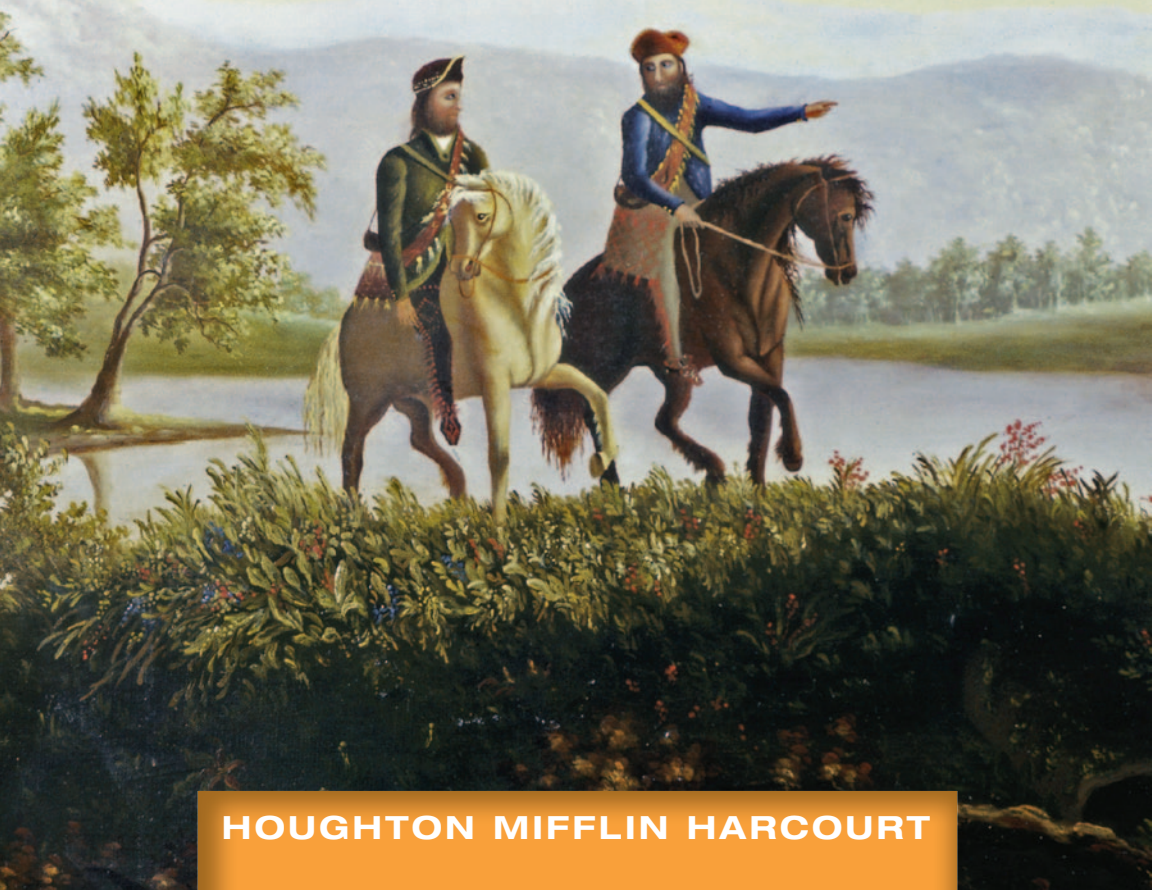


THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY

by Lisa Moore



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

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Printed in China


ISBN-10: 0-544-04791-5


ISBN-13: 978-0-544-04791-4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0940 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

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 In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson asked two men to find a way across North America to the Pacific Ocean. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark started their **trek** near St. Louis, Missouri. They led a group of about thirty called the Corps of Discovery. It took them two years to get to the Pacific Coast and back. The trip was very long and very dangerous.

