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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION  
THROUGH OREGON AND WASHINGTON 1805-1806**

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH OREGON AND WASHINGTON 1805-1806

Information in this document was developed by volunteers of the Oregon Archaeological Society's (OAS) Education Committee. The contributors included: Kathy Brophy, Sarah Brophy, Chelsea Browne, Mark Fitzsimons, Robin Harrower, Pam Lawson, Harvey Steele, Betty Tandberg, Dennis Torresdal, and Beth Walton.

Selected sites of the Lewis & Clark expedition through Oregon and Washington (see map below) are identified on a generalized map of the Columbia River (page 2), and accompanied by brief narratives. Additional reading materials and website links are provided to educators for more comprehensive educational instruction. The purpose of this document is to highlight certain sites of this famous expedition and entice teachers and students to learn more about Lewis & Clark with the aid of the materials provided herein.

As the Lewis and Clark expedition occurred 200 years ago these sites were chosen to both illustrate the varied experiences of the expedition members and to identify sites of archaeological importance to this region. The archaeological importance of these sites can be viewed in three ways. The site(s) may have been the location of the expedition's encampment (e.g. Point Ellice, Fort Clatsop), an Indian village, hunting or fishing grounds (e.g. Sauvie Island, Celilo Falls), or sites of trade and other activities with local tribes (e.g. Walla Walla River and the Deschutes River areas.) In choosing these sites the overall intent was to convey a general feeling of what it must have been like for the expedition members to travel through this area so long ago.

From the Fall of 1804 through the Spring of 1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a remarkable expedition through a portion of the current western United States that was largely unexplored, unmapped and unknown at that time. The expedition included a "permanent party" of 33 people, including Sacagawea, her newborn son, Jean Baptiste, and husband Toussaint Charbonneau.

## The Lewis & Clark expedition area through Oregon & Washington

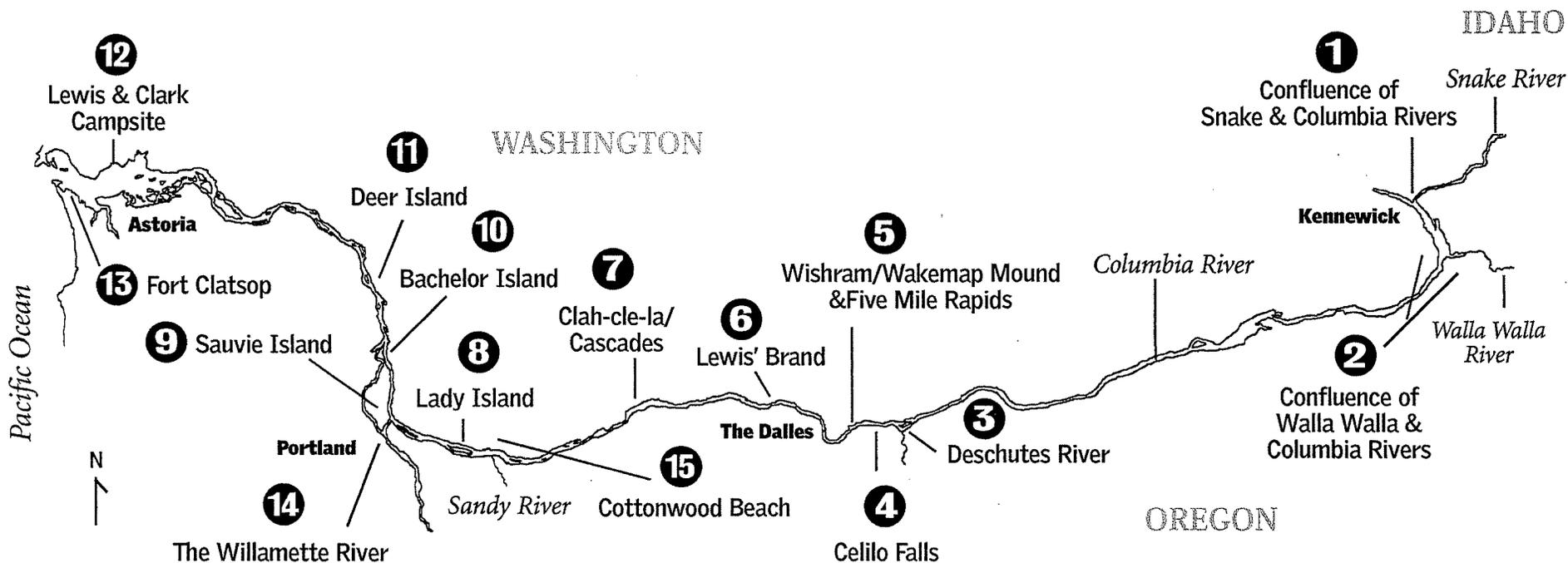
From start to finish, they covered more than 8,000 miles in a period of just under 2 and one-half years. Their travels expanded our knowledge of the landscape, plants, animals, and native people found in this territory. Their journals give us the full range of insight and understanding of what it was like for them to see this land before the pioneer settlements. To read their first-hand accounts is to be given a poignant gift of a time gone from our modern landscape.

