LEWIS & CLARK AND THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY

A Library of Congress exhibition

Exhibit #1: Sacajawea Listening Station

How did Sacajawea come to be with Toussaint Charbonneau?

Why did Lewis & Clark agree to let Sacajawea to come on the expedition?

In what ways did Sacajawea contribute to the expedition?

What can you infer about Sacajawea from her life story?

Exhibit #2: Jefferson’s Cipher

What is a cipher?

What two things does the decoded message at the bottom of the cipher tell us about Jefferson’s expectations for the expedition?

What can you infer about Jefferson or the expedition from the creation of this cipher?

Decode the following using the cipher code (See your teacher for the key).

C O R N E R S T O N E A C A D E M Y

Exhibit #3: Artifacts of the Expedition

Explain how the peace medal had different meanings to the Americans and the Native Americans?

What important ritual was part of Native American diplomacy?

What did the compass show about the purpose of the expedition?

What obvious message did the firing and presence of firearms send to the Native American tribes?

Exhibit #4: A Botanical Specimen

What is botany?

Why did Jefferson believe that discovering new plants was important?

How did the expeditions goals of learning about native plants and observing Native American customs connect?

Exhibit #5: The King Map & The Lewis and Clark Track Map

The King map includes a line across the center with the word ‘conjectural’ along it. What does that tell us about how much was known about the West before the expedition?

What major geographical landmark is clearly incomplete in the King map of the United States when compared to the track map?

What are two major differences you see between the King map and the Track map?

What “old dream” does the “ghost river Multnomah” represent on the Lewis & Clark Track map?

Exhibit #6: The Arrowsmith Map & The Continental Divide

What is significant about the Arrowsmith map?

How does the Arrowsmith map confirm Jefferson’s thoughts on western geography?

Looking at the painting, how does the illustration contradict the Arrowsmith map in regards to the Rocky Mountains?

The discovery of the Continental Divide put to rest what major goal of the expedition?

Exhibit #7: American and Native American Communications

What precedent did European diplomacy set in regards to how the U.S. dealt with Indians?

Beginning with the line, “We are your fathers now…,” what can you infer is the main idea behind Jefferson’s speech to the Indian delegation?

What two concerns did the Indian chiefs raise in their speech?

What can be concluded about the expectations of the Indian chiefs?

Exhibit #8: Lewis & Clark Meet the Natives

Describe the interactions between the Shoshones and the explorers.

How did Lewis describe Shoshone life in his journal? (Give specific examples)

What presidential instructions did the explorers have regarding Native American interactions?

Why were these Indian councils important for U.S. and Native American relations?

Exhibit #9: Jefferson’s Secret Message to Congress

Why did Jefferson hide the Lewis & Clark Expedition from his political enemies?

What was the majority of the message about? Why do you think Jefferson did that?

What does Jefferson’s desire for an expedition say about his views on American expansion?

Exhibit #10: The Drawings of Clark’s Journals

What aspect of the journey made canoe design important to Clark and the others?

Based on the information, what did Clark admire about Indian canoe design?

How did Lewis describe his view of the Great Falls? (Give specific examples)

What challenges did the Great Falls present for the expedition?