



MONTANA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE LITERACY PROGRAM EVALUATION

A Different Angle on the Expedition

name: _____

1. Besides being a source of amusement (fun), what are three other reasons fishing was important to the Lewis and Clark expedition?

2. What type of fish was abundant as the expedition travelled through modern-day South Dakota in 1804?

3. Fish were less abundant as the expedition reached Montana in 1805. Why didn't this create a hardship?

4. What change did the men notice as they reached the cooler waters of the Missouri near the Great Falls?

5. What species was most abundant as they traveled through southwest Montana?

6. As the expedition moved past Three Forks, the Lewis and Clark were concerned that the men might go hungry. What were the two reasons for this concern?

7. Explain how (and where) Lewis found the next good food source for the expedition.

8. Finish this statement: 'Salmon and steelhead were to the Indians of the Northwest . . .



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9. Salmon and steelhead spend their adult years in the Pacific Ocean. How do the fish reach the Lemhi River in Idaho and other small streams in the Northwest?

10. How did the Shoshone preserve the fish for the months ahead?

11. What happened the day after the men caught over 500 very good fish?

12. Water in the Lemhi River flows into the Salmon River, then into the Snake River, then into the Columbia, then into the Pacific Ocean. Since Lewis and Clark wanted to reach the ocean as soon as possible, why didn't they just follow the Salmon River?

13. What was the route that the expedition planned to follow after deciding to not follow the Salmon River?

14. Why did the lack of salmon in the Bitterroot River convince Captain Lewis that they shouldn't follow the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers for the next portion of their journey?

15. Why did the expedition cross the Bitterroot Mountains at Lolo Pass?

16. The hunch that Lewis had about the reason for absence of salmon in the Bitterroot River was correct! Explain.



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Teachers:

- Here are some possible bell-ringers to use as an introductory discussion. **IMPORTANT:** The article will make more sense to students if you can show them a map of rivers in the Northwest and explain how salmon made their way upstream from the Pacific Ocean almost to Montana's border. It would also be important for them to know that the Bitterroot flows into the Clark Fork then down to Albeni Falls. Those falls are essential because they kept salmon from moving upstream from the Pacific into Montana. The "Basin Map" on this website may be helpful: <https://www.treeflow.info/pacific-northwest>
 - What are "anadromous" fish?** Show students a diagram of the life cycle of salmon similar to the one found on this website: <https://www.nps.gov/olym/learn/nature/the-salmon-life-cycle.htm>
 - Where is the Continental Divide, and what does it divide?** Show students this map: <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/26548jpg>
 - What river does runoff from most of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and part of Montana drain into?** <https://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/CRWM/CR-Dams/>
- Give students a copy of the article. Have them read it silently, read it as a class, or read it to them.
- Give students a copy of the evaluation (worksheet) and have them answer the questions.
- 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

- Important in the collection of scientific information, important source of food for the expedition, the presence of salmon told them that they were nearing the Pacific Ocean.
- Catfish
- There were large herds of deer, elk, antelope, and bison to harvest for food.
- There were few catfish, but plenty of trout.
- Westslope cutthroat trout
- Deer, elk, and other game were less abundant. It was difficult to catch fish.
- He crossed over the Continental Divide into the valley of the Lemhi River where salmon were abundant.
- ... what bison were to the Plains tribes.
- They swim up the Columbia River, then up the Snake River, and eventually swim into the tributaries such as the Lemhi or even smaller streams. They spawn and die in the same place they were born.
- They dried the fish, similar to the way the Plains Indians dried bison meat to preserve it.
- All of a sudden there were no fish to be found (or caught).
- The Salmon River was too rough and dangerous to travel on due to numerous rapids and waterfalls.
- They crossed back over the Continental Divide into Montana at Lost Trail Pass, followed the Bitterroot River, and then crossed back over the Divide at Lolo Pass.
- The absence of salmon told him that there were probably waterfalls that the fish could not swim over. The expedition did not want another experience like difficult portage around the Great Falls.
- The Shoshone chief name Cameahwait recommended that they cross there.
- They would have encountered several difficult obstacles, including Albeni Falls, which would have taken a long time to get around.

FYI – Students may wonder about the title of the article. Fishermen are called anglers because the word "angler" comes from the Old English word angle, which means "fishhook." That's because some of the earliest hooks in England were simply pieces of wire bent at an "angle." The verb "angle" means "to fish with a hook". The phrase "a different angle" means to look at something from a different perspective. In this case the new perspective comes from looking at the expedition's relationship to fish.