Information used for the following narratives was obtained primarily from the Lewis & Clark journals, but other more recent historical and archaeological documents are also referenced. When quoting the journals no corrections were made to the spelling or grammar.

It is hoped that students and teachers will spend a little time reading the journals (which are available in most public libraries in Oregon) and other references listed here in order to learn of the extraordinary experiences of the members of this expedition and gain insight into the nature of this landscape and the Native Americans living here in the early 1800s.

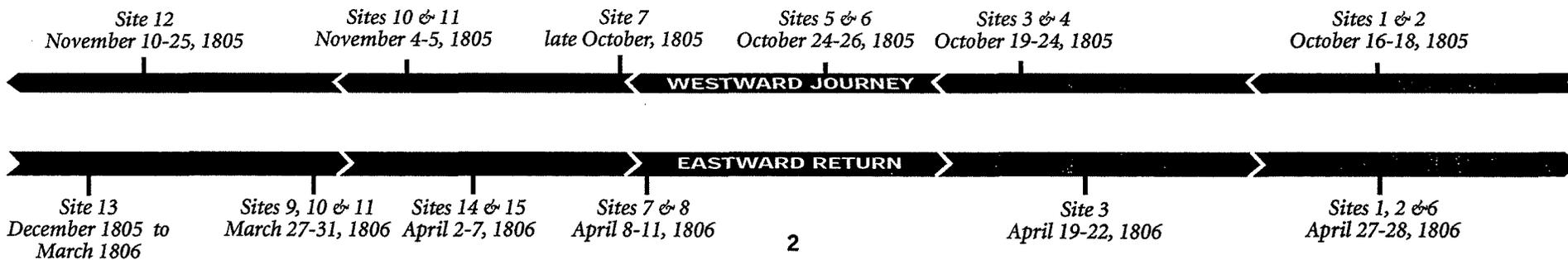


# LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION SITES ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER



## TIMELINE

*Dates on the timeline correspond to sites on the map above*



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

## Site #1 - Confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers

The Lewis & Clark expedition camped here October 16 & 17, 1805. During this stop, Lewis & Clark recorded sandstorms, daily high and low temperatures and other weather patterns in their journals. They also made celestial observations, and measured the width of the Columbia River at its confluence with the Snake River (575 yards).

At least 200 natives lived in the vicinity, including the Palouse, Wanapums, Yakimas, Flatheads and other tribes. Lewis and Clark described the native dress, ornamentation, and physical characteristics such as the straightened, or "flatheads", of certain tribal people, as well as their mat lodges and graves. Their journals also included details of tooth decay, eye sores and blindness suffered by the indigenous people.

Arriving at the height of salmon season the expedition members traded for provisions to continue their journey. They bought dogs and hunted, but chose not to eat the salmon.

Clark noted, "after we had our camp fixed and fires made a chief came at the head of about two hundred men singing and beating on their drums. They formed a half circle around us and sang for sometime. We gave them all smoke and spoke to their chief as well as we could by signs."

On October 18th the Yakima chief sketched the Columbia River and the locations of other tribes of his nation for Lewis & Clark. The expedition crew purchased more rations, and then, "proceeded down the great Columbia River".

This particular site is now underwater. McNary Dam pool and Sacajawea Park are the current land uses. Although few artifacts of this journey have been found, a Jefferson Peace Medal was discovered near the confluence of the Snake and Palouse Rivers.

- Kathy and Sarah Brophy

**Source:** The Journals of Lewis and Clark, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Newly abridged by Anthony Brandt. Published by National Geographic, 2002. Page 277.

Seeking Western Waters: the Lewis and Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific, by Emory and Ruth Strong. Oregon Historical Society Press, 1995.

