

Chapter 1 : Lewis and Clark Sites Along the Mississippi River

Lewis and Clark: A Missouri River Adventure. On May 14, , Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and their group of 40 men, collectively known as the Corps of Discovery, launched their pirogues and keelboat onto the Missouri River at its mouth, some 18 miles from the young town of St. Louis.

He chose unmarried, healthy men who were good hunters and knew survival skills. The expedition party included 45 souls including Lewis, Clark, 27 unmarried soldiers, a French-Indian interpreter, a contracted boat crew and a slave owned by Clark named York. Charles, Missouri and headed upstream on the Missouri River in the keelboat and two smaller boats at a rate of about 15 miles per day. Heat, swarms of insects and strong river currents made the trip arduous at best. To maintain discipline, Lewis and Clark ruled the Corps with an iron hand and doled out harsh punishments such as bareback lashing and hard labor for those who got out of line. On August 20, year-old Corps member Sergeant Charles Floyd died of an abdominal infection, possibly from appendicitis. He was the only member of the Corps to die on their journey. Lewis and Clark developed a first contact protocol for meeting new tribes. They also told the Indians that America owned their land and offered military protection in exchange for peace. Others were wary of Lewis and Clark and their intentions and were openly hostile – though seldom violent. But they were no match for the military might of the Corps and moved on. Fort Mandan In early November, the Corps came across villages of friendly Mandan and Minitari Indians near present-day Washburn, North Dakota , and decided to set up camp downriver for the winter along the banks of the Missouri River. The Corps spent the next five months at Fort Mandan hunting, forging and making canoes, ropes, leather clothing and moccasins while Clark prepared new maps. They allowed his pregnant Shoshone Indian wife Sacagawea to join him on the expedition. Sacagawea had been kidnapped by Hidatsa Indians at age 12 and then sold to Charbonneau. On February 11, , Sacagawea gave birth to a son and named him Jean Baptiste. She became an invaluable and respected asset for Lewis and Clark. Crossing the Continental Divide On April 7, , Lewis and Clark sent some of their crew and their keelboat loaded with zoological and botanical samplings, maps, reports and letters back to St. Louis while they and the rest of the Corps headed for the Pacific. The group next headed out of Lemhi Pass and crossed the Bitterroot Mountain Range using the harrowing Lolo Trail and the help of many horses and a handful of Shoshone guides. This leg of the journey proved to be the most difficult as many of them suffered from frostbite, hunger, dehydration, bad weather, freezing temperatures and exhaustion. Still, despite the merciless terrain and conditions, not a single soul was lost. The Indians took in the weary travelers, fed them and helped them regain their health. As the Corps recovered, they built dugout canoes, then left their horses with the Nez Perce and braved the Clearwater River rapids to Snake River and then to Columbia River. They reportedly ate dog meat along the way instead of wild game. They decided to make camp near present-day Astoria, Oregon , and started building Fort Clatsop on December 10 and moved in by Christmas. It was not an easy winter at Fort Clatsop. Everyone struggled to keep themselves and their supplies dry and fought an ongoing battle with tormenting fleas and other insects. Almost everyone was weak and sick with stomach problems likely caused by bacterial infections , hunger or influenza-like symptoms. They retrieved their horses from the Nez Perce and waited until June for the snow to melt to cross the mountains into the Missouri River Basin. The two groups planned to rendezvous where the Yellowstone and Missouri met in North Dakota. Department of the Interior. Two days later, at Marias River near present-day Cut Bank, Montana, Lewis and his group encountered eight Blackfeet warriors and were forced to kill two of them when they tried to steal weapons and horses. The location of the clash became known as Two Medicine Fight Site. It was the only violent episode of the expedition, although soon after the Blackfeet fight, Lewis was accidentally shot in his buttocks during a hunting trip; the injury was painful and inconvenient but not fatal. On August 12, Lewis and Clark and their crews reunited and dropped off Sacagawea and her family at the Mandan villages. They then headed down the Missouri River – with the currents moving in their favor this time – and arrived in St. Not only had they completed their mission of surveying the Louisiana Territory from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean – though they failed to identify a coveted Northwest Passage across the continent – they did so against

tremendous odds with just one death and little violence. The Corps had traveled more than 8,000 miles, produced invaluable maps and geographical information, identified at least 100 animal specimens and botanical samples and initiated peaceful relations with dozens of Native American tribes. Both Lewis and Clark received double pay and 10,000 acres of land for their efforts. Clark remained well-respected and lived a successful life. Lewis, however, was not an effective governor and drank too much. He never married or had children and died in of two gunshot wounds, possibly self-inflicted.

Chapter 2 : The Dakotas | Discovering Lewis & Clark Â®

The Lewis and Clark expedition conducted the first comprehensive scientific watershed survey of the Missouri River. Their journey opened the door to future development that would yield great changes in the American landscape.

Day 1 - Arrivals Upon arrival at St. Louis Lambert Airport passengers will be met and transported to our hotel, to freshen up before a festive welcome dinner at the site of Camp Wood where the Corps prepared for their epic journey during the winter of 1803. Our journey retracing the steps of the Corps of Discovery begins with a visit to the Confluence of the rivers where it all began. Next is historic St. Louis, MO. Overnight in Kansas City, MO. Fortunately our latter-day journey is measured in days instead of years. Joseph with a local expert, including the excellent Remington Nature Center. Overnight in Council Bluffs. Floyd the only casualty of the entire journey, plus a few surprises along the way. Joseph Indian School where the outstanding Akta Lakota Museum offers a view of the Native Americans whose lives were so affected by the course of events set in motion by the discoveries of the expedition. Overnight again in Bismarck. Bodmer produced more than renderings of the Native Americans and natural wonders he encountered on his own western voyage just 30 years after Lewis and Clark blazed the trail. Through his paintings we will see the undisturbed terrain as the first whites saw it almost 200 years ago. Knife River Indian Villages. The outstanding interpretive center and model earth lodge shed light on the people who continually inhabited this site for as long as 10,000 years ago. Overnight tonight in Billings. As the expedition neared the cliffs and changed directions, the cliffs seemed to pull apart like a huge gate. Our interpretive boat ride will afford us much the same sights that awed Lewis and the men. Overnight tonight in Great Falls. But he did commemorate the era of westward expansion that the Corps of Discovery opened up. Overnight again in Great Falls. Our local guide will help us to understand the chronology as we travel westward and enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. Overnight in Hood River. A gala farewell dinner rounds out the day and our journey, as we compare notes and recount our own highlights. Not only did we learn so much about the Corps of Discovery and see parts of the country we had never seen before, we got to meet a group of very nice, interesting and fun people. All in all we had a wonderful time! I enjoyed it immensely. I hope to be able to travel with you again. It has been a most memorable time. When you think about it, this really is a powerful motivation.

