



The Louisiana Purchase

Objectives

1. Explain the importance of New Orleans and the crisis over its port.
2. Describe how the United States gained the Louisiana Purchase.
3. Discuss Lewis and Clark's expedition.

Prepare to Read

Reading Skill

Distinguish Events in Sequence

As you read, it will help you to identify events that occur at about the same time in different locations. Ask yourself if these events share a common cause. Was there any advantage for people to make these events happen at the same time? Would faster communication have changed the sequence at all?

Vocabulary Builder

High-Use Words

crisis, p. 314

alter, p. 315

Key Terms and People

expedition, p. 317

Meriwether Lewis, p. 317

William Clark, p. 317

continental divide, p. 318

Zebulon Pike, p. 319

★ **Background Knowledge** In the previous section, you learned how Jefferson focused on reducing the size of the federal government upon becoming President. But Jefferson had a lifelong interest in the American West. In this section, you will learn how he expanded the country's borders far to the west.

Main Idea

U.S. leaders worried that France or Spain might close the port of New Orleans to the goods of western farmers.

The Nation Looks West

The tide of westward settlement speeded up in the years after the United States won independence. By 1800, more than one million settlers lived between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.

Most western settlers were farmers. Because there were few roads in the West, they relied on the Mississippi River to ship their crops to the port at New Orleans. From there, the goods were loaded on ships and carried to markets in the East.

Spain, which controlled the Mississippi and New Orleans, had several times threatened to close the port to American ships. To prevent this from happening again, in 1795 the United States negotiated a treaty with Spain. The Pinckney Treaty guaranteed the Americans' right to ship their goods down the Mississippi to New Orleans. There, they could be stored until they were transferred to oceangoing ships for the journey east.

For a time, Americans shipped their goods through New Orleans peacefully. Then, in 1801, a crisis developed. Jefferson discovered that Spain had secretly given New Orleans and the rest of its Louisiana Territory to France.

Vocabulary Builder

crisis (KRĪ sihs) *n.* turning point or deciding event in history

Jefferson was alarmed by this development. The French ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte, had already set out to conquer Europe. Jefferson feared that he now intended to make France the first power in America as well. If Napoleon controlled Louisiana, the westward expansion of the United States would be blocked.

Checkpoint What important right did the United States gain with the Pinckney Treaty of 1795?

Buying Louisiana

Even before the transfer of Louisiana to France took place, America's position in Louisiana was threatened. In 1802, the Spanish governor of Louisiana withdrew the right of Americans to ship their goods through New Orleans. Westerners exploded in anger. They demanded that Jefferson go to war to win back their rights.

The situation was explosive. What would happen, Jefferson worried, when the French took over New Orleans?

A Surprise Offer The President decided the best approach was to try to buy the city of New Orleans from the French. He sent his friend James Monroe to France to make a deal. Monroe had the help of Robert Livingston, the American minister in Paris. Jefferson instructed the two men to buy New Orleans and a territory to the east called West Florida.

In Paris, the Americans discovered an altered situation. A revolution led by Toussaint L'Ouverture (too SAN loo vehr TYOOR) had driven the French from their Caribbean colony of Haiti. Without Haiti as a base, the French would have trouble defending Louisiana in the event of a war. At the same time, tensions between France and Britain were again on the rise. War was looming and Napoleon needed money to support the war effort. France offered to sell the United States not only New Orleans but the *entire* Louisiana Territory.

It would take months to get Jefferson's advice. So Livingston and Monroe agreed to buy the whole Louisiana Territory for \$15 million—about 4 cents an acre. This included an enormous area stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

Haitian Independence

Toussaint L'Ouverture (right) helped lead the Haitian struggle to expel the French.

Critical Thinking: Analyze Cause and Effect Why would France have trouble defending Louisiana if it did not control Haiti?

Main Idea

The Louisiana Purchase gave the United States a vast area with untold wealth.

