

Read the story below and study the map.

## Remembering Lewis & Clark

### THEIR HISTORIC TRIP BEGAN 200 YEARS AGO

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark spent many months preparing for their journey into the wild west 200 years ago. It's no wonder. Before their mission, the land west of the Mississippi River was known only to the dozens of American Indian tribes and the few European settlers who lived there. Now, 200 years later, Americans will spend more than two years retracing Lewis and Clark's steps.

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson agreed to buy a huge area of land from France, called the Louisiana Purchase. He asked Lewis and Clark to lead an expedition to map and record the new U.S. territory. Jefferson hoped the explorers would find a Northwest Passage, a river that would be a shortcut to the Pacific Ocean.

The explorers set out on May 14, 1804. The team boarded wooden boats near Saint Louis, Missouri, and began to row up the Missouri River. There was no Northwest Passage. But the explorers discovered a new world. They learned about the land, its people and its animals. It took two years, four months and nine days to reach the Pacific Ocean and return to Saint Louis.

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### THE SHOW IS ON THE ROAD

Communities have planned special events to remember the mission's milestones. The final event will take place on September 23, 2006. People dressed as Lewis, Clark and other expedition members will paddle canoes into Saint Louis, just as the explorers did 200 years ago on that date.

The government is marking the anniversary with a traveling National Park Service exhibit. It will make stops across the nation through 2006. "We're following Lewis and Clark's journals from 200 years ago," says Gerard Baker, who is in charge of the exhibit and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Visitors to the exhibit can see animals and plants that Lewis and Clark identified, hold tools that Indians used, learn Indian dances and meet descendants of the people the explorers encountered.

Baker belongs to the Mandan-Hidatsa tribe. His ancestors helped Lewis and Clark survive the winter of 1804–1805. He says that one great way to honor the explorers' work is to research your own culture and traditions.



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Use the story and map on the previous page to answer the questions below. Fill in the correct bubbles or write the correct answers.

- As part of the Louisiana Purchase, Jefferson bought land that later became all of the following states **except**
  - South Dakota.
  - Kansas.
  - Nebraska.
  - New York.
- In what direction did Lewis and Clark travel to get to the Pacific Ocean?
  - southeast
  - northwest
  - northeast
  - southwest
- This story is mostly about
  - the expedition of Lewis and Clark and how it is being commemorated 200 years later.
  - how the Louisiana Purchase changed the United States.
  - how the Mandan-Hidatsa tribe helped Lewis and Clark survive the winter of 1804–1805.
  - a traveling National Park Service exhibit that will make stops across the nation.
- The word **boarded** in the third paragraph means
  - covered with boards.
  - got on.
  - sank.
  - found.
- Jefferson asked Lewis and Clark to lead an expedition in order to
  - map and record the new U.S. territory.
  - find gold in California.
  - claim land west of the Mississippi River.
  - Both A and B

- In what year did Lewis and Clark begin their journey?
  - 1803
  - 1804
  - 1805
  - 2006

7. Why did Lewis and Clark need to spend many months preparing for their journey?

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8. Name two rivers that Lewis and Clark traveled along during their expedition.

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9. Find two ways that the historic trip of Lewis and Clark is being remembered. Underline both examples in the story.

10. Why do you think Jefferson hoped Lewis and Clark would find a Northwest Passage?

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