

The Louisiana Purchase

1800 - Nearly one million Americans live between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River (mostly farmers). These farmers rely on the Mississippi River to ship their wheat and corn. At times, Spain would threaten to close the port of New Orleans to the farmers shipments.

In 1795, President Jefferson sent Thomas Pinckney to negotiate the Pinckney Treaty - in which Spain agrees to let Americans ship their goods down the Mississippi and store them in New Orleans. In 1800, however, Spain gives New Orleans back to France and this alarmed the United States.

Jefferson sent Robert Livingston and James Monroe to France to offer to buy New Orleans and West Florida from Napoleon (the ruler of France). As they negotiated with Talleyrand (the French Foreign Minister) Napoleon lost control of Haiti. This caused him to give up his dream of an empire in North America. He also needed to pay off debts for his expensive wars. Talleyrand asks Livingston if America wanted to buy ALL of Louisiana (see your map for the size of this land) instead of just New Orleans and West Florida. They negotiate to pay \$15 for ALL of Louisiana in 1803.

Note: You will NEED to know the boundaries of the United States in 1804 after the completion of the Louisiana Purchase. See your map.

Lewis and Clark

This new land was uncharted territory. Congress provided money for a team of explorers to visit the new lands. Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis to head the expedition, who then asked William Clark to join him on the voyage. Jefferson instructed them to:

- Map a route to the Pacific Ocean
- Study the geography of the territory, including: "climate as characterized by the thermometer, by the proportion of rainy, cloudy, and clear days, by lightning, hail, snow, ice...the dates at which particular plants put forth or lose their flower, or leaf, times of appearance of particular birds, reptiles, or insects."
- Learn about the Indian Nations who lived in the Louisiana Purchase (hoped they might trade with American merchants instead of English, French and Spanish merchants)
- Tell the Native Americans "our wish is to be neighborly, friendly, and useful to them."

50 men (out of the thousands who wanted to join) made the "Corps of Discovery" to travel with Lewis and Clark. They started on the Missouri River from St. Louis. Along the way, during their first winter with the Mandan Indians, they met Sacagawea, a Shoshone Indian who lived in the Rocky Mountains. She and her husband (a French Canadian Man) agreed to accompany Lewis and Clark as translators.

The group reaches the Pacific Ocean along the Columbia River on November 7, 1805.

Zebulon Pike

From 1805 - 1807 Pike explored the upper Mississippi River, the Arkansas River, Colorado, and New Mexico. In November 1806 he discovered the mountain that is named after him, Pikes Peak. He and his group were arrested by Spanish troops and most of their maps and journals were confiscated; however, one remained. His expedition greatly expanded American's knowledge of the Southwest.