Chapter 3 : Lewis and Clark Expedition - Wikipedia

Lewis also talked with fur traders who had been up the Missouri River, and obtained maps made by earlier explorers. On March 9, , Meriwether Lewis attended a special ceremony in St. Louis, during which the Upper Louisiana Territory was transferred to the United States.

Even if you have to take a car, you can do it in six days. But imagine what it would have been like two hundred years ago, when Meriwether Lewis , William Clark , and the other members of the Corps of Discovery traveled 3, miles from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean in non-motorized boats, on horseback, and on foot. This was a huge tract of over , square miles, taking in nearly the entire mid-section of North America from present-day Texas and Louisiana up to Montana and North Dakota. This almost doubled the size of the new country. Much of the new territory was unexplored. Jefferson decided to send an expedition up the Missouri River to its source in the western mountains and beyond to the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson hoped that the expedition would be able to find the elusive Northwest Passage, a water route across the country, which would be a great boon to commerce. So in that same year, Jefferson commissioned the Corps of Discovery under the command of his trusted private secretary, Meriwether Lewis. Besides seeking the Northwest Passage, Lewis was to map the new territory, assess its natural resources, and make contact with its inhabitants, befriending them if possible. Lewis recruited his friend William Clark to share equally in the command of the expedition, as well as a force of over 40 men. The members of the Corps of Discovery were soldiers, but their purpose was peaceful -- exploration, diplomacy, and science. Lewis was commissioned as a Captain of the Army of the United States, Clark as a Lieutenant although this inferior rank was kept secret from the men, and Clark was always called "Captain". Lewis purchased a large stock of supplies, including guns and ammunition, food, clothing, navigational instruments, and large numbers of goods to be used as gifts and barter for Indians. To carry the Corps and its cargo on the first leg of their journey, Lewis had a keelboat built, a foot shallow-draft vessel capable of carrying about 12 tons of cargo. The boat had a sail, but was mostly propelled with oars and poles. The journey on the Missouri River would be over 2, miles -- upstream all the way. Up the Missouri The expedition started from St. Louis, where the Missouri empties into the Mississippi, on May 14. Along the way, Clark oversaw the men and carefully mapped the route. Lewis made scientific observations and collected specimens of animals and plants. The trip was arduous -- the men lived outdoors, hunted for food, and rowed the keelboat along with two smaller boats up the river, often towing the boat from the shore when the current got too heavy or the river became difficult to navigate. They fended off huge clouds of mosquitoes that swarmed around them. The party made only 12 or 14 miles on a good day. Along the way, the group made contact with Indian inhabitants of the land. The captains would offer gifts, meet with the chiefs, and make speeches encouraging the Indian nations to make peace with one another and with their new "great father," President Jefferson. All were friendly except the Lakota, with whom the expedition had a confrontation that nearly became violent. Since little was known about the route beyond the Mandan villages, Lewis and Clark decided to build a fort and winter with the Mandans and their Hidatsa neighbors. These tribes, with a population of about 4, people, occupied five permanent villages along the Missouri River and were known for their friendliness and generosity. In the spring, the captains sent the keelboat back down the river with a few men and many items for Jefferson, including an interim report of the expedition, samples of soil, minerals, and plants, Indian items, and even some live birds and a prairie dog, which had never been heard of in the East. Most of the expedition continued up the river in canoes, taking along Sacagawea, her husband, and their newborn baby, Jean-Baptiste. The group spent the next months making their way west up the river into territory unknown to white men. They encountered a great profusion of wildlife, including buffalo, wolves, bighorn sheep, and ferocious grizzly bears. They made their way into present-day Montana, and found the river becoming increasingly impassable, with fierce rapids and waterfalls. With her help, the party obtained the horses they would need to get across the mountains ahead. Across to the Western Ocean As the party began crossing the mountains on horseback, it soon became obvious that the hope of finding a northwest water route was a false one. Jefferson had believed that the explorers, after leaving the

Missouri, would find only a small mountain range with a river to the Pacific just a short distance on the other side. In fact, the expedition had to make its way on the Lolo Trail across the vast Bitterroot Mountains, already covered with snow in September. The crossing took 11 days, during which the men nearly starved. With the water finally running west, the explorers quickly traveled down the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia Rivers, reaching the Pacific coastal area in early November, a year and a half after leaving St. They built Fort Clatsop, named after the neighboring Indian nation, on the south side of the mouth of the Columbia, near what is now Astoria, Oregon, and spent the winter in cold, wet, miserable weather, preparing for the trip back home.

Return Journey On March 23, , the Corps of Discovery started on the long journey back the way they had come. They had some conflicts with some of the Indians on the lower Columbia, whom they accused of charging high prices for food, trying to steal from the travelers, and interfering with their progress. The group was back across the mountains by June and decided to split up into smaller parties for a while so as to explore some of the territory more thoroughly. Lewis took a more northerly route, and it was during this trip that the explorers had their first and only violent conflict with Indians. At about that same time, Clark, on a southerly route, discovered an unusual, large stone formation on the Yellowstone River. There on that formation, Clark left an inscription, "Wm. Clark July 25th ," which can still be seen today. The separate parties rejoined in August back on the Missouri River, at the mouth of the Yellowstone. They continued on down the river, dropping off Charbonneau, Sacagawea, and little Jean-Baptiste at the Mandan villages. Traveling quickly, they reached St. Louis on September 23, The men of the expedition were welcomed as heroes. They had been gone so long that the nation feared they were dead. Remarkably, only one member of the group died. This was Sergeant Charles Floyd, who probably died of a ruptured appendix as the Corps of Discovery traveled up the Missouri River on its way to the Mandan villages. Lewis and Clark and the Mapping of the Continent The Corps of Discovery returned with a great deal of knowledge about the new United States territory west of the Mississippi -- the people, the land, the rivers, the mountains, the plants and animals. The expedition made important contributions to the mapping of the North American continent. Copyright Smithsonian Institution and EdGate.

