

Documents: Lewis and Clark

Name: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Analyze the document and answer the questions.

Background: After purchasing the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, President Jefferson sent the Corps of Discovery, led by William Clark and Meriwether Lewis, to explore the territory and beyond, find a water route to the Pacific Ocean, and establish a presence for future land claims. Lewis and Clark made maps, established peaceful contact with many Native nations, and cataloged species of plants and animals. The expedition lasted from May 1804 to September 1806.

12th November Monday 1804

The Big bellies & Watersoons are at war with the Snake Indians & Seaux, and were at war with the *Ricares* untill we made peace a few days passd.— The Mandans are at War with all who make war on them, at present with the Seaux only, and wish to be at peace with *all* nations, Seldom the agressors—

Sunday 13th July 1805

I saw Several Antelope Common Deer, wolves, beaver, Otter, Eagles, hawks, Crows, wild gees both old and young, does &c. &c. I observe Several leading roads which appear to pass to a gap of the mountain in a E. N E. direction about 18 or 20 miles distant. The indian woman [Sacagawea] who has been of great Service to me as a pilot through this Country recommends a gap in the mountain more South which I shall cross.—

November 7th Thursday 1805

Great joy in camp we are in *View* of the *Ocian*, this great Pacific Ocean which we been So long anxious to See. and the roeing or noise made by the waves

brakeing on the rocky Shores (as I Suppose) may be heard distictly

—William Clark

Monday September 17th 1804.

to the West a high range of hills, strech across the country...was still farther hightened by immense herds of Buffaloe deer Elk and Antelopes which we saw in every direction feeding on the hills and plains. I do not think I exagerate when I estimate the number of Buffaloe which could be compreed at one view to amount to 3000.

Wednesday August 14th [1805]

In order to give Capt. Clark time to reach the forks of Jefferson's river I concluded to spend this day at the Shoshone Camp and obtain what information I could with respect to the country. as we had nothing but a little flour and parched meal to eat except the berries with which the Indians furnished us I directed Drewyer and Shields to hunt a few hours and try to kill something, the Indians furnished them with horses and most of their young men also turned out to hunt.

—Meriwether Lewis

Ideas. A central idea is the overall topic of the entire piece. Main ideas are important topics that support the central idea.

1. What is the central idea of the journal entries?

E. There were lots of wild animals to be seen along the way to the Pacific Ocean.

H. Lewis and Clark are recording what they observe on their travels to the Pacific Ocean.

O. Native Americans are constantly at war with each other.

Y. The Shoshone were very important to the success of the Corps of Discovery.

2. What is the main idea of the November 7 journal entry?
- D. The ocean is very loud and can be heard a great distance away.
 - I. The Corps of Discovery located the Pacific Ocean.
 - R. Many people were happy to hear the ocean hitting the rocks.
 - W The Pacific Ocean made a distinct sound.

Words in Context. Define words based upon how they are used in the writing.

“The Mandans are at War with all who make war on them, at present with the Seauex only, and wish to be at peace with *all* nations”

3. What does the word “nations” mean as it is used in the quote above?
- D. a group of people with common history, traditions, and/or language
 - I. a geographic area on a map
 - R. various democratic countries in the Americas
 - W a land area with a common flag

Facts vs. Opinions.

Fact: A conclusion that can be proven true and/or is absolutely accurate to all people involved.

Opinion: belief or preference about something that cannot be proven or accepted by all people.

Meriwether Lewis saw huge herds of buffalo on the plains. He estimated that in one herd, there must have been 3,000 buffalo roaming the plains.

4. Based on the statement above, was Lewis’ estimate accurate?
- A. fact: there were exactly 3,000 buffalo on the plains
 - N. opinion: there may have been more or fewer buffalo roaming the plains

Textual Evidence. Using evidence from the document, answer the question.

5. What evidence does Lewis and Clark give to show how Native Americans helped the Corps of Discovery? Circle all that apply.
- E. Sacagawea helped guide the party
 - H. American Indians gave horses to the party
 - O. American Indians gave maps to the party
 - Y. Chief Red Cloud allowed the party to stay for the winter