



# Montana Outdoors Magazine Literacy Evaluation Program

## “The Misadventures”

name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The expedition spent the winter of 1805-1806 near the coast of Oregon. What are couple things mentioned in the first paragraph that indicate their winter in Oregon was not pleasant?

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2. Lewis and Clark decide to split into two groups when they reached Lolo (near Missoula) on their way back through Montana in 1806. Explain the route that Clark and his group took from Lolo to the the place where the Yellowstone River joins the Missouri River.

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3. The group led by Lewis explored the Marias River area and then followed the Missouri River back to its confluence with the Yellowstone River. What did Lewis find when he made it back to the Missouri River?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What two circumstances led to the drowning of many bison in the river, and where did the carcasses tend to accumulate?

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\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why were the piles of bison carcasses dangerous to the men of the expedition?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain Private Hugh McNeal’s encounter with a grizzly on July 11, 1806.

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\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ was the preferred meat, but the explorers also loved to munch

\_\_\_\_\_.

8. What was Seaman, and what misadventure was he involved with?

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9. Why does the author refer to Michael Drouillard as “the Michael Jordan” of the expedition?

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10. Which animal did Lewis describe as “a very large and turrible-looking animal, which we found very hard to kill”?

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11. What are the only two mammals that actually wounded the explorers?

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12. Why were the bison and wolves not afraid of the men?

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13. What evidence does the the author use to back up his claim that Clark complained a lot?

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14. Explain the misadventure described on page 17 that is illustrated in the cartoon near the top of that page.

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15. Why were Lewis and some of the men in the Browning-Cut Bank area during the return trip in 1806?

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16. Look at the cartoon near the bottom of page 17. What type of bird was served for dinner that night?

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## Teachers:

1. Here are some possible bell-ringers:
  - a. The Lewis and Clark Expedition is often romanticized in literature and art. Explain what this statement means.
  - b. Explain the differences between these terms: adventure, misadventure, disaster
2. Give students a copy of the article. Have them read it silently, read it as a class, or read it to them.
3. 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. They were eating moldy elk meat and their buckskin clothing was rotting.
2. They headed south up the Bitterroot, explored the Big Hole River, crossed Bozeman Pass, and then floated down the Yellowstone to the place where it joins the Missouri.
3. He found that spring floods had swamped a cache of supplies and ruined many of his scientific specimens.
4. They often drowned by plunging through thin ice or getting swept away in high water. Many of the carcasses accumulated near the base of the waterfalls (The Great Falls of the Missouri).
5. The smell of the carcasses attracted many grizzlies.
6. The horse he was riding disturbed a grizzly that was bedded in the brush. The startled horse bucked McNeal off and ran away. McNeal hit the aggressive bear across the head with his rifle, breaking the rifle. McNeal climbed a nearby cottonwood tree to escape the bear's wrath, and stayed there until the bear left.
7. Venison, beaver tails
8. Seaman was a Newfoundland (dog) that belonged to Lewis. It was attacked by a wounded beaver and sustained a significant cut in the skirmish.
9. He was the best hunter. Day after day he killed game to keep the hungry men fed.
10. The grizzly bear.
11. A beaver and a wolf.
12. The animals had never been hunted with anything other than Stone Age weapons.
13. He complained freely in his journals.
14. Clark was trying to shoot a bighorn ram, but there were so many mosquitos that he couldn't aim before the ram scampered off.
15. Lewis took some of the expedition there in summer 1806 to explore the Blackfoot country and search for the source of the Marias River.
16. Passenger pigeons.