Chapter 4 : Lewis and Clark : The Expedition of the Corps of Discovery

Lewis and Clark continue the journey up the Mississippi River to St. Louis and Wood River. Map 3: May 14 - June 2, ; Return trip: Sept. 19 - 23, Lewis and Clark enter the Missouri River and journey to the mouth of the Osage River.

Louis, Missouri, and across the river in Illinois. By and large, most of the members of the Corps of Discovery were strangers to one another. The youngest man, George Shannon, was 17 years old, the oldest, John Shields, was 40. The average age of all the men was 28. Clark had the men build a fort and cabins out of logs. He drilled the men, teaching them how to march in formation, use their weapons as a team and shoot effectively at targets. Most of all, he tried to get the men to respect military authority and learn how to follow orders. When they would later face danger on the frontier, there would be no time for the men to question the officers. During the winter, Meriwether Lewis spent a lot of time in the little town of St. Louis. Lewis had to gather more supplies and equipment for his journey, because there were so many volunteers that there were over twice as many men set to go on the expedition as he had originally planned for! Lewis also talked with fur traders who had been up the Missouri River, and obtained maps made by earlier explorers. On March 9, 1804, Meriwether Lewis attended a special ceremony in St. Louis. Two months later, on May 14, the expedition was ready to begin. Charles W. Floyd, Missouri, a week later. The party numbered more than 45, mostly young, unmarried soldiers. The civilians Painting "Lewis and Clark: The Departure from St. Charles, May 21, 1804" by Gary R. Lucy Courtesy of the Gary R. Travel up the Missouri River in 1804 was difficult and exhausting due to heat, injuries and insects as well as the troublesome river itself, with its strong current and many snags. The boats used sails to move along, but in going upriver against a strong current, oars and long poles were used to push the boats. Sometimes the boats had to be pulled upriver with ropes by men walking along the shoreline. They averaged 15 miles per day. Although there were some initial disciplinary problems, the men began to work together as a team, and to like one another. One man they especially liked was Charles Floyd, one of the three sergeants. Suddenly, on August 20, 1804, Sgt. Floyd got sick and died. It is believed that he died of a burst appendix. Floyd was laid to rest on top of a large hill by the river, in modern-day Sioux City, Iowa, where today there is a large monument to mark the spot. Floyd was the only person to die on the two and one-half year journey, even though great danger lay ahead. By October the Corps of Discovery reached the villages of the Mandan Indian tribe, where they built Fort Mandan near present-day Stanton, North Dakota, and spent the winter of 1804-1805. The Mandan people lived in earth lodges along the Missouri River. Their neighbors the Hidatsa lived along the Knife River close by. The villages of the Mandan and Hidatsa people were the center of a huge trade network in the West. Lewis and Clark were not the first European-Americans to visit this part of the country. During the winter Lewis and Clark recruited a Frenchman who had lived with the Hidatsa sometimes referred to as the Minnetari Indians for many years. His name was Toussaint Charbonneau, and the captains wanted him to act as an interpreter. Sacagawea had been captured by a raiding party of Hidatsa warriors five years earlier, and was taken from her homeland in the Rocky Mountains to the Knife River village where she met her husband. So Sacagawea would be invaluable because she could speak to her people directly for the explorers. On April 7, 1805, Lewis and Clark sent the keelboat back to St. Louis with an extensive collection of zoological, botanical, and ethnological specimens as well as letters, reports, dispatches, and maps. Members of the expedition who had caused problems were sent back as well. As the keelboat headed south, the expedition, now numbering 33, resumed their journey westward in the two pirogues and six dugout canoes. The Corps of Discovery now traveled into regions which had been explored and seen only by American Indians. By early June they reached a place where two rivers met. Lewis and Clark knew they needed to find the correct fork of the river. The only clue they had was that the Indians had told them that the Missouri had a huge waterfall on it. They led small groups of soldiers up each river, Lewis going up the right fork and Clark up the left, both looking for the waterfall. When they returned, both Lewis and Clark had decided that the left fork was the right river, even though neither party saw a waterfall. Although the rest of the party disagreed, they followed the two captains up the left fork, calling it the Missouri and naming the right fork the Marias River after a cousin of Meriwether Lewis. Sacagawea fell very sick, and the expedition moved slowly against the strong current of the river.

Lewis became impatient, and led a small party of men overland to see if he could find the waterfall--otherwise, they would have to turn back and follow the other fork of the river. On June 13, he spotted a mist rising above the hills in front of him. After a few minutes of walking, Lewis looked down into a deep ravine, and saw a beautiful, huge waterfall. He knew they were on the right river. Lewis scouted ahead and found that there was not just one waterfall but five, and that they stretched for many miles along the river--an area now known as Great Falls. The canoes could not be paddled upstream against such a current. They would have to be portaged taken out of the water and carried around these waterfalls. Sacagawea was well again after drinking water from a mineral spring. The pirogues were left behind by this point, so Lewis tried to put his special collapsible, iron-framed boat from Harpers Ferry together. He was very disappointed when the boat did not work, but Clark was ready to help by having two more dugout canoes made. Soon they entered the Rocky Mountains and saw incredibly beautiful scenery with tall evergreen trees. By August 17 they reached the Three Forks of the Missouri , which marked the navigable limits of that river. At this spot the Missouri was fed by three rivers, which they named the Jefferson, Gallatin, and Madison after government officials in Washington. They turned up the river named for President Jefferson and finally reached its headwaters, where the once mighty Missouri could be easily straddled by a man. Now that they had reached the crest of the Rocky Mountains, it was hoped that the headwaters of the Columbia would be nearby, and that the men could float and paddle their way downstream to the Pacific Ocean. However, they found nothing but more mountains stretching off as far as they could see. Lewis knew then, as he crossed the Continental Divide through Lemhi Pass , that there was no easy water route to the West Coast. Lewis, who needed horses to get his expedition over the mountains, was finally able to contact the elusive Shoshone, who had never seen a white man before. When Sacagawea came along the trail with her baby son on her back, she suddenly recognized the chief of the Shoshone, the man for whom she was supposed to interpret--and he was her brother! Although she got to see old friends and her family, Sacagawea did not decide to stay with the Shoshone. She continued with Lewis and Clark, her husband and baby, as the captains looked westward and hoped to find a way to the Pacific Ocean before the harsh winter weather set in. Winter snow on the Lolo Trail