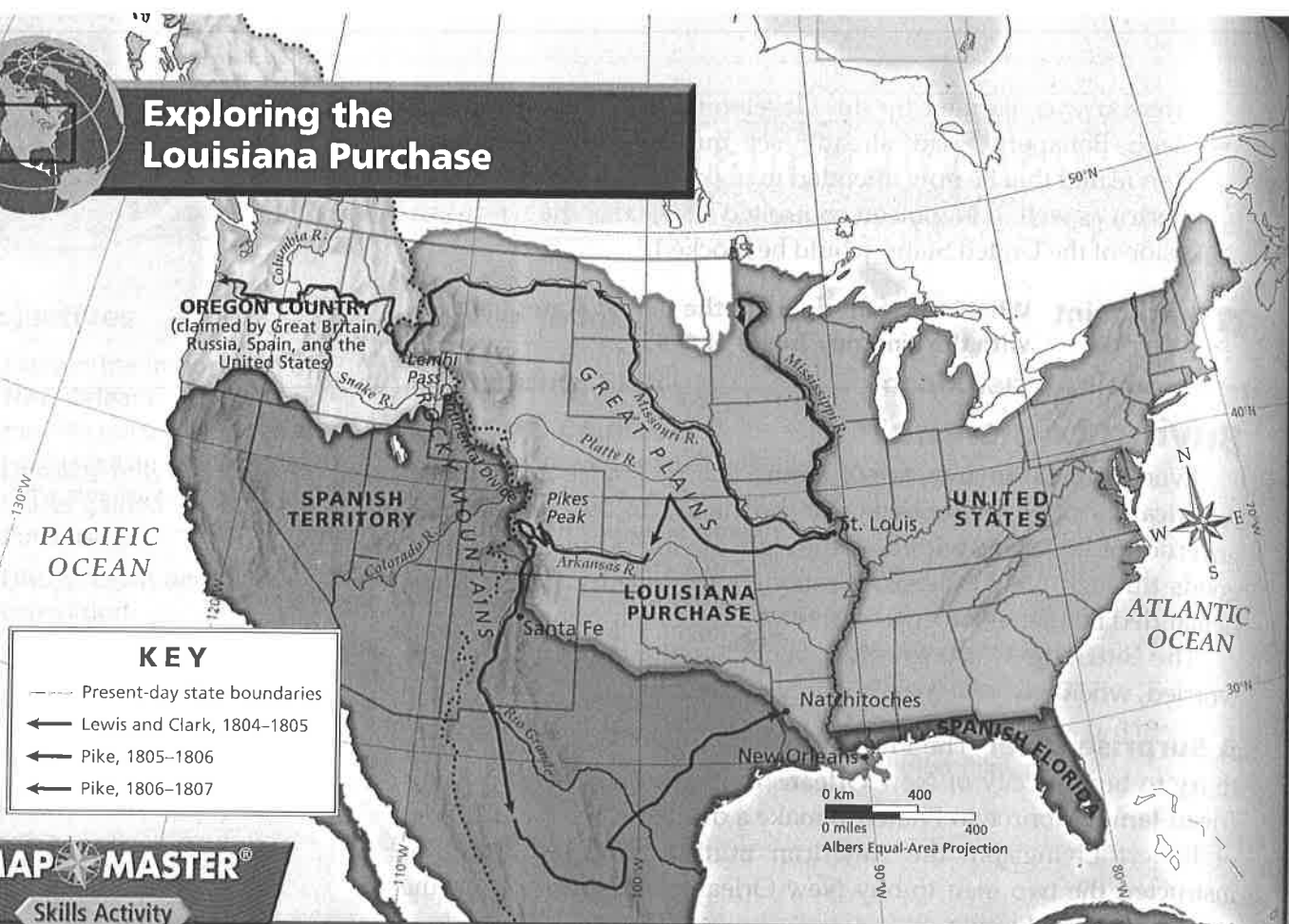
Vocabulary Builder

alter (AWL ter) v. to change in some way; to make different





Exploring the Louisiana Purchase



MAP MASTER

Skills Activity

After buying the Louisiana Territory in 1803, Thomas Jefferson was eager to have it explored and mapped.

- (a) **Read a Map Key** Along which rivers did Zebulon Pike travel?
- (b) **Make Predictions** Based on the map, how might the Spanish have felt about the explorations of Pike?

MapMaster Online

For: Interactive map
Visit: PHSchool.com
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The Louisiana Purchase proved an amazing bargain for the United States. Its area almost doubled the size of the country. Although largely unexplored, the region clearly had millions of acres of fertile farmland and other natural resources. Ownership of Louisiana gave the United States control of the Mississippi River. As Livingston put it, "From this day, the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank."

