



MONTANA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE LITERACY PROGRAM EVALUATION

Lewis and Clark in Montana

name: _____

1. In your opinion what is the most amazing fact listed in the first paragraph of the article?

2. What was the dilemma that the expedition experienced near the town of Loma in June of 1805 (long before Loma or any other towns existed)?

3. What is the location of this dilemma in north-central Montana called on the map in the lower left corner of page 10?

4. Why did the men think they should follow the fork that came from the north?

5. The captains disagreed with the men, and chose the more southern fork. At what point did the captains know that they had made the right decision?

6. How did the five waterfalls (known as the "Great Falls of the Missouri") affect the expedition?

7. On July 27, 1805 the expedition reached the headwaters area near modern-day Three Forks. What did Lewis and Clark name the three rivers that join there to form the Missouri?

8. On August 9th, 1805 Sacajawea recognized Beaverhead Rock from her days before she was captured. Why was this so encouraging to the expedition?



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9. Why was it so important to find the Shoshones?

10. The goal of finding a Northwest Passage “was dealt a death blow” when Lewis looked west from Lemhi Pass. Explain.

11. The expedition made it over the mountains, spending the winter near modern-day Portland, Oregon. Why did the expedition split into two groups on their return journey when they re-entered Montana in the July of 1806?

12. Explain what happened on the morning of July 27, 1806.

13. Why was the group led by Clark delayed for hours one day as the men followed the Yellowstone River?

14. What name did Clark give to the sandstone formation shown in the painting at the bottom of page 13? Explain why he chose that name.

15. Lewis and Clark (and the men they were leading) reunited near the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers on August 12, 1806. Look at the map on page 10. Where is that confluence?

16. If you were a young person in 1804 and you had a chance to be on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, would you go? Explain.



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Teachers:

1. Here is a possible bell-ringer. President Thomas Jefferson hoped that the Lewis and Clark Expedition would find a “Northwest Passage.” What was this, and why was it so important?
2. Consider showing these YouTube videos (and briefly discussing them) as an introduction to the article.
 - a. “Lewis and Clark Expedition” (5:15) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWMcTylTIS8>
 - b. “Lewis and Clark – Animated Map” (0:30) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkeOkEkmbE8>
3. Give students a copy of the article. Have them read it silently, read it as a class, or read it to them.
4. Give students a copy of the evaluation (worksheet) and have them answer the questions.
5. If the assignment seems to be too much for the grade level you teach, consider assigning a certain number of questions (you decide how many, and each student gets to pick which ones they answer). Any questions they answer correctly beyond the required number can count as extra credit.

Answer Key

1. Answers will vary.
2. They weren't sure which fork was the Missouri River.
3. It is called “Confluence of the Marias and Missouri Rivers.”
4. The north fork was muddy, so it looked similar to the Missouri River they had been following.
5. They knew they were correct when they reached the first of several waterfalls that the Hidatsas told them about. These were known as “the Great Falls of the Missouri.”
6. It slowed them down because they had to haul the boats and their supplies around the five Great Falls, a task known as “The Portage.” It took the Corp of Discovery almost a month to travel around this 15-mile stretch of the Missouri River.
7. The Gallatin, the Madison, and the Jefferson.
8. This was a sign that they were nearing the headwaters of the Missouri and getting close to the Shoshone people.
9. They were counting on the Shoshone for horses and guidance.
10. Instead of seeing a vast plain with a big river that could easily be followed to the west coast, he saw that there were many more mountains to traverse.
11. One group explored the Marias River area and the other explored the Yellowstone River area.
12. There was a violent conflict with eight Blackfeet warriors that results in two warriors being killed.
13. They had to wait for a huge heard of bison to cross the river before they could proceed.
14. He named it “Pompy's Tower.” Pompy was Clark's nickname for Sacagawea's baby boy. Today the formation is called Pompey's Pillar.
15. Near the modern-day Montana-North Dakota border.
16. Answers will vary.