Photo from National Historic Landmarks collection The explorers traveled overland on horseback, north to Lolo Pass, where they crossed the Bitterroot Range on the Lolo Trail ; this was the most difficult part of the journey. The men almost starved on the trail, and were lucky to stumble into the camps of the Nez Perce Indians. They treated the explorers with kindness, feeding and helping them, pointing the way to the Pacific. Lewis and Clark left their horses for safekeeping with the honest Nez Perce, and finished making dugout canoes. They floated down the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia rivers, portaging dangerous waterfalls and trading with friendly Indians along the way. They reached the Pacific Ocean by mid-November They had fulfilled the goals set for them by President Jefferson. Now they had to make it through another winter and return with their information. Fort Clatsop , where the explorers established their winter camp Photo from National Park Service digital archive Once in sight of the ocean, the expedition was lashed by harsh winds and cold rain as they huddled together on the north side of the Columbia River. It was decided to stay on the south side of the river, inland where the winds and rain would be less harsh and there would be more elk to hunt for food and clothing. In December the explorers built Fort Clatsop near present-day Astoria, Oregon , and settled in for the winter. Lewis and Clark accomplished considerable scientific work, and gathered and recorded information regarding the country and its inhabitants. The men spent most of the winter making clothing and moccasins out of elk hides, and trying to hunt for food in an area which seemed to have very little game. No contact was made with any trading ships, and Lewis and Clark knew that all the men would have to return to the United States by an overland route. On March 23, , the return trip began. After a tough journey up the Columbia River against strong currents and many waterfalls, the party retrieved their horses from their friends the Nez Perce, and waited in the Indian villages for the deep mountain snows to melt. After crossing the Bitterroots, Lewis and Clark decided to split their party at Lolo Pass in order to add to the knowledge they could gather. They wanted to be certain that there was not an easier way to cross the continent to the Pacific, and that they had not missed an important potential route or pass. Confident of their survival, Lewis went north along the Missouri River while Clark went south along the Yellowstone River. They planned to

rendezvous where the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers come together in western North Dakota. Clark took the larger group with him, including Sacagawea, her husband and son, and York. Lewis took along the best hunters and outdoorsmen, including George Drouillard and the Field brothers. This was the only violent incident of the entire journey. While out hunting one day, Lewis was accidentally shot by Cruzatte, a nearsighted member of his own crew. Soon after this near-disaster, the Corps of Discovery was reunited in North Dakota. They returned to the Mandan villages where they left Charbonneau, Sacagawea and the baby behind. Clark promised to take care of the baby, who he nicknamed "Pomp."

Chapter 5 : Early Missouri River Fur Trade | Discovering Lewis & Clark Â®

On May 14, , Clark and the Corps joined Lewis in St. Charles, Missouri and headed upstream on the Missouri River in the keelboat and two smaller boats at a rate of about 15 miles per day.

Writes to ask William Clark to join him and share command. July 4, - - Announcement of Louisiana Purchase. Summer, - - Large keelboat constructed in Pittsburgh, overseen by Lewis. After construction Lewis takes it down the Ohio River picking up Clark and recruits along the way. May 14, - - Expedition begins. August 3, - - Corps of Discovery meet with representatives of the Oto and Missouri Indians, give peace medals, 15 star flags and other gifts. Charles Floyd dies of a probable burst appendix. August 30, - - Friendly council with Yankton Sioux held. September 7, - - All of the men attempt to drown a never-before-seen prairie dog out of its hole for shipment back to Jefferson. Chief Black Buffalo resolves situation before any fighting. Expedition stays with tribe for 3 more days. October 24, - - Expedition discovers earthlodge villages of the Mandan and Hidatsas Indians. The captains decide to build Fort Mandan across the river from the main village. November 4, - - Toussaint Charbonneau, a French Canadian fur trapper living with the Hidatsas, is hired as an interpreter. His wife, Sacagawea, a Shoshone who had been captured by the Hidatsas and sold to Charbonneau, is also considered helpful as the Shoshones are said to live at the headwaters of the Missouri. December 24, - - Fort Mandan completed, expedition moves in for the winter. February 11, - - Sacagawea gives birth to baby boy, Jean Baptiste. April 7, - - Lewis and Clark send the keelboat and approx. The remaining party heads west. April 29, - - Lewis and another hunter kill a large grizzly bear, which had never before been described for science. May 29, - - Clark names the Judith River in honor of a girl back in Virginia he hopes to marry. June 2, - - The expedition comes to a fork in the river. Lewis and Clark believe the south fork is the Missouri, while all of the other men believe it is the north fork. Although they are not convinced that the south fork is the Missouri the captains recount; "they were ready to follow us any where we thought proper to direct. He also discovers four more waterfalls farther upstream. The expedition will have to portage over eighteen miles, taking nearly a month, to get past them. The expedition continues southwest, up the Jefferson. August 8, - - Sacagawea recognizes Beaverhead Rock and says they are nearing the headwaters of the Missouri, and her people, the Shoshones. Lewis and three others scout ahead. August 12, - - The shipment sent from fort Mandan arrives in the East and is delivered to Jefferson. Lewis ascends the final ridge toward the Continental Divide expecting to see plains and a river flowing to the Pacific, but he finds even more mountains. August 17, - - Lewis discovers a village of Shoshones and tries to negotiate for horses. Lewis and Clark name the site Camp Fortunate. August 31, - - The expedition sets out with a Shoshone guide called Old Toby, along with 29 horses and a mule. September 9, - - The expedition camps at present day Missoula, Montana, a spot Lewis and Clark called Travelers Rest to prepare for the mountain crossing. September 22, - - After nearly starving in the mountains the expedition emerges near present-day Weippe, Idaho. October 16, - - The expedition reaches the Columbia River. October 18, - - Clark sees Mount Hood in the distance, named by a British sea captain in , proof that they are near the ocean. November 7, - - Clark, who believes he can see the ocean writes his most famous journal entry: Terrible storms halt the expedition for nearly 3 weeks. November 24, - - By majority vote the expedition decides to cross to the south side of the Columbia River to build winter quarters. January 4, - - President Jefferson welcomes a delegation of Missouri, Oto, Arikara, and Yankton Sioux chiefs who had met with Lewis and Clark more than a year earlier. March 7, - - The expedition runs out of tobacco. They had run out of their whiskey ration the previous fourth of July. March 23, - - Fort Clatsop is presented to the Clatsop Indian, for which it was named, and the expedition begins the journey home. May - Late June, - - The expedition reaches the Bitterroot mountains, but must wait for the snow to melt before crossing them. During this time the expedition again stays with the Nez Perce, Lewis describes them as "the most hospitable, honest and sincere people that we have met with in our voyage. Clark and his group head down the Yellowstone River, while Lewis takes the shortcut to the Great Falls, and then heads north along the Maris River. On the rock face Clark enscribes his name and the date. They camp together, but the morning of the 27th the party catches the blackfeet attempting to steal their horses and guns. During a fight two of the Blackfeet were killed.