 Their journey is one of the most famous journeys in American history. Today, the whole 3,700-mile (5,955 km) trail is a national park. It is called the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail. Every year, thousands of people follow this path.



 Lewis and Clark traveled a long way.

 A good place to start is at the Museum of Westward Expansion in St. Louis. The museum is under the Gateway Arch. The Arch is 630 feet (192 m) high! Thirty-three giant photographs showing places all along the Lewis and Clark Trail hang in the museum. Each year, thousands of visitors study these pictures intently. Some of these people then begin their long trek.

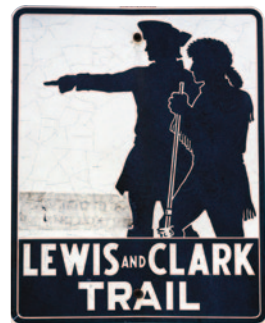
 The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is a popular tourist attraction.





Fort Osage is an interesting museum.

Most people drive cars along the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail. Others bike. Still, others hike. All along the way, signs point visitors north and west. At first, visitors follow the Missouri River. The Corps of Discovery traveled in boats on the river. In some spots, they had to carry the boats around rapids and waterfalls. Today people have it easy, driving along a smooth highway in their cars.



After about 240 miles (386 km), visitors come to Fort Osage in Sibley, Missouri. William Clark noted this spot as a good place for a fort. In 1808, he came back to build the fort. Now it's a museum.


🔊 People follow the river from Missouri into Iowa. There, they can camp in one of many Lewis and Clark state parks. Every year, an Iowa park holds a Lewis and Clark Festival. Visitors picnic and dance to fiddle music.


🔊 The Iowa park has a model of the keelboat that Lewis and Clark used. This boat was 55 feet (17 m) long. It carried men and supplies. Lewis and Clark went upriver against the current. That boat was heavy. Sometimes the men had to walk along the shore and drag the boat with ropes. What an ordeal that must have been!

🔊 A modern replica of a keelboat.





 Bison and buffalo are a common sight along the Lewis and Clark trail.

 The Missouri River and the cornfields seem to go on forever! After long hours of driving, visitors cross the state line into South Dakota. Here, visitors will see rolling hills and herds of buffalo. Several groups of Native Americans, including the Sioux, lived in South Dakota during the time of Lewis and Clark's journey. Many of their descendants, like the Lakota, still live here today.


Today, many people who follow the trail of Lewis and Clark's **expedition** enjoy camping. For example, people can camp on South Dakota's Lake Oahe. That is a great place to fish.


At Fort Mandan, in Washburn, North Dakota, Lewis and Clark met Sacagawea. She was a Shoshone Indian princess. Sacagawea helped the Corps of Discovery. She earned their gratitude as a guide and translator. A statue of Sacagawea stands in Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota.

The statue of
Sacagawea





 An earth lodge like those the Hidatsa lived in.

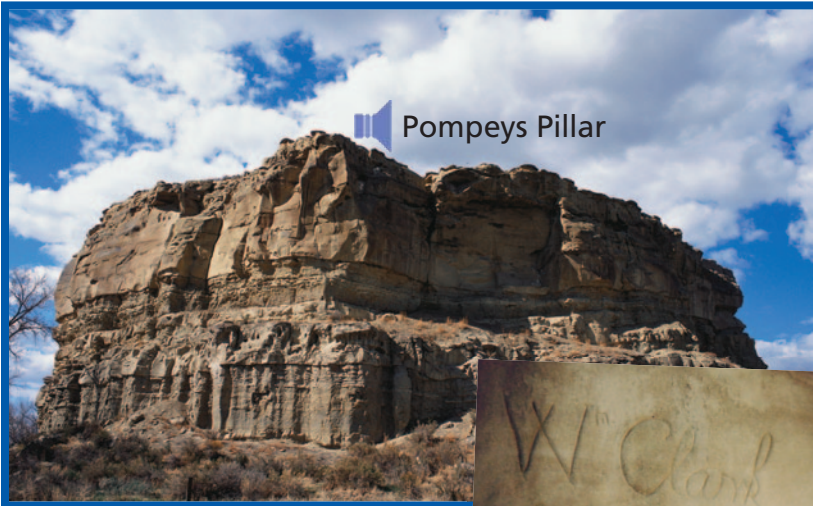
 Along the trail, many people enjoy seeing the Knife River Indian Villages. These villages were once the homes of Hidatsa Indians. The Hidatsa lived in earth lodges. These were round houses covered with dirt and grass. Today, people can go inside these earth lodges and learn about the people that used to live there. These lodges kept people dry **despite** rain and snow.

