Introduction

The Lewis and Clark Expedition is one of the great moments in American history. It was a triumph for the young republic, for the U.S. Army, for Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and for President Thomas Jefferson. The explorers are justly honored as American heroes through the Westward Journey Nickel Series. Our country might well be a different one today had it not been for their courage, their fortitude, and their faithfulness to each other, to their service, and to their President.

The bicentennial of the expedition is an opportunity to reaffirm American strengths and values. The Corps of Discovery demonstrated teamwork at its best—a handful of comrades from different educational, social, and ethnic backgrounds working successfully for a common goal. What a model of social harmony it is for America today. An American Indian woman, a Black man, two dozen soldiers of mixed ethnic and national heritage, one of the officers a patrician, the other a man of the frontier, but all of them totally dependent upon one another for their well-being and the success of their mission. It was Lewis and Clark who opened the gateway to the West. They blazed a trail that enabled the young republic to become the strong nation it is today.

THE PEACE MEDAL

One of the many assignments Jefferson gave Lewis and Clark was to befriend and learn about the Indian tribes along their route of travel. Historians give them good marks in this regard. To facilitate the business of befriending the Indians, Lewis and Clark carried with them a variety of presents such as blue beads, iron tools, flags, and uniforms...but above all, silver medallions known as "peace medals." The obverse bore the likeness of President Thomas Jefferson. The reverse featured hands clasped in friendship, a universally recognized symbol of peace—hence the name "peace medal."

Lewis and Clark did not originate the practice of giving medals to Indian leaders. Medal giving began with the earliest explorers of America who saw how much Indians admired metal buttons and coins. As a result, French, Spanish, British, and even Russian explorers gave silver medals to the leaders of tribes they hoped to befriend. In fact, the practice of giving medals to Indian leaders was such a fixed practice that the first head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs claimed it would be impossible to conduct business with Indians without them. "This comes," he wrote, "of the high value which the Indians set upon these tokens of Friendship. They are, besides this indication of the Government Friendship, badges of power to them, and trophies of renown."

Except for the administration of John Adams, each presidential administration from George Washington to Benjamin Harrison issued medals to Indians. On the obverse would

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Introduction (Continued)

be a bust of the president and on the reverse would be various symbols and phrases denoting friendship. The most popular design was the one that appeared on the Jefferson medal which features two hands clasped in a handshake with the words "peace" and "friendship" along the rim. One of the hands showed a military uniform cuff on its wrist with three braided chevrons. The wrist of the other hand featured a silver band with a beaded border and an engraved American eagle. On the peace medals for the presidential administrations that followed, the wrist was bare; otherwise, the design remained the same. Also embossed on the reverse was a crossed tomahawk and tobacco pipe, again a recognized symbol of peace. This design appeared on all medals through the administration of President Zachary Taylor.

Most of the Indian tribes Lewis and Clark encountered knew all about medals and would have been offended had there been none to give them. Indeed, Spanish, French, Russian, and British officials long before the arrival of the Corps of Discovery had conditioned tribal leaders to expect and respect silver peace medals, so it would have been unthinkable for Lewis and Clark to attempt to conduct business with the interior tribes unless they were supplied with them. And well supplied they were. According to an invoice prepared by William Clark, the explorers went west with 97 Jefferson Peace Medals.

On the two-hundredth anniversary of Lewis and Clark's heroic trek across North America, the President enacted Public Law 108-15 in tribute to Lewis and Clark and to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase. The reverse of the Jefferson 5-cent coin (nickel) in 2004, 2005, and 2006 is being modified to reflect that historic expedition into the Louisiana Territory. The first of the new reverses, appropriately, honors both the explorers and the Indian people whom they befriended. The educational lessons presented here will help American children learn about this unique moment in American history and the Native American peoples who befriended Lewis and Clark.

THE KEELBOAT

Two hundred years ago, captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark of the U.S. Army launched their Corps of Discovery. The success of this expedition eventually enabled the young United States to expand its boundaries to the Pacific Ocean.

The guiding hand behind the Corps of Discovery was Thomas Jefferson. It was his vision of westward expansion that Lewis and Clark began to bring to reality at Camp River DuBois, their winter quarters across the Mississippi River from St. Louis where they assembled the men and equipment for their expedition. There they tested their instruments, drafted their speeches to the Indians, and trained and prepared three dozen soldiers and frontiersmen for the greatest challenge of their lives: a trek through the West to plant the American flag on the Pacific Coast.

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Introduction
(Continued)

Finding a water route to the Pacific Ocean had been Jefferson's dream for many years, but his efforts to make the enterprise happen had met with little success. Now, as President, he could apply the resources of the Army to the task.

About 45 people left Camp River DuBois in May 1804 in a keelboat specially built in Pittsburgh and two pirogues, one red and one white. After completing the first leg of their journey at Fort Mandan, Lewis and Clark sent the keelboat back down the Missouri River with specimens and reports for President Jefferson. The keelboat, their largest vessel, would become less practical as the rivers became shallower.

The team had hoped to travel by water up one side of the Rocky Mountains, carry their canoes and supplies over the summit, and then sail down the other side to the ocean, not knowing there was a second mountain range to cross as well. Even though they discovered that the hoped-for easy and direct water route did not exist, rivers carried them most of the way. The keelboat, therefore, is an appropriate symbol to represent the various water craft that enabled the explorers to reach the Pacific Ocean and return safely to St. Louis.

The expedition is notable for its friendship with the American Indian peoples Lewis and Clark met along the way. Their help was crucial to the expedition's success. The expedition is also famous for its members' valor and heroism, for its contributions to science, and for its impact on American commerce and history. But for Jefferson, a key mark of the expedition's success was to be the creation of an accurate map of the western landscape. Later explorers filled in the details, but it was Lewis and Clark who compiled the first accurate map of the Far West.