August 12, - - All of the parties are reunited downstream from the mouth of the Yellowstone River. August 14, - - The expedition returns to the Mandan village. Charbonneau, Sacagawea, and Jean Baptist stay, while John Colter is granted permission to return to the Yellowstone to trap beaver. September, - - With the current of the Missouri behind them, they are able to cover over 70 miles per day. The expedition also begins meeting boats of American traders heading upriver. September 23, - - Lewis and Clark reach St. Fall, - - Lewis and Clark are treated as national heroes. They return to Washington, D. The men receive double pay and acres of land as reward, the captains get 1, acres. October 11, - - Lewis commits suicide at Grinders Stand, an inn south of Nashville. December 20, - - Sacagawea dies at Fort Manuel. Clark, who is St. Louis, assumes custody of Jean Baptiste, as well as her daughter, Lisette. William Clark had married Julia "Judith" Hancock for whom he had named a river while on the expedition.

Chapter 6 : Timeline of the Lewis and Clark Expedition - Wikipedia

Lewis and Clark came spent time here exploring a nearby fork of the Marias River to investigate whether the Marias was, indeed, the Northwest Passage. (It was not, and they turned back, but in my opinion it would have provided a much faster route over the Continental Divide.)

Not from the paddling so much as from the gawking “staring up at the colossal spires rising from the sagebrush along the Upper Missouri River. The white cliffs are the size of skyscrapers and look like something out of sci-fi flick. Bulbous boulders sit precariously atop Stonehenge slabs, and banks of 1-foot slabs lean against the blue sky. These amazing cliffs provide just one of the attractions of floating the Missouri River below Fort Benton. Other than the cows. Here I was, thousands of miles upstream from St. Louis, Missouri, where the expedition set forth in to find a long-imagined water route to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark came spent time here exploring a nearby fork of the Marias River to investigate whether the Marias was, indeed, the Northwest Passage. It was not, and they turned back, but in my opinion it would have provided a much faster route over the Continental Divide. The Missouri River connects the settlement of Montana. Just 50 years after Lewis and Clark passed through, a lively paddlewheel steamship business began operating on the Missouri from St. Louis to Fort Benton, where pioneers began settling the upper West. Remains of the steamship docks and piers can still be seen around Fort Benton, reminders of our history. Rock formations on the Missouri River beckon you to explore. The trip gives you spectacular scenery and a big taste of Western history. Locals were upset about the monument, but on both sides of the argument. Fort Benton is a microcosm of most Montana towns, where traditional activities like ranching and farming collide with new-age ideals, shops and tourism-based businesses. Those social standards, traditions and cultures sometimes clash, and when the Upper Missouri River Breaks became a political issue with President Trump and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, Fort Benton residents quickly took sides. Some people cheered that status, as monument status for the upper Missouri River Breaks offered protection, while extractive industry advocates said the monument took away the ability to drill and explore for energy resources. Fort Benton is a charming Montana town, with a classic main street that fronts the Missouri River. You get the idea that the river is the heartbeat and pulse of Fort Benton. Certainly, it connects this remote landscape on the upper Missouri River. There are few bridges, and miles between. Two ferries downstream from Fort Benton carry one to two cars at a time. We paddled fiberglass boats back then, some of them built by legendary Missoula kayakers like Ralph Yule, and the last thing most of us wanted to do was bang up our boat, as that just meant an evening of repair work once we got back home. I was unable to get my hands on a flatwater boat for the Missouri River trip, so in the spirit of frontier adventure, I rigged two of my whitewater boats together in order to hold all my gear “and water. Water is your most precious resource on this float, as there are no running creeks along this stretch. The river banks in many areas are laden with cattle, and in places their filth can be seen floating out into what would otherwise be a clear river. Floaters drift through the lazy section of the Missouri River near Coal Banks. The mile trip would take us three days, with ample time for side hikes and leisurely camping. The first few miles of our float were fairly monotonous. Cattle grazed the shoreline and splashed in the shallows to keep cool. But soon the landscape began to change as we entered the Wild and Scenic portion of the upper Missouri River. Around each corner we could sense the changes coming. Sandstone cliffs jutted up out of deep coulees and draws. We craned our heads ever skyward to watch this amazing landscape drift past us “or were we drifting past it? After the first day, I was in the river groove. Most of the people we saw floating the river used canoes and loaded them heavily with gear “and water. Bizarre rock formations on the upper Missouri River. Aside from cattle ranching on the upper reaches near Fort Benton, the upper Missouri River is remote, silent and pristine. The river offers natural settings from the gigantic cottonwoods along the river, to the beautiful White Cliffs section, where the rock formations capture your imagination. The canyons and cirques that rise up out of the river beckon you to get out of your boat and go explore. With my contrived, two-whitewater-boat floating platform, I was a bit slower down the river than my companions, who had flat-water kayaks. Plus, as a journalist and curious outdoorsman, I take my own sweet time. So after a day of

waiting for me downstream, my companions moved on and just waited for me at the end of the day at the campsite, as I explored solo the canyons and trails where Lewis and Clark camped in May. Since no one — even my floating companions — knew my whereabouts, I stepped carefully among the prickly pear cactus and rocks. I hiked a deer trail up to the head of a cirque, and stopped at the base of a foot pillar to rest. Under me, I could feel the pulse of this high-desert landscape. The day drew on, and crickets began their songs. The sky deepened its hue toward evening, and I lingered as long as I could before I returned down the trail to the river. I would still have several river miles to paddle to catch my companions before darkness set in, but I felt like pushing it. I pushed off from the muddy banks and let my kayaks spin down the river. This was the Missouri.

Chapter 7 : Discover and Travel the Rivers of Lewis and Clark

They followed the Missouri to its headwaters at the Continental Divide and continued on horseback with canoes before descending on the Clearwater River to the Snake River to the Columbia River. On the return trip Lewis and Clark split to explore more before the Continental Divide.