🔊 The Three Tribes Museum is in New Town, North Dakota. This museum celebrates the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people. There, visitors may see very old beaded items that were made by members of the three tribes.


🔊 Many travelers hit the road again. They approach the border of North Dakota and Montana. When he passed this way, Meriwether Lewis wrote that the land was covered with buffalo, elk, and antelope. Today there are far fewer animals. However, you can still spot some from your car as you pass.

🔊 Karl Bodmer's "Herds of Bison and Elk on the Upper Missouri"







Pompeys Pillar

 Clark's name as he carved it into Pompeys Pillar



 Lewis and Clark arrived at the Pacific Ocean in November 1805. A few months later, they **resumed** their journey, heading back east. On the way back, William Clark chose a different route through southern Montana.

 On Clark's trail, visitors can see Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The Pillar is a giant round rock that rises 200 feet (61 m) straight up. Clark called it "remarkable." He named the rock after Sacagawea's baby son, Pompey. Clark carved his name into Pompeys Pillar. It is still there!

🔊 The westbound trail meets the eastbound trail at Great Falls, Montana. Great Falls gets its name from the four sets of waterfalls there.

The Corps of Discovery faced danger here. There were dangerous rapids that went on for 20 miles (32 km). Many members of the Corps were sick. They had to carry their canoes and all their things past the falls and rapids. In one afternoon, Lewis faced down a bear, a mountain cat, a wolverine, and three buffalo!

🔊 We know all of this because Lewis and Clark wrote journals nearly every day while they were away. In their journals, they drew sketches and wrote stories. We still have their journals today.

🔊 The waterfalls at Great Falls, Montana, are truly spectacular.



🔊 Moving on, most visitors want to see Hat Rock State Park in Oregon. Hat Rock is another giant stone outcrop. It looks like—you guessed it—a hat! Clark named it in 1805.



In Stevenson, Washington, travelers visit the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center. Meriwether Lewis's mother is there! Not really, but the woman who plays her does a great job.