The lesson plans in this series will help children share in the excitement of this groundbreaking adventure. The keelboat designed by Meriwether Lewis is the centerpiece of the second nickel design in the Westward Journey Nickel Series™. This keelboat symbolizes the courage, resourcefulness, and thirst for knowledge of our nation's explorers, of whom we have every right to be proud.

THE BISON

The bison we commonly call "buffalo" once roamed America's grasslands in the millions from Alaska to Northern Mexico. This majestic animal is the largest land animal in North America, and often weighs more than a ton. Its impressive size and distinctive form allowed it to quickly become a symbol of the vast American western plains. Yet it never overgrazed the land, but simply moved on to new pastures, creating a balance with its environment that allowed the land to thrive.

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Introduction
(Continued)

Lewis and Clark were impressed with the creature's great numbers and grew fond of the bison's lean meat. It provided nourishment for the explorers as it had for the American Indians with whom it shared the prairie lands for centuries.

Once on the brink of extinction, conservation has helped this hardy animal to rebound in private and public herds to the hundreds of thousands. It's hard to imagine the Corps of Discovery surviving without the bison, which makes this animal a key icon in the story of the Corps' exploratory journey to the West Coast in the early 19th century. The bison takes its well-earned place on the American Bison Nickel in recognition of its importance to the Plains Indians and the Corps of Discovery and as a symbol of the wide range of wildlife that the Corps encountered, documented, and preserved for science.

THE PACIFIC OCEAN

The fact that William Clark was not actually looking at the Pacific Ocean when he penned his now-famous words of joy does not in the least diminish their impact. We know that only a few miles and weeks separated him from the real goal and that he and his party made it there in time to build winter quarters and survive for the return trip. When we read his words, we can only celebrate with him the excitement of successfully completing the incredibly risky mission undertaken for the sake of their President and country.

The Pacific Ocean not only represented the halfway point of their mission, but it represented access to trade opportunities in the Far East and on the rest of the continent as well. The occasion was truly a cause for joy and the scene is one worthy of immortalizing in coin.

MONTICELLO

The "Return to Monticello" design of 2006 eloquently represents the last leg of the explorers' grueling journey—the trip home. Monticello was home in that it was located in Virginia, one of the foundation colonies of the early Republic that became the United States. Monticello was also home to the nation's then-current president, Thomas Jefferson. And the building also became the home of several of the treasures collected by Lewis and Clark during their explorations. Jefferson was rightly proud of Monticello, the building he designed, built, and so often amended, as well as of the collection of artistic and natural items that graced the mini-museum in his home's entrance hall.

On the front of the 2006 nickel, the portrait of Jefferson faces forward literally and figuratively, as it is slated to remain on our nickel for many years. With these designs, the Westward Journey Nickel Series comes to an end...but the legacy of Lewis and Clark lives on, to inspire us for ages to come.

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The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Overview

In 1803, the President of the United States was Thomas Jefferson, and the nation's westernmost boundary was the Mississippi River. West of the Mississippi was a large area called Louisiana, owned by France. The United States knew little about Louisiana, but late that year, the United States Congress approved a treaty to buy Louisiana from France for about 15 million dollars. This acquisition, called the Louisiana Purchase, doubled the size of the United States.

President Jefferson was curious about whether this area—soon to be called the Louisiana Territory—might provide a water route across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. He thought the Missouri River might be part of this water route.

President Jefferson decided to send a team to explore the Louisiana Territory. The explorers were to map the land and take careful notes about the weather, soil, plants, animals, and people they found there. They were also to search for a water route to the Pacific Ocean and to establish friendly relations with any American Indian tribes found living along their route.

The president asked his 27-year-old secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to lead the expedition. Lewis agreed, inviting his friend, William Clark—a woodsman and soldier—to become the expedition's co-leader. Clark also agreed.

They began to list and buy what they would need for the trip. Their supplies included such items as silk ribbons, thimbles, knives, and corn mills, which the explorers could trade for supplies—for example, two handkerchiefs for a horse. They also packed dozens of Peace Medals, which they could give as gifts and signs of peace to the American Indian chiefs they met.

In May of 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition of about 50 men left St. Louis, Missouri, calling themselves "the Corps of Discovery." Heading north up the Missouri River, the expedition reached a Mandan Indian village by winter in what is now the state of North Dakota, where they built a fort in which to stay. In the spring of 1805, the expedition continued up the Missouri with two new members: a guide named Charbonneau and his young Shoshone Indian wife, Sacagawea. Because she had been kidnapped as a child, she spoke the Shoshone language and was able to interpret for the explorers.

In time, the expedition reached the land of the Shoshone, where Sacagawea was surprised to find her brother, who had become a chief. Sacagawea's brother provided the horses that the expedition needed in order to cross the Bitterroot Mountains. After crossing the mountains, the expedition made new dugout canoes and reached the Pacific Ocean by traveling the Columbia river. The expedition spent its second winter, a cold and rainy one, beside the Pacific.

On September 23, 1806, the expedition arrived back at St. Louis. Lewis and Clark's adventure had included meeting many American Indian tribes. Because they had written about their travels in their journals, drew maps, and collected plants, animals, and flowers, they had many answers to President Jefferson's questions about the territory of Louisiana.