May, 1804 – September, 1804 The Corps of Discovery departs from Camp Dubois at 4 p. The Corps of Discovery arrives at St. Louis of famous woodsman L. The expedition passes the small village of La Charrette on the Missouri River. Charles Floyd writes in his journal that this is "the last settlement of whites on this river". The expedition reaches the Osage River. Lewis and Clark meet three trappers in two pirogues. One of the men was Pierre Dorion, Jr. Lewis and Clark persuade Dorion to return to Sioux camp to act as interpreter. First trial in new territory. John Collins is on guard duty and breaks into the supplies and gets drunk. Hugh Hall to drink also. Collins receives lashes, Hall receives 50 lashes. Second trial in new territory. Alexander Hamilton Willard is on guard duty. Is charged with lying down and sleeping at his post whilst a sentinel. He receives lashes for four straight days. Reaches the Platte River, 100 miles from St. Louis. They hand out peace medals, star flags and other gifts, parade men and show off technology. Moses Reed said he was returning to a previous camp to retrieve a knife but deserted to St. Louis. Reed is sentenced to run the gauntlet lashes and is discharged from the permanent party. Sergeant Charles Floyd dies. He dies from bilious cholera ruptured appendix. He is the only member lost during the expedition. Joseph Field kills first bison. Patrick Gass is elected to sergeant. First election in new territory west of Mississippi River. George Shannon is selected to get the horses back from native Americans. A friendly council with the Yankton Sioux held. According to a legend, Lewis wraps a newborn baby in a United States flag and declares him "an American". Reach the mouth of the Niobrara River. The expedition drives a prairie dog out of its den by pouring water into it to send back to Jefferson. Hunters kill and describe prairie goat antelope. A band of Lakota Sioux demand one of the boats as a toll for moving further upriver. Meet with Teton Sioux. Close order drill, air gun demo, gifts of medals, military coat, hats, tobacco. Hard to communicate language problems. Two armed confrontations with Sioux. Some of the chiefs sleep on boat, move up river to another village, meet in lodge, hold scalp dance. Joseph Gravelins trader, lived with Arikara for 13 yrs. Pierre Antoine Tabeau lived in another village was from Quebec. John Newman tried for insubordination who was prompted by Reed and received 75 lashes. Newman was discarded from the permanent party. Met their first Mandan Chief, Big White. Joseph Gravelins acted as interpreter. Expedition reaches the earth-log villages of the Mandans and the Hidatsas. The captains decide to build Fort Mandan across the river from the main village. Rene Jessaume lived with Mandan for more than a decade, hired as Mandan interpreter. Hired Baptiste La Page to replace Newman. Fort Mandan is considered complete. Expedition moves in for the winter season. The Corps of Discovery celebrates the New Year by "Two discharges of cannon and Musick" a fiddle, tamboreen and a sounden horn. Thomas Howard scaled the fort wall and a native American followed his example. Lashes remitted by Lewis. Sacagawea gives birth to Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, the youngest member of the expedition. Jean Baptiste is nicknamed "Pompy" by Clark. Fort Mandan to Yellowstone River. The permanent party of the Corps of Discovery leaves Fort Mandan. The keelboat is sent down river. Left Fort Mandan in six canoes and two pirogues. Thomas Howard received a letter from his wife Natalia. He saw Big Horn Sheep and brought back horns. Lewis searched area thought it would be a good area for fort. Future forts were built, Fort Union and Fort Buford. Sacagawea calmly recovers most of the items; Clark later credits her with quick thinking. April 25 – June 3: Yellowstone River to Marias River. Entered present day state of Montana. Lewis and a hunter killed first grizzly bear. Called because of its milky white appearance. Natives called it "a river which scolds all others". Marias River to the Great Falls. The mouth of the Marias River is reached. Camp Deposit is established. Cashed blacksmith bellows and tools, bear skins, axes, auger, files, two kegs of parched corn, two kegs of pork, a keg of salt, chisels, tin cups, two rifles, beaver traps. Twenty-four lb of powder in lead kegs in separate caches. Natives did not tell them of this river. Unable to immediately determine which river is the Missouri, a scouting party is sent to explore each branch, North fork Marias, South fork Missouri. Gass and two others go

up south fork. Pryor and two others go up north fork. Clark, Gass, Shannon, York and Fields brothers go up south fork. Most men in expedition believe north fork is the Missouri. Lewis and Clark believe south fork is Missouri and followed that fork. Scouting ahead of the expedition, Lewis and four companions sight the Great Falls of the Missouri River , confirming that they were heading in the right direction. Lewis writes when he discovers the Great Falls of the Missouri. Lewis takes off on an exploratory walk of the north side of the river. Lewis shoots a bison. While he is watching the bison die, a grizzly bear sneaks up on him and chases him into river. June 21 – July 2: A portage of boats and equipment is made around the falls. Clark was the first white man to see falls from south side of river. As Clark was surveying route he discovered a giant fountain Giant Springs. June 22 – July 9: Construction of iron framed boat used to replace pirogues. It was floated on July 9 but leaked after a rain storm. The boat failed and was dismantled and cached July Established canoe camp to construct 2 new dugout canoes to replace failed iron frame boat. July 15 – August 8:

Chapter 8 : The Journey--Lewis and Clark Expedition: A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary

The Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum in St. Charles, Mo., also has replicas of the Corps of Discovery's white and red pirogues used during the journey up the Missouri River.