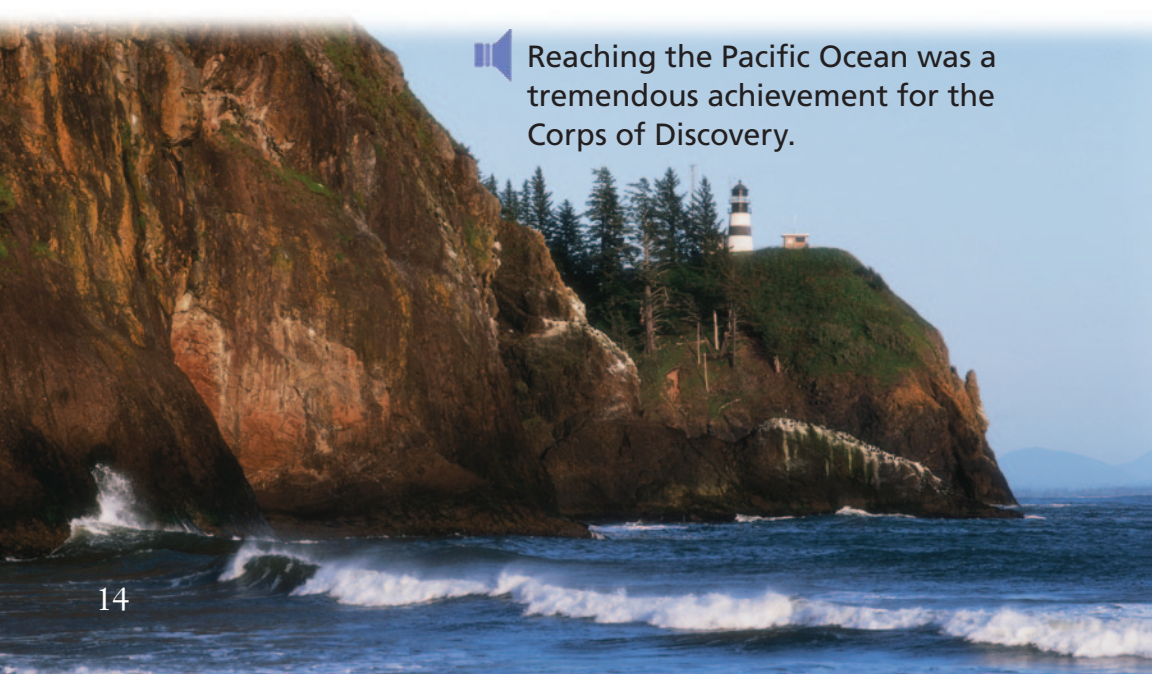


🔊 The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center is a fun place to visit.

At the end of the trail, people drive along the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. It's hard to imagine what the Corps of Discovery felt when they finally saw the ocean. They must have been very happy and very tired. The truth is, they had a hard winter ahead. Then they had to travel the entire way back east. However, they fulfilled their goal. They also returned home to tell the story.

It takes about three weeks to drive the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail. But it is a journey that people never forget. It's a way to relive history and discover—for yourself—a historical journey that helped shape this country.

Reaching the Pacific Ocean was a tremendous achievement for the Corps of Discovery.

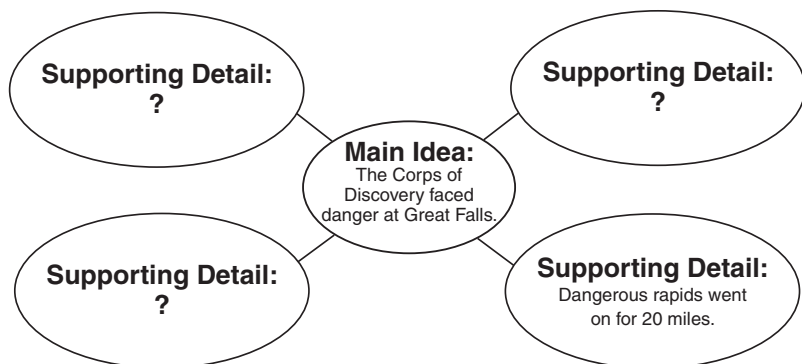


Responding



TARGET SKILL Main Ideas and Details

Reread page 12. What details support the main idea that the Great Falls were dangerous? Copy and complete the web below.



Write About It

Text to Self Imagine you are taking a camping trip along the trail of Lewis and Clark. Write four journal entries about what you saw along the way. Pick interesting places that you discover along the way.



TARGET VOCABULARY

barrier

despite

edible

expedition

fulfilled

range

resumed

techniques

trek

tributaries



TARGET SKILL

Main Ideas and Details Identify a topic's important ideas and supporting details.



TARGET STRATEGY

Monitor/Clarify As you read, notice what isn't making sense. Find ways to figure out the parts that are confusing.

GENRE Narrative Nonfiction gives factual information by telling a true story.

Level: S

DRA: 40

Genre:

Narrative Nonfiction

Strategy:

Monitor/Clarify

Skill:

Main Ideas and Details

Word Count: 1,035

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ISBN 978-0-544-04791-4



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