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Pre-2004 Monticello Nickel

Obverse

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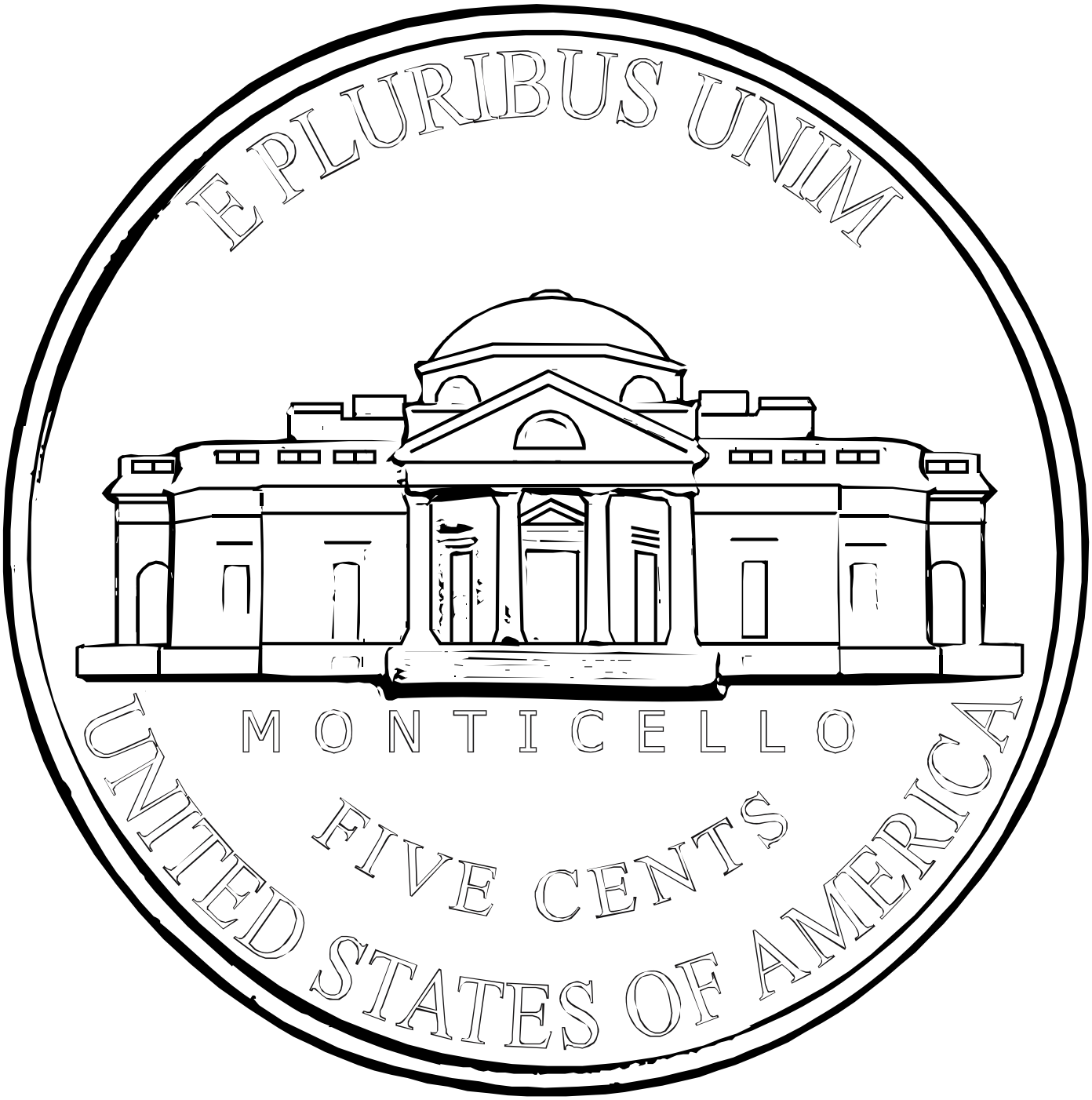
Pre-2004 Monticello Nickel