Jefferson's Dilemma Jefferson was delighted with the deal. At the same time, he had a serious problem. The Constitution nowhere states that the President has the power to buy land from a foreign country. Adding the huge Louisiana Territory would dramatically change the character of the nation.

In the end, Jefferson decided that he did have authority to buy Louisiana. The Constitution, he reasoned, allowed the President to make treaties. The Senate approved the treaty and Congress quickly voted to pay for the land.

Checkpoint Why did President Jefferson hesitate to approve the purchase of the Louisiana Territory?

Lewis and Clark Explore the West

In January 1803, even before the United States had bought Louisiana, Jefferson convinced Congress to spend \$2,500 on a western expedition (eks puh DISH uhn). An **expedition** is a long and carefully organized journey.

Jefferson chose army captain Meriwether Lewis to lead the exploration. Lewis chose William Clark, also an army officer, as his leader. The men were ordered to report back on the geography, plants, animals, and other natural features of the region.

The expedition also had other goals. Jefferson wanted Lewis and Clark to make contact with Native Americans who lived in the Louisiana Territory. The President also wanted Lewis and Clark to find out if a waterway existed between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean.

Out to the Unknown In the spring of 1804, Lewis and Clark left St. Louis and headed up the Missouri River. Their three boats carried tons of supplies and about 40 men. Most were Americans, although there were several French Canadians. The expedition also included an enslaved African American named York.

In mid-July, the party reached the mouth of the Platte River, a powerful tributary that flows into the Missouri. In early August, they met Native Americans for the first time. Three weeks later, the expedition reached the eastern edge of the Great Plains.

Main Idea

Lewis and Clark brought back valuable information on the area's people, plants, and animals.

Links Across Time

Exploration

1804–1806 Lewis and Clark explored the lands of the Louisiana Purchase. Their journals, maps, and drawings inspired the rapid settlement of the West.

1960s American explorers ventured into the “new frontier” of outer space. On July 20, 1969, the United States became the first nation to land a man on the moon. People around the world watched the landing on television.

Link to Today Online

Exploration Today The United States has sent additional missions to the moon and beyond. What kinds of exploration are going on today?

For: Recent activities of the U.S. space program
Visit: PHSchool.com
Web Code: mvc-3052

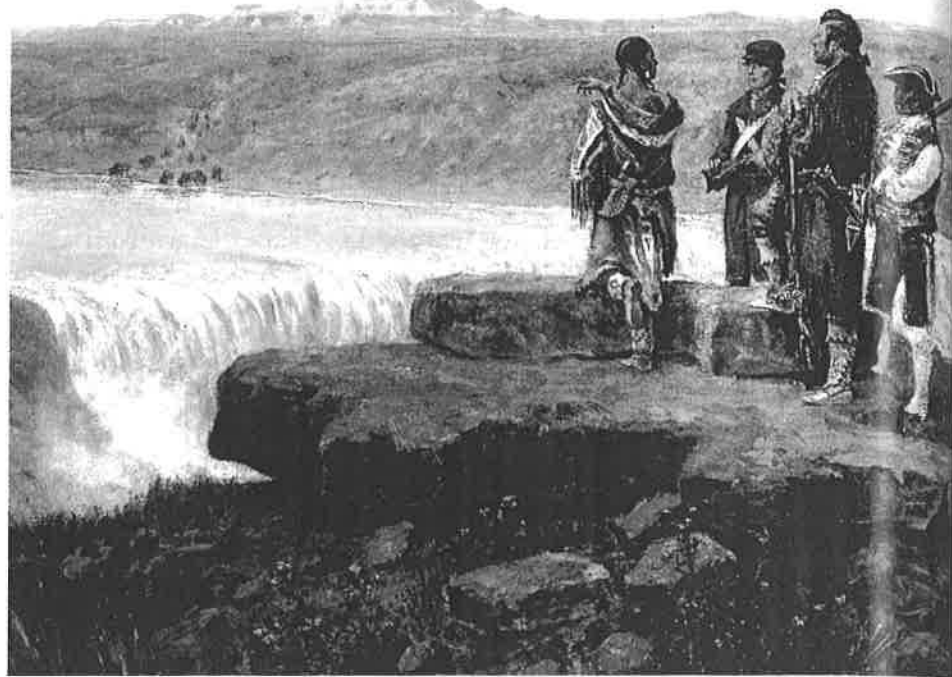
1969 American astronauts Buzz Aldrin (shown here) and Neil Armstrong landed on the moon.