Our coverage of the Corps of Discovery Expedition begins in the south with the Ste. Additionally, we have included many of the sites that have been selected by the Illinois and Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commissions. The sites on this page are not a full list of Lewis and Clark sites in the states of Illinois and Missouri. Readers wishing additional information can use the list of links at the bottom of the page to further explore their interest in sites in these states. Lewis and Clark Sites in the Middle Mississippi River Valley The following sites listed in a general chronological and a general geographical south to north order. The captains noted the mistletoe on the large timber and to their surprise, caught a pound blue catfish. Their stay allowed Lewis to teach Captain William C. Clark the use of the navigational equipment; a compass and sextant. Because the 3rd Principal Meridian begins at the mouth of the Ohio, astronomical observations at this point were crucial. During these days the two Captains tried to determine the best location for establishing a military fort. The fort was abandoned the next year. Today, a wayside offers a dramatic view from the Missouri side of the meeting of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. An interpretive exhibit about Lewis and Clark is located at the Henry S. Whipple Park in nearby Charleston. Lewis saw an 8-foot, 2-inch tall horsetail plant growing in this lush bottom. Here, Lewis, co-commander of the expedition, left the keelboat to pay an official visit to Commandant Lorimier. This park features an overlook with a spectacular view of the Mississippi River and trails that lead through thick forests like those that Lewis noted in his journals. Genevieve County, Missouri On November 28, , Clark wrote "and after passing some verry swift water which was comfd [confined? Genevieve, once called Misery. Genevieve was relocated further inland because of frequent flooding and many of the buildings in the Historic District of Ste. Genevieve date back to the time when Lewis and Clark passed by. More than a dozen men were recruited here including members of the U. Army garrisons stationed at the fort. The Corps replenished supplies, took scientific readings, and gathered information from the local merchants and traders. Clark left with the men and the boats on December 3 with Lewis leaving on horseback on December 5. Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area Ste. Upriver from this point he noted "the highlands juts to the river and form a most tremendous Clift of rocks Genevieve, preserves these forested highlands and has an observation deck overlooking the Mississippi River. Fort de Chartres, once the French administrative center for the region and last French fort to surrender to the British after the French and Indian War, fell victim to the ravages of the Mississippi River. The reconstructed fort is now an Illinois State Historic Site. Cahokia Courthouse Cahokia, Illinois Cahokia was the first French settlement in the middle Mississippi Valley, being established in and for many years was the principal city in the region. Lewis arrived in Cahokia in December of , and made contact with the influential residents of this town located across the river from St. Clark arrived with the men and the boats on December 10 and waited for Lewis to return from St. When denied permission by Delassus to go up the Missouri River, the choice was made to set up winter quarters at the mouth of the Wood River, directly across from the mouth of the Missouri River. The Cahokia Courthouse is one of the few surviving human-made structures that Lewis and Clark visited. The mounds that Clark found have been obliterated, but similar mounds can be found at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. Museum of Westward Expansion St. Louis area in , the town was beginning to eclipse Cahokia in importance. Lewis spent most of his time during the winter of in St. Louis which served as a major source for supplies, information, and entertainment. The Expedition ended its journey to fanfare in St. Louis on September, 23, The site of colonial St. Just opposite the island is a hillside location that would later become Bellefontaine Cemetery. An obelisk marks the spot where Clark was buried after his death in , having spent his entire post-expeditionary career in St. It was here that the men built a fort for the winter, trained for the rigors they were to face, and developed into a successful military unit. The Corps of Discovery of St. Visitors can see reenactors engaging in colonial activities during special events. This 1-acre park is located on the north side of the Missouri River at its confluence with the Mississippi River north of St. Louis and 2 miles

south of where the confluence was in The Missouri Department of Natural Resources intends to restore a natural floodplain reminiscent of what Lewis and Clark might have seen along the lower Missouri River. This will include native vegetation and natural wetlands and feature forests, prairies, and marshes. Lewis attending to last minute business. Clark arrived in St. Charles on May 16, The men spent their time gathering more information, supplies, and attending dances in this friendly community of about French-Canadians while awaiting for Lewis. Charles at three o'clock after getting every matter arranged, proceeded under a gentle breeze to Breese Louis County, Missouri Fort Belle Fontaine was erected in on the site where the Corps spent there first night after departing Camp River DuBois, four and a half miles up the Missouri River from its confluence with the Mississippi. The Corps spent the last night of the Expedition at this garrison on September 22, , before departing for St. Louis to end their journey the next day. The statue was sculpted from a manganese, copper and bronze mixture by Glenna Goodacre who also crafted the design of the new Sacagawea dollar. The official site of the Illinois Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission features sites and events in Illinois, the history of the Corps in the state, links to area tourism sites, and additional resources. The official site of the Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission features sites and events in Missouri, links, and additional resources.

Chapter 9 : Lewis and Clark's Historic Trail

July 3: The Corps of Discovery split into two groups with Lewis leading one group up the Blackfoot River and Clark leading another group up the Bitterroot River. July Lewis's party heads back to the Great Falls of the Missouri.

Jefferson wanted to know if Americans could journey overland to the Pacific Ocean by following two rivers, the Missouri and the Columbia. Both rivers flowed from the Rocky Mountains, he knew; the Missouri flows east from the Rockies and the Columbia flows west to the Pacific Ocean. If the sources of the rivers were near one another, Jefferson reasoned that American traders could use that route to compete with British fur companies pressing southward from Canada. On February 28, 1803, Congress appropriated funds for a small U. S. Army unit to explore the Missouri and Columbia Rivers. Plans for the Expedition were almost complete when the President learned that France had offered to sell all of Louisiana Territory to the United States. This transfer, which was completed within a year, doubled the area of the United States. As a boy, he had spent time in the woods acquiring a remarkable knowledge of native plants and animals. Clark was born August 1, 1779, in Caroline County, Virginia. At the age of 14, his family moved to Kentucky, where they were among the earliest settlers. He also was given a list of questions about their daily lives to ask the American Indians that they would meet. Lewis and Clark reached their staging point at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers near St. Louis in December. They camped for the winter at the mouth of Wood River, on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, opposite the entrance to the Missouri River. The two captains recruited young woodsmen and enlisted soldiers who volunteered from nearby army outposts. Over the winter final selections were made of proven men. Lewis recorded that the mouth of Wood River was "to be considered the point of departure" for the westward journey. May to April The Expedition broke camp on May 14, 1804. Clark wrote in his journal: "We proceeded on under a gentle breeze up the Missouri. Numerous navigational hazards, including sunken trees called "sawyers," sand bars, collapsing river banks, and sudden squalls of high winds with drenching rains slowed their progress. There were other problems, including disciplinary floggings, two desertions, a man dishonorably discharged for mutiny, and the death of Sgt. Charles Floyd, the only member to die during the Expedition. In modern day South Dakota, a band of Teton Sioux tried to detain the boats, but the explorers showed their superior armaments and sailed on. On the north bank of the Missouri River, they found a grove of stout cottonwood trees for construction of a log fort. Standing close together, the trees also offered protection from the prairie winds. In four weeks of hard work, the men built a triangular shaped fort. Rows of small huts made up two sides; a wall of upright cottonwood logs formed the front. They named it Fort Mandan, in honor of the local inhabitants. The party was now days and approximately 1,000 miles distant from Wood River. The explorers spent five months at Fort Mandan, hunting and obtaining information about the route ahead from the Indians and French-Canadian traders who lived nearby. She had been kidnapped by plains Indians five years before, when she was about twelve years old, and taken to the villages of the Mandan and Minitari, where she was eventually sold to Charbonneau. Sacagawea spoke both Shoshone and Minitari, and the captains realized that she could be a valuable intermediary if the party encountered the Shoshones. They also knew that she and Charbonneau could be helpful in trading for the horses that would be needed to cross the western mountains. In addition, Sacagawea and her baby would prove to be a token of truce, assuring the Indians that the Expedition was peaceful. Clark later noted this while descending the Columbia River, "No woman ever accompanies a war party of Indians in this quarter. The boy became a favorite of Clark, whom he nicknamed "Pomp," citing his pompous "little dancing boy" antics. Lewis commented that he would "rather fight two Indians than one bear. During a fierce windstorm, the pirogue that carried important records and instruments began filling with water and nearly capsized. Sacagawea, who was aboard, saved many items as they floated within her reach. Near the end of May, the Rocky Mountains came into view. The explorers had to abandon the paddles and tow the heavy canoes with rawhide ropes while walking along the shoreline. When river banks gave way to cliffs the men had to wade in the water, pushing and pulling the boats upstream. In early June, the explorers reached a point where the Missouri seemed to divide equally into northerly and southerly branches. Here they spent nine days in concluding that the south branch was the true Missouri.