Reverse



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2004 Nickels

Obverse

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Peace Medal Nickel

Reverse

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Keelboat Nickel

Reverse

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2005 Nickels

Obverse

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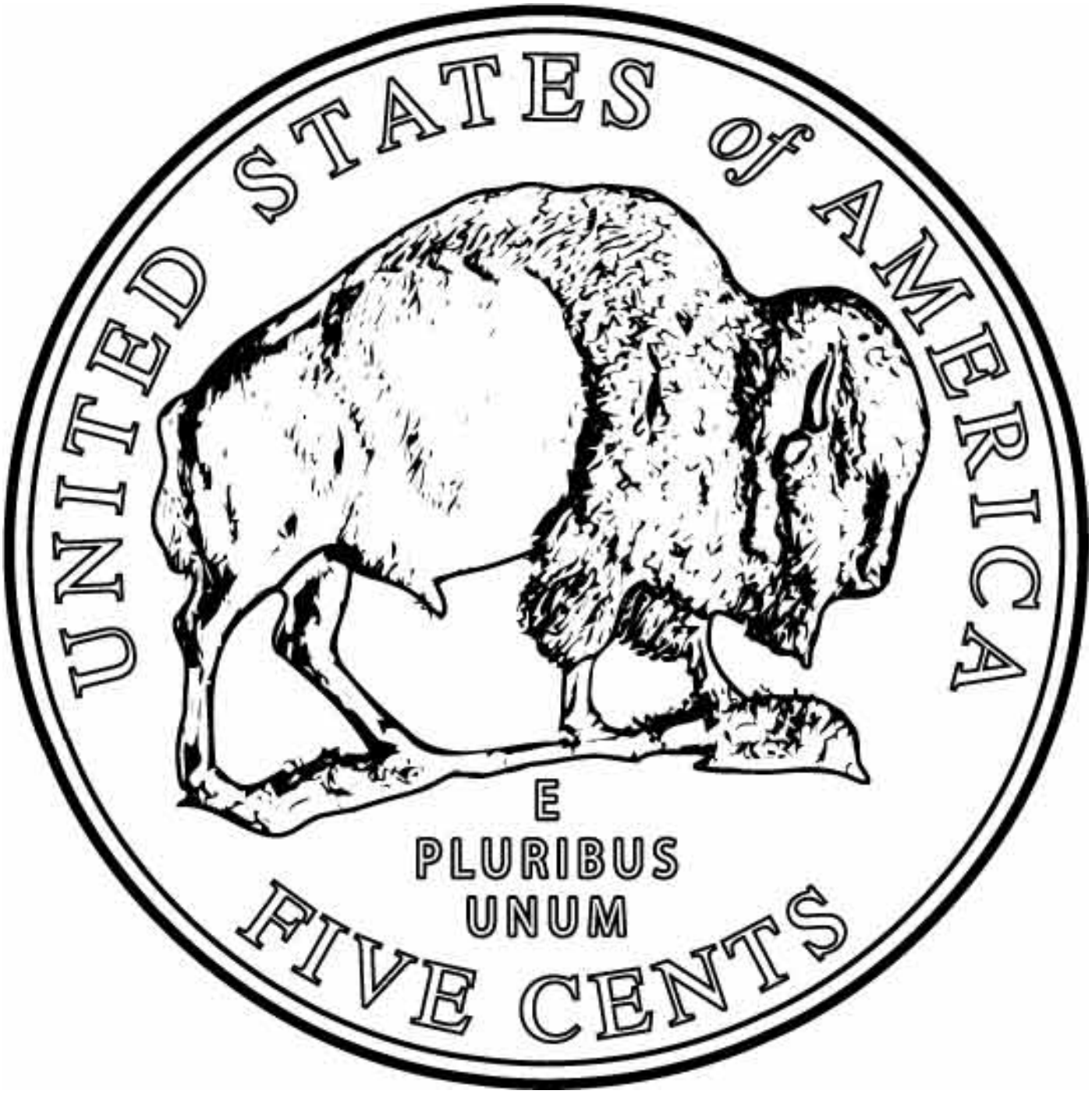
American Bison Nickel

Reverse



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Ocean in View Nickel

Reverse

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Return to Monticello Nickel

Obverse

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Return to Monticello Nickel

Reverse

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Name _____

Lewis and Clark on the Trail

Directions: Draw a background (environment) around Lewis and Clark, including plants and animals.

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Name _____

Journey of Lewis and Clark

UNITED STATES

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Westward Journey Nickel Series

Worksheet

NICKEL IMAGE	DESCRIPTION AND CONNECTION TO EXPEDITION
	2004 PEACE MEDAL NICKEL REVERSE
	2004 KEELBOAT NICKEL REVERSE
	2005 AMERICAN BISON NICKEL REVERSE
	2005 OCEAN IN VIEW NICKEL REVERSE
	2006 RETURN TO MONTICELLO NICKEL REVERSE

2004 OBVERSE

2005 OBVERSE

2006 OBVERSE

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Westward Journey Nickel Series
Worksheet

NICKEL IMAGE	DESCRIPTION AND CONNECTION TO EXPEDITION
	2004 PEACE MEDAL NICKEL REVERSE The design is a copy of the Peace Medals that explorers Lewis and Clark gave to American Indians they encountered. It shows the hand of an American Indian and the hand of a European-American clasped in a friendly handshake below a crossed pipe and tomahawk. The words "Louisiana Purchase" are inscribed above the date of the purchase, 1803. One of the goals of the Expedition was to contact and observe American Indian tribes.
	2004 KEELBOAT NICKEL REVERSE This design shows the keelboat used during Lewis and Clark's expedition. In it, captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are standing on deck at the start of their famous trip. Boats were an important means of transportation for the explorers because much of their traveling was done by water, which was easier than carrying supplies over wild terrain—despite the fact that the upstream travel for most of the westward leg was not easy or fast.
	2005 AMERICAN BISON NICKEL REVERSE This design features the American bison, also called a buffalo. This animal used to roam the plains in such great numbers that Lewis and Clark noted it often in their journals. This buffalo also reminds us of the American Indians who counted on the animal for food, clothing, and shelter, and of all the wildlife that the explorers wrote about and collected for the scientific record. One of the expedition's goals was to observe and to record the geography, plants, and animals they encountered.
	2005 OCEAN IN VIEW NICKEL REVERSE This design based on a photograph by Andrew E. Cier at Astoria, Washington, shows a view of the Pacific Ocean, the goal that the Lewis and Clark Expedition reached after more than a year of hard travel. The scene surrounds a quote written by Captain Clark in his map journal: "Ocean in view! O! The joy!" One of the goals of the Expedition was to find an all-water passage to the Pacific Ocean.
	2006 RETURN TO MONTICELLO NICKEL REVERSE This design shows Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson in Albemarle County, Virginia. Jefferson displayed some of the artifacts that Lewis and Clark found along the trail in the entry hall at Monticello.

