList to find stories about the Lewis and Clark Expedition](#).

Biography

Biographies about members of the expedition can be found in the History Section and Children's Room. Use the SUBJECT search on the catalog to locate biographies by entering the individual's last name. Search by [KEYWORD for Lewis and Clark Expedition AND biography](#).

Magazines and Newspapers

For the most current information, magazines and newspapers are important resources. To search periodicals by topic, consult the online databases available on all public terminals. Magazine articles may be located by searching [InfoTrac OneFile](#); newspaper articles may be searched in [ProQuest](#). Many of these articles are full text and may be printed out at the computer. [Ethnic NewsWatch](#), a database offering a full text collection from over 200 newspaper and magazine articles from the ethnic, minority and native press, provides another source for articles on the expedition. Examples of articles available include:

Leading Men: Commanding, cooperative, confident, complementary--why Lewis and Clark were perfectly cast as co-CEOs. (Lewis & Clark Bicentennial--1803-2003). Landon Y. Jones. [Time](#). July 8, 2002, p. 54.

Getting ready. (preparations for the Lewis and Clark expedition). [Kids Discover](#). November 1996, p. 6.

Lewis and Clark and us: the expedition helped to forge a great nation. How does it hold up on a family vacation. (retracing the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition). Cullen Murphy. [The Atlantic Monthly](#). March 1998, p. 32.

The Internet

Search these and other Lewis and Clark Expedition sites at an Internet terminal in Central's computer lab or at a branch library:

Lewis and Clark: the Ultimate Adventure.

http://www.time.com/time/2002/lewis_clark

Exploring the West Monticello: a Perspective in maps from Columbus to Lewis and Clark.

http://www.lib.virginia.edu/speccol/exhibits/lewis_clark

Lewis and Clark: the Journey of the Corps of Discovery.

<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark>

Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

<http://www.lewisandclark.org/>

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial 2003-2006.

<http://www.lewisandclark200.org/>



Resources

A sampling of the materials available in the Central Library on the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

ART, MUSIC & RECREATION

[Lewis & Clark](#). (videorecording) 1997. VC917.80433/LEWIS

[Lewis & Clark: the journey of the Corps of Discovery](#). (videorecording) 2001. DVD917.80433/LEWIS

CHILDREN'S ROOM

[America in the time of Lewis and Clark: 1801 to 1850](#). 1998. J973.5/ISAACS

[Lewis and Clark for kids: their journey of discovery with 21 activities](#). 2000. *City on Order* 917.8042/HERBERT

[Lewis and Clark's journey of discovery in America](#). 1999. J917.8042/EDWARDS

[Sacagawea : a photo-illustrated biography](#). 2002. JB/SACAGAWEA

[Sacajawea : the story of Bird Woman and the Lewis and Clark Expedition](#). 2000. JFIC/BRUCHAC

[Streams to the river, river to the sea: a novel of Sacagawea](#). 1986. JFIC/O'DELL

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

[The U.S. Army and the Lewis and Clark Expedition](#). 2002. D 114.2:L 58

HISTORY & WORLD AFFAIRS

[Backtracking: by foot, canoe, and Subaru along the Lewis and Clark Trail](#). 2000. 917.80434/LONG

[Exploring Lewis and Clark : reflections on men and wilderness](#). 2003. *City on Order* 917.8042/SLAUGHTER

[Field notes of Captain William Clark, 1803-1805](#). 1964. 978/CLARK

[In search of York: the slave who went to the Pacific with Lewis and Clark](#). 1985. 917.8042/BETTS

[Jefferson and the gunmen: how the West was almost lost](#). 2000. 978.01/MONTGOMERY

[The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition](#). 1983-2001. 917.8042/JOURNALS

[Lewis and Clark among the Indians](#). 2002. 917.8042/RONDA

[Lewis & Clark : doctors in the wilderness](#). 2001. 917.8042/PATON

[Lewis and Clark: historic places associated with their transcontinental exploration \(1804-06\)](#). 1975. 978/U.S. NATL. PARK

[Lewis and Clark trail](#). 2002. 917.80434/SCHMIDT

[Lewis and Clark trail maps, a cartographic reconstruction. Volume I, Missouri River between Camp River Dubois \(Illinois\) and Fort Mandan \(North Dakota\)--outbound 1804, return 1806. Volume II, Beyond Fort Mandan \(North Dakota/Montana\) to Continental Divide and Snake River \(Idaho/Washington\)--Outbound 1805; Return 1806](#). 2000-2001. 912.78/PLAMONDON

[The Louisiana Purchase: a historical and geographical encyclopedia](#). 2002. R973.46/LOUISIANA

[The men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; a biographical roster of the fifty-one members and a composite diary of their activities from all the known sources](#). 2002. 917.8042/CLARKE

[Meriwether Lewis: a biography](#). 1988. B/LEWIS

[Sacagawea of the Lewis and Clark expedition](#). 1979. B/SACAGAWEA

[The saga of Lewis & Clark: into the uncharted West](#). 1999. 917.8042/SCHMIDT

[Thomas Jefferson and the new nation; a biography](#). 1970. B/JEFFERSON

[Thomas Jefferson & the Stony Mountains: exploring the West from Monticello](#). 1993. 973.46/JACKSON

[To the Pacific with Lewis and Clark](#). 1967. 917.8/ANDRIST

[Undaunted courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the opening of the American West](#). 1996. 917.8042/AMBROSE

[William Clark: Jeffersonian man on the frontier](#). 1977. B/CLARK

LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES

[Cruzatte & Maria: a Gabriel Du Pré mystery](#). 2001. [MYST] FIC/BOWEN

[I should be extremely happy in your company: a novel of Lewis and Clark](#). 2003. FIC/HALL

[Eclipse](#). 2002. FIC/WHEELER

[Sign-talker: the adventure of George Drouillard on the Lewis and Clark Expedition: a novel](#). 2000. FIC/THOM

[Stone heart: a novel of Sacajawea](#). 2002. *City on Order* FIC/GLANCY

SCIENCE & INDUSTRY

[Lewis and Clark among the grizzlies: legend and legacy in the American West](#). 2002. 599.784/SCHULLERY

[The Lewis & Clark cookbook: historic recipes from the corps of discovery and Jefferson's America](#). 2002. *City on Order* 641.5977/MANSFIELD

[Lewis and Clark's mountain wilds: a site guide to the plants and animals they encountered in the Bitterroots](#). 2002. *City on Order* 578.097868/RITTER

[Our natural history: the lessons of Lewis and Clark](#). 1995. 508.78/BOTKIN

YOUNG ADULT

[The captain's dog: my journey with the Lewis and Clark tribe](#). 1999. YAFIC/SMITH