Lewis named the north fork the Marias River, and scouted ahead with a small advance party following the south fork until he heard waterfalls. The Indians at Fort Mandan had told them about the falls of the Missouri, so Lewis knew he was on the right stream. Here, in the vicinity of present-day Great Falls, Montana, the Expedition had to portage 18 miles around a series of five cascades of the Missouri. The men attached cottonwood wheels to the canoes to push them overland. The weather was hot, with intermittent squalls pelting the party with large, bruising hailstones. Transporting the heavy boats and baggage up the steep incline from the river and traversing the long stretch of prairie lands was an exhausting ordeal. Prickly pear spines penetrated their feet through moccasin soles, adding to the difficult and exhausting portage. After shuttling canoes and baggage along this portage for three weeks, a camp was established above the falls at "White bear Island. The plan failed when stitches in the hides leaked water. They had to abandon the framework and make two more cottonwood canoes. West of the Divide: July to November On July 25, the Expedition arrived at a place where the Missouri divided into three forks. The southeast branch they named the Gallatin, for the Secretary of the Treasury. The southerly one was named the Madison, for the Secretary of State. The westerly branch became the Jefferson River, "in honor of that illustrious personage Thomas Jefferson President of the United States. Learning from Sacagawea that they were now within traditional food-gathering lands of her people, Lewis went ahead to look for the Shoshones. In mid-August, he reached a spring in the mountains, which he called "the most distant fountain" of the Missouri. A brook at his feet ran westward and he knew he had crossed the Continental Divide. Immediately west of the Continental Divide, Lewis came upon two Shoshone women and a girl who were digging edible roots. Lewis gave them presents and soon they were joined by a large number of Shoshone men on horseback. Returning from this scouting trip accompanied by a number of Shoshones, Lewis rejoined Clark and the main party. The explorers formed a camp with the Indians a few miles south of present-day Dillon, Montana, which they named "Camp Fortunate. The girl had been with Sacagawea when both were captured, but had escaped and returned to her people. Sacagawea learned that her own brother, Cameahwait, was now chief of the tribe. It was an emotional scene when brother and sister were reunited. Thinking ahead to their return journey, Captain Lewis ordered the canoes submerged to "guard against both the effects of high water and that of fire the Indians promised to do them no intentional injury. With Sacagawea providing vital service as interpreter, a Shoshone guide was hired and trading with the Indians for riding and pack horses was successful. After a short stay, the now horse-mounted corps followed their guide, Old Toby, into the "formidable mountains. Here, they encountered fallen timber, bone chilling cold, and slippery, hazardous travel during an early season snowstorm. Descending the west slope of the mountains, they reached a village of the Nez Perce. Here, the natives provided a feast of salmon, roots, and berries. The ravenous explorers found, to their dismay, that this unaccustomed diet made them extremely ill. They built new canoes and proceeded through boulder-strewn rapids, making speedy but risky progress. Here, and also when confronted by the raging rapids within the Cascade Mountains that Clark called the "Great Shute," they again were forced into toilsome portages. On November 2, they drifted into the quiet upper reaches of tidewater on the Columbia. Clark, on November 7, wrote: For the next nine days savage winds blew, ocean swells rolled into the river, and the rain poured down, stranding them in unprotected camps just above the tide at the base of cliffs. Clark recorded that days had elapsed, and 4, miles had been traveled since leaving Wood River. They saw no ships upon reaching the ocean, nor as their records reveal, would any enter the turbulent river entrance during their four-month stay at the coast. In truth, the captains never seriously intended to return by sea, preferring instead to establish a camp close to the coast. There they hoped to obtain from trading ships "a fresh Supply of Indian trinkets to purchase provisions on our return home. An actual vote of the members was recorded, representing the first American democratically held election west of the Rockies that included the vote of a woman, Sacagawea, and an Afro-American man, York. Crossing the river, they built their winter quarters on a protected site five miles south of modern Astoria, Oregon, naming it Fort Clatsop for their neighbors, the Clatsop Indians. The men spent the winter hunting elk for food and for making elk skin clothing and moccasins to replace their worn buckskins. Lewis filled his journal with descriptions of plants, birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, weather data, and much detailed information on Indian cultures. Clark drew illustrations of many of the animals and plants, and brought his maps of the journey up to date.

Sacagawea joined Clark and a few of the men on a trip to the coast to procure oil and blubber from a "monstrous fish," a whale that had washed up on the beach. March to September On March 23, , the explorers started back up the Columbia in newly acquired Indian canoes. At the Great Falls of the Columbia they bartered with local Indians for pack horses, and set out up the north shore of the river on foot. Obtaining riding horses from various tribes along the way, the party reached the Nez Perce villages in May. While camped among the Nez Perce for a month, waiting for the high mountain snows to melt; the captains gave frontier medical treatment to sick and injured Indians in exchange for native foods. Retracing their outbound trail through the Bitterroots, they were turned back by impassable snowdrifts and made their only "retrograde march" of the entire journey. On June 30, they arrived at their outbound "Travelers Rest" camp, eleven miles south of modern Missoula, Montana, where they enjoyed a welcome rest from their toils. On July 3, , the party separated.