2004 OBVERSE

2005 OBVERSE

2006 OBVERSE

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Reproducible Coin Sheet
Obverse

Obverse © 1999 U.S. Mint
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Reproducible Coin Sheet
Reverse

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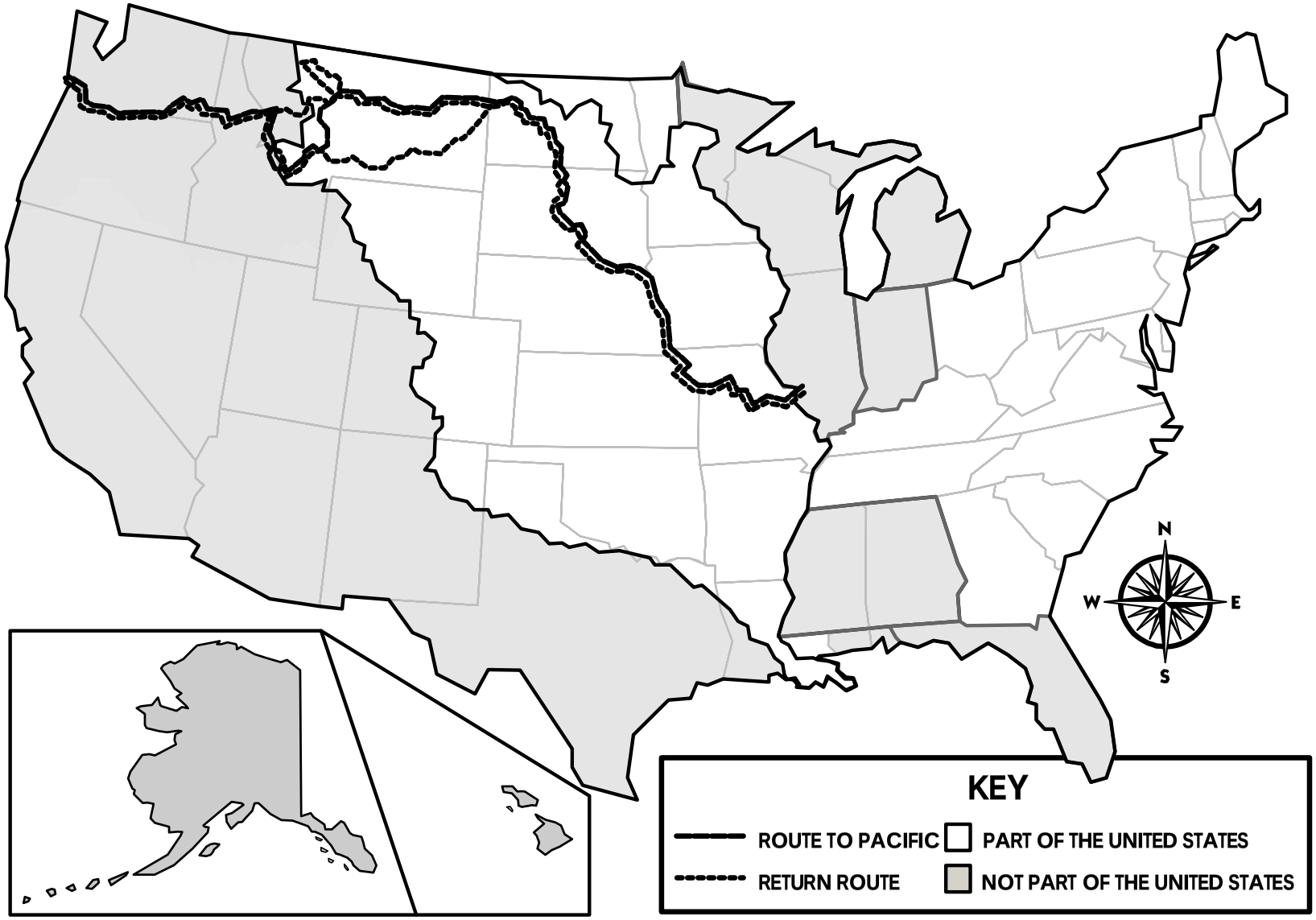
Louisiana Territory Map

Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803–1806



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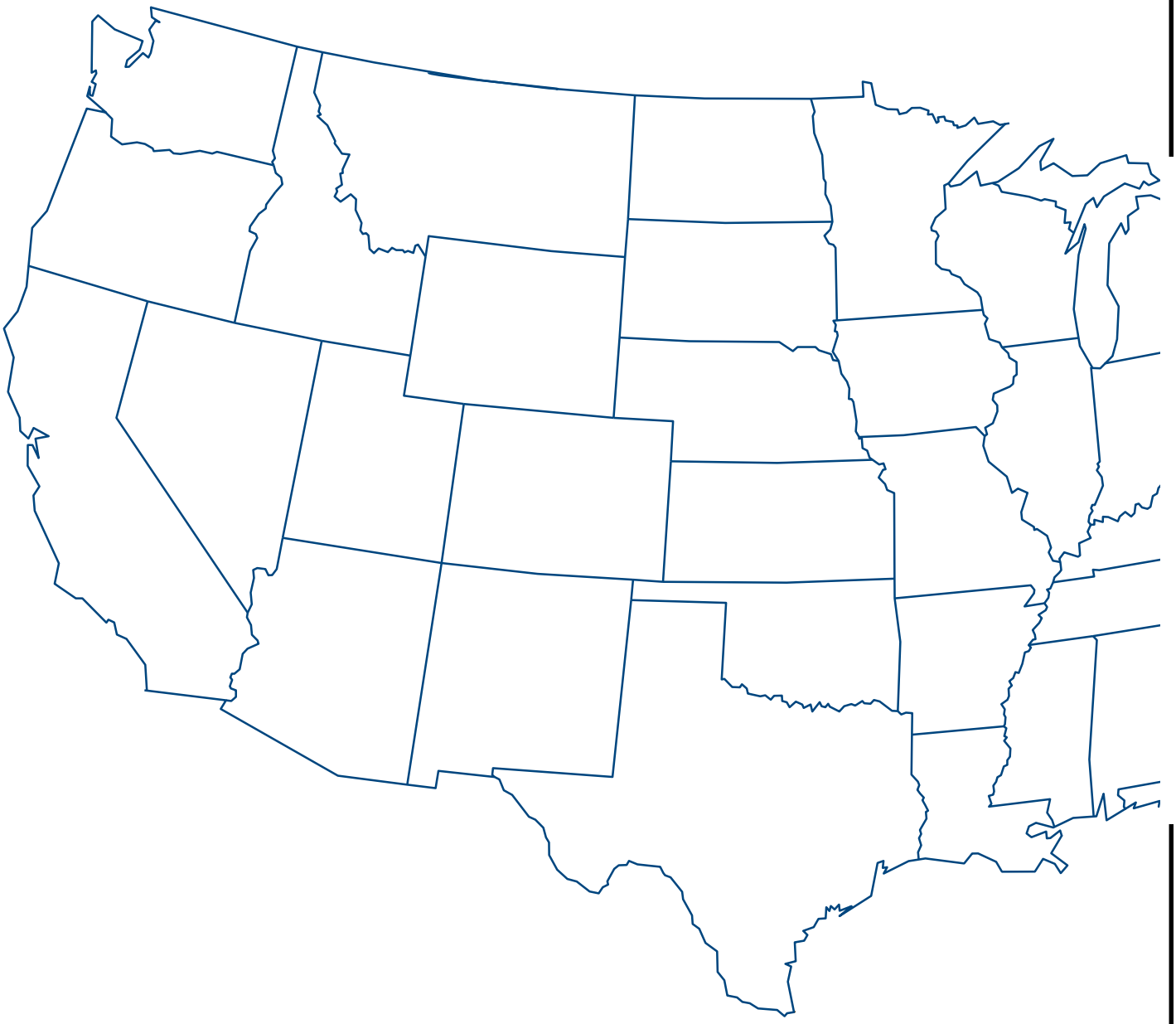
Western United States

