

Lewis & Clark | Lesson Plan

What is the significance of Lewis and Clark's expedition?

Students explore Lewis and Clark's pivotal role in the Corps of Discovery Expedition, uncovering their contributions to mapping and documenting the uncharted Louisiana Purchase. They also learn about key traits like bravery, endurance, patience, and gratefulness exemplified by these pioneers.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the objectives of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery Expedition.
- Explain the significance of the Corps of Discovery Expedition.
- Analyze the effects Lewis and Clark's expedition had on westward expansion in the U.S.
- Understand the diverse cultural elements among various Native American tribes.
- Recognize the cultural variations between Native American tribes and Euro-American explorers.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Pioneer:** A pioneer is a person who is among the first to explore or settle a new area.
- **Expedition:** A long journey with a specific purpose, such as exploration, research, or war.
- **Corps of Discovery Expedition:** The expedition President Jefferson recruited Captain Lewis to lead through the new land gained from the Louisiana Purchase and beyond to the Pacific Ocean.
- **Uncharted Territory:** Land that has not yet been mapped or recorded.
- **Negotiate:** To reach a decision by discussion.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.W.3, CCRA.W.7, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.L.6

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, American Values, Historical Figures

What You'll Need

- Video: *Lewis & Clark: Explorers of the American Frontier* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Lewis & Clark: Explorers of the American Frontier* (Click [Here](#))
- Pictures of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Begin by engaging students in a discussion about long car trips they might have experienced. Encourage them to share how they or their drivers knew where to go.
2. Broaden the conversation to explore how ancient explorers navigated without modern tools like maps.



3. Introduce the lesson's topic: Lewis and Clark's exploration of the northwestern United States. Show students pictures of the men and ask them to share any information they might already know about them. Share how their journey marked a significant milestone in American history.
4. Present the worksheet, both on-screen and in hard copy.
5. Encourage students to think about the origins of modern maps and the meaning of the term "pioneer," hinting that the upcoming video will shed light on these concepts.
6. Give a brief overview of the worksheet activities to set expectations.

Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Watch the video as a class.
2. Guide students to fill out the worksheet while viewing the video, pausing as needed to allow time for responses, particularly for short answer questions. Demonstrate how to craft a short answer by rephrasing the question into a complete sentence if necessary.

Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Allocate time for students to finish their worksheets independently.
2. Collect worksheets as a formative assessment if needed.
3. Focus on specific worksheet questions for group discussion. For instance, question 5 could spur a conversation about the lasting impact of Lewis and Clark's expedition and its historical significance.
4. Conclude the lesson by relating the historical journey of Lewis and Clark to modern-day travel, highlighting advancements like cars, roads, and GPS and how these have transformed our experiences compared to past explorers.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.