Explore More Video

To learn more about Lewis and Clark's expedition, view the video.

Lewis and Clark: A Hard Journey At times during their travel up the Missouri River, members of the Lewis and Clark party had to carry their boats around rapids and falls. Here, Sacagawea, Clark, Lewis, and York examine the Great Falls in present-day Montana. **Critical Thinking: Apply Information** What other hazards did Lewis and Clark face on their river voyages?



In late October 1804, the expedition reached the territory of the Mandan people, in what is now North Dakota. Lewis and Clark decided to camp there for the winter. They were joined in camp by a French Canadian trader and his wife, a Native American named Sacagawea (sahk uh juh WEE uh). She was a Shoshone (shoh SHOH nee) who would travel with them and serve as translator.

Crossing the Rockies In April 1805, the party set out again. By summer they were in what is now Montana. They began to climb the Rockies. By August, they had reached the Continental Divide. A **continental divide** is the place on a continent that separates river systems flowing in opposite directions. The view to the west was beautiful but also deeply disappointing. Lewis had hoped to see a wide river that would take the group to the Pacific. Instead, all he saw were "immense ranges of mountains still to the west."

The next day, Lewis met a group of Shoshone warriors. When Sacagawea arrived to interpret, she was astonished to see that the Shoshone chief was her brother. She jumped up and threw her arms around him. Thanks to Sacagawea, the Shoshones agreed to sell the expedition horses that were needed to cross the mountains.

At the Pacific On the west side of the Rockies, Lewis and Clark reached the Columbia River. Here, they stopped to build canoes for the downriver voyage. At one point, they had to cross a 55-mile stretch of rapids and rough water. Finally, through a dense early November fog, they saw the Pacific Ocean.

The travelers spent the wet and gloomy winter of 1805–1806 near the point where the Columbia River flows into the Pacific. They began the return journey in March 1806. It took the party half a year to return to St. Louis. Their return, however, brought the American people a new awareness of a rich and beautiful part of the continent.

Pike's Expedition At the same time that Lewis and Clark were trekking back home, other Americans also hoped to learn more about the West. From 1805 to 1807, Zebulon Pike explored the southern part of the Louisiana Territory.

Pike led an expedition due west to the Rocky Mountains. There, he tried to climb a mountain that rose out of the Colorado plains. He made it about two thirds of the way to the top. Standing in snow up to his waist, he was forced to turn back. Today, this mountain is known as Pikes Peak.

Pike's return route took him into Spanish New Mexico. Early in 1807, Spanish troops arrested the members of the party as spies. The Spanish feared Pike was gathering information so that the Americans could take over the region. After several months of captivity, the men were released and escorted back to the United States. As the Spanish had feared, Pike's reports about the Spanish borderlands created great American interest in the region.

✓Checkpoint What goals did President Jefferson set for Lewis and Clark's expedition?

★ Looking Back and Ahead Lewis and Clark and Pike gave the United States detailed knowledge of the West. However, Americans had little time to digest this information. They soon found themselves caught up again in Europe's conflicts.



Distinguish Events in Sequence

What do the words "at the same time" tell you about the sequence of events? What was happening at the same time?

Section 2

Check Your Progress

Progress Monitoring Online

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Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Recall** Why was New Orleans important to the United States?
(b) Identify Benefits What was the significance of the Louisiana Purchase?
- (a) Identify** Who was Sacagawea, and how was she important to the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition?
(b) Compare and Contrast How was Pike's expedition similar to that of Lewis and Clark's? How was it different?



Reading Skill

- 3. Distinguish Events in Sequence** Describe how the sequence of Lewis and Clark's expedition related to that of Zebulon Pike.

Vocabulary Builder

4. Draw a table with two rows and two columns. In the first column, list the key terms from this section: **expedition**, **continental divide**. In the next column, write the definition of each word.

Writing

5. Use this section and the following items to write a thesis statement about the life of Meriwether Lewis. **Items:** Born in 1774; Virginian; family friend of Jefferson; in 1792 asked by Jefferson to lead exploration of the Northwest; with Clark led expedition through Louisiana Territory; was appointed governor of Louisiana Territory in 1808; died mysteriously in 1809.