Map



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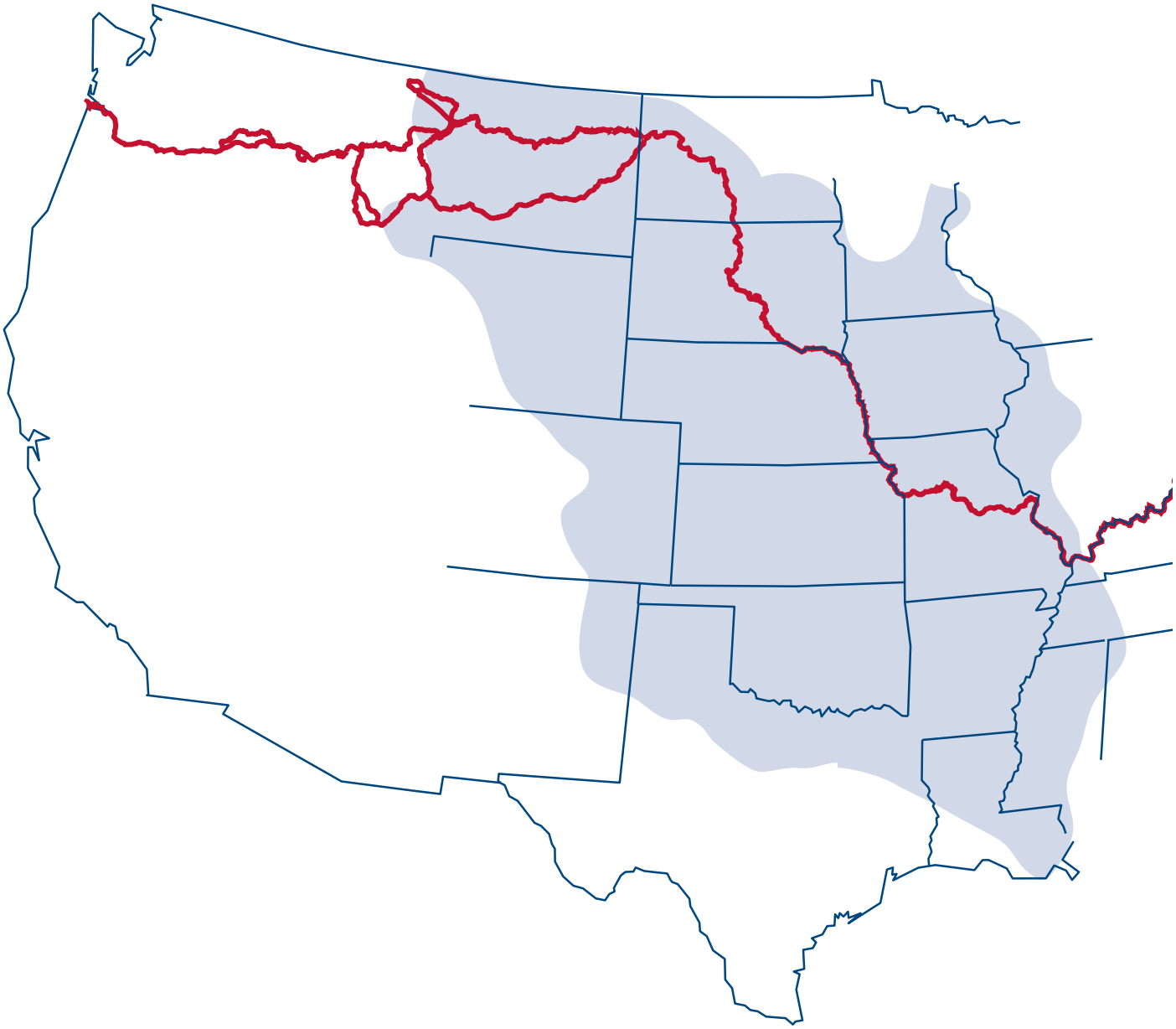
Lewis and Clark Route

Overlay



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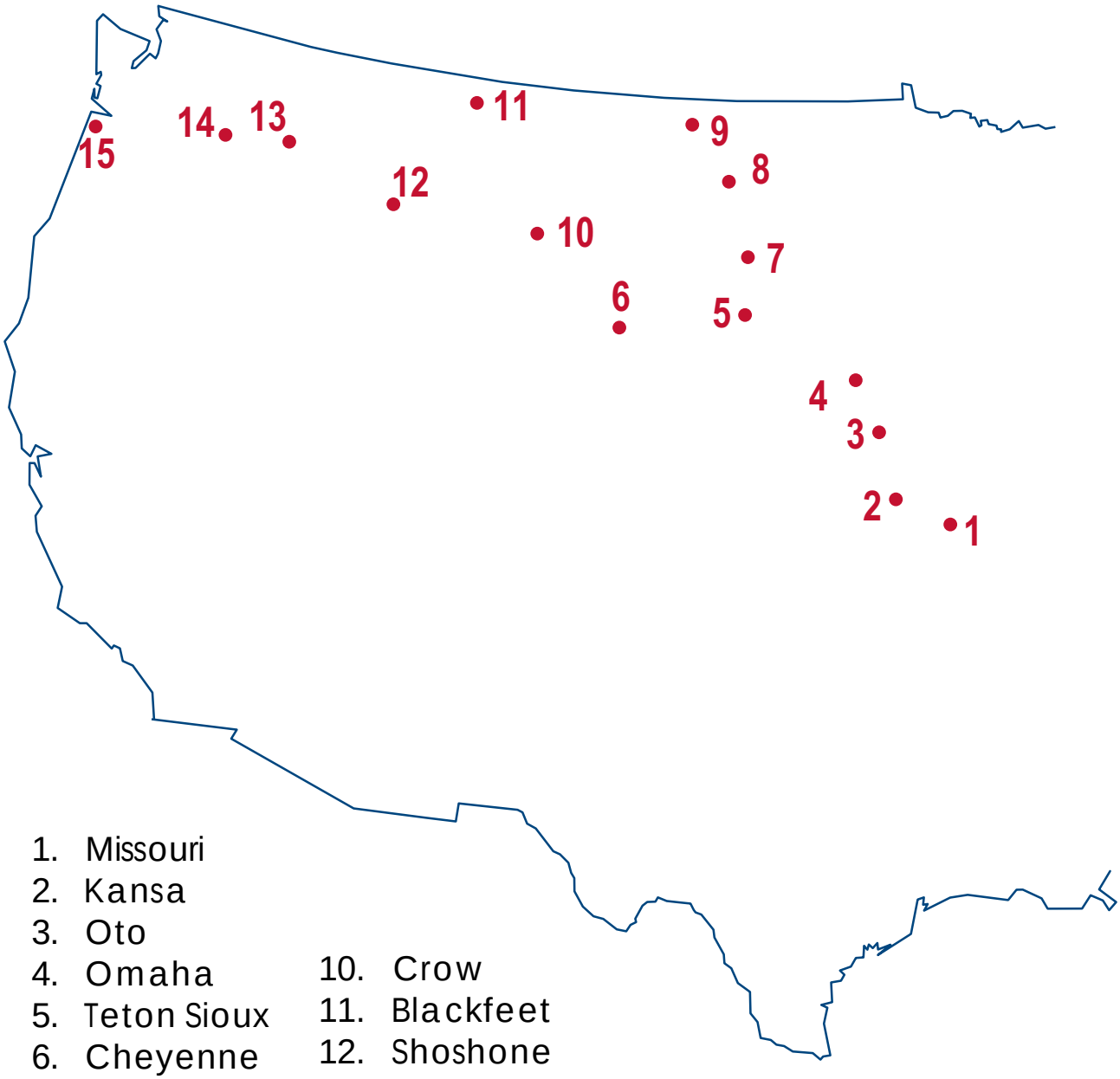
American Indian Tribes

Overlay



1. Missouri
2. Kansa
3. Oto
4. Omaha
5. Teton Sioux
6. Cheyenne
7. Arikara
8. Mandan
9. Hidatsa
10. Crow
11. Blackfeet
12. Shoshone
13. Nez Perce
14. Walla Walla
15. Clatsop

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Lewis and Clark Supply List

This is a partial list of articles purchased for Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery before they departed.

Number	Name of Article	Price
	INDIAN PRESENTS	
12	Pipe Tomahawks	$18.00
6.5 lbs.	Strip Sheet Iron	1.62
47.5 yds.	Red Flannel	14.94
11	Assorted Handkerchiefs	59.83
1 doz.	Ivory Combs	3.33
4 doz.	Butcher Knives	5.33
12 doz.	Pocket Looking Glasses	5.19
3 lbs.	Beads	2.01
2.75 doz.	Lockets	3.56
8.5 lbs.	Red Beads	25.50
2 doz.	Earrings	1.00
8	Brass Kettles	10.67
72	Rings	6.00
2	Corn Mills	20.00
15 doz.	Scissors	18.97
	ARMS AND AMMUNITION	
1 pair	Pocket Pistols	10.00
176 lbs.	Gun Powder	155.75
52	Leaden Canisters for Gun Powder	26.33
15	Powder Horns & Pouches	26.25
	CAMP EQUIPAGE	
4	Tin Horns	2.00
193 lbs.	P. Soup	298.50
3 doz.	Pint Tumblers	4.20
125	Large Fishing Hooks	4.45
	Fishing Lines	18.09

Number	Name of Article	Price
6	Brass Kettles and porterage (carrying cost)	$15.18
1	Block Tin Sauce Pan	1.50
2 doz.	Table Spoons	1.87
2 pairs	Large Shears	1.86
2 pairs	Plyers	97.00
2	Hand saws	3.06
2	Hatchets	83.00
1 pkg.	Castile Soap	1.68
1	Common Tent	No charge
	MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS	
1	Pocket Compass	5.00
1	Brass Boat Compass	1.50
1	Magnet	1.00
1	Metal Sextant	90.00
1	Microscope	7.00
1	Surveying Compass	23.50
1	Six Inch Pocket Telescope	7.00
	MEDICINES	
1 box & 1do.	Medicine	90.69
2 lbs	Tea and Canisters	3.80
	PROVISIONS	
45	Flannel Shirts	71.10
16	Coatees	246.63
30 gals.	Wine	77.20

Data taken from: Lewis, Meriwether, and William Clark. *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*. Ed. Paul Bergon. New York: Penguin Books, 1989. pp xxxvi–xlvi.

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More Resources

Web sites

NICKEL HISTORY

http://www.usmint.gov/kids/index.cfm?fileContents=coinNews/circulatingCoins/05centCoin.cfm—The United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change™ Web site for children and educators alike gives a brief history of how the nickel became a circulating coin and links to related coin information, lesson ideas, and other resources.

WESTWARD JOURNEY NICKEL SERIES™

http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/index.cfm?action=nickel_series—Read about the newest nickel designs and associated events directly from the United States Mint.

http://www.usmint.gov/kids/index.cfm?fileContents=coinNews/newNickel.cfm—This page from the United States Mint's kids' Web site gives information about these new designs, for younger readers.

JEFFERSON PEACE MEDAL

http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/108lewisclark/108visual2.htm—This National Park Service site provides clear images of a Jefferson Peace Medal like those carried by the Corps of Discovery on their expedition. It describes Lewis and Clark's use of the Peace Medals and poses great questions to help inspire classroom discussion.

LEWIS & CLARK/CORPS OF DISCOVERY

http://monticello.org/jefferson/lewisandclark/—This Monticello site tells much about Jefferson's role in Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery.

http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/lewisandclark/—This National Park Service page offers extensive information about the expedition, focusing on the places the Corps stopped along the way.

http://www.lewisandclark200.gov—This Web site, developed through a partnership between 32 federal government agencies, offers much information and many links relating to the expedition and its bicentennial.

http://www.lewisandclarkgnet.com/—The Peter Kiewit Institute at the University of Nebraska developed this site with industries, tribal nations, and all levels of government. It explores varied educational resources relating to Lewis and Clark, and the Corps of Discovery II's travels tracing the route of the original Corps.

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/—This National Geographic site offers articles, photos, classroom activities, and expedition records, including a timeline of the expedition and its journals, supply list, and discoveries.

http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/index.html—This site, which complements Ken Burns' documentary on Lewis and Clark's journey, covers the expedition in depth. It includes an assortment of free classroom resources.

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More Resources
(Continued)

MODERN VIEWS OF THE EXPEDITION

http://www.nps.gov/lecl/—The National Park Service currently maintains the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. This page gives information about exploring the trail today.

http://www.lewisandclarkeducationcenter.com/—This Web site, sponsored by NASA at the University of Montana, explains the geographical and ecological changes to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail since 1803.

http://www.lewisandclark200.org/—The National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council promotes educational programs and cultural harmony, and cares for the natural and historic resources along the expedition's route. This site covers the Lewis and Clark journey, the tribes they met, and current resource preservation efforts.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

http://www.usmint.gov/kids/timeMachine/—Visit with Lewis and Clark on this United States Mint site for kids. See the amazing reunion with the Shoshone Indians in the 1805 era.

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/west/—Go west across America with Lewis and Clark. This National Geographic kid-centric adventure is based on *How We Crossed the West, The Adventures of Lewis and Clark* by Roslyn Schanzer.

http://www.usaweekend.com/97_issues/971102/lewis_and_clark/971102trail_intro.html—In this online activity, try to make the same decisions as Lewis and Clark made on their journey.

ADDITIONAL SITES

http://www.olypen.com/gillde/lance/bibliographies/lewis.htm—This site provides an extremely comprehensive bibliography of Lewis and Clark publications to aid academic research.

Text Resources

ADULT TEXTS

Alter, Judy. *Extraordinary Explorers and Adventurers*. New York: Children's Press, A Division of Scholastic, Inc., 2001.

Ambrose, Stephen E. Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Banks, James A., et. al. *Communities: Adventures in Time and Place*. New York: McGraw-Hill School Division, 1999.

Brandt, Anthony, edited and abridged. *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2002.

Betts, Robert B. In Search of York: The Slave Who Went to the Pacific With Lewis and Clark. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2002.

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Prucha, Francis Paul. *Indian Peace Medals in American History*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995.

Ronda, James P. *Lewis and Clark Among the Indians*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

Snyder, Gerald S. *In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1970.

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More Resources
(Continued)

CHILDREN'S TEXTS

Adler, David. *A Picture Book of Sacagawea*. New York: Holiday House, 2001.

Bergen, Lara. *The Travels of Lewis and Clark.* New York: Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 2000.

Eubank, Patti Reeder. *Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark*. Ideals Publications, 2002.

Fifer, Barbara. *Going Along with Lewis and Clark.* Helena: Montana Magazine, 2000.

Herbert, Janis. *Lewis and Clark for Kids*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2003.

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Sundling, Charles W. *Frontier Land*. Edina, MN: ABDO & Daughters Publishing Company, 2000.

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