Walla Walla Portrait of a Western Town, 1804-1899, by Robert A. Bennett. 1934.

## Site #2 - Confluence of the Walla Walla and Columbia Rivers

On October 18, 1805 Lewis & Clark traveled this area to "the great Columbia" and through "Horse Heaven Hills", where over 2,500 Indians lived and fished. The "Two Captains" rock peaks, named for Lewis & Clark (but originally called "Ki use girls" by the local Indians), are now known as "The Two Sisters" and can be seen from Oregon Hwy 730, about two miles south of US 12.

On October 19th and again on April 27-28, 1806, Lewis & Clark passed a site they christened "Hat Rock", where Clark, "... discovered a mountain of emence hight covered with Snow". Below Hat Rock they observed many Indian lodges, but only about 100 Indians. On the far shore the explorers observed a "fritened village" of Indians because a member of the expedition had killed a sandhill crane earlier that day.

During the return trip, the expedition was led by a Yellept chief and his men to a village that, "consisted of 15 mat lodges 550 indians they subsisted mainly on mullet, roots, salmon, and trout." Many of these Indians "had bad eyes (but) otherwise were dressed in much finery".

Lewis and Clark also purchased dogs, horses, canoes and other supplies from these Indians and then headed northeast following the Nez Perce trail toward the Snake River. The Nez Perce trail can still be seen in this area.

Today much of the land they passed through in this area is under water. Hat Rock is now a State Park located west of the junction of US 730 and Oregon 37.

- Kathy and Sarah Brophy

**Source:** The Historical Walla Walla Valley Articles by Dr. Chester Collins Maxey, President Emeritus of Whitman College. 1981, pg.34.

Walla Walla Portrait of a Western Town, 1804-1899, by Robert A. Bennett. 1934, pg.10-12.

The Journals of Lewis and Clark, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Newly abridged by Anthony Brandt. National Geographic, 2002.

Traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail, by Julie Fanselow. Falcon Publishing, 1998. Pages 217-241.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

### Site #3 - The Deschutes River

Between October 21-22, 1805 and during the return trip from April 19-22, 1806, Lewis & Clark passed by the confluence of the Deschutes and Columbia Rivers and Miller Island.

This was an area of great social and spiritual life for the natives. Extensive trading occurred here among tribes throughout the entire western US and parts of the Northwest, especially during the salmon runs. Members of the expedition observed dug out areas for mat lodges and burial mounds. The landscape was rich with rock art, however, none of it was noted by either Lewis or Clark. With the development of the Columbia River dams much of the rock art and other remnants of the native cultures of that time have since disappeared.

On the return trip Clark stayed in one of 23 lodges along the Columbia's north shore near the west end of Miller Island. Here he recorded local fishing and trading practices. Years later when the famous botanist, David Douglas would travel a similar route, he described the Indian's use of a "silk grass", called Spreading Dogbane, in the making of nets to trap fish. The Dogbane's fine fibers were twisted by the women into 2 or 3-ply cords and used for dip nets, seines, fish lines, bags and other similar tools. The rope for the nets was made from willow and cedar fibers.

On the morning of April 22, 1806, Clark hiked up a high hill, "... from which I could plainly see the range of mountains which runs south from Mt. Hood... I also discovered the top of Mt. Jefferson... Clarks [Deschutes] river which mouths immediately opposite to me forks at about 18 or 20 miles, the West fork [White River] runs to the Mt. Hood."

Clark had followed an old Indian trail on the north side of the Columbia River and, reaching the present day Maryhill Museum area, observed the dramatic landscape of Mt. Hood, and the Deschutes River as it enters the Columbia River.

- Robin Harrower

**Source:** Seeking Western Waters, The Lewis & Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific, Emory and Ruth Strong. Oregon Historical Society Press, 1995, pgs. 300-315.

### Site #4 - Celilo Falls

On the evening of October 22, 1805, the expedition reached Celilo Falls and the head of a spectacular but dangerous stretch of the Columbia River that extended for almost 55 miles. They encountered a great number of Indians here from which they were able to obtain filberts, berries, a dog, some fish, and enough wood to cook their next meal.

Baggage was portaged over 1200 yards of rough ground on the north side of the river with the help of horses hired from the Indians and there they also spent the night.

The people found here were Sahaptian, a different group than those immediately upstream. They are now regarded as a division of Wayampam. Gass, a member of the expedition, noted they lived in lodges made of bulrush mats.

On the morning of October 23, the expedition returned to where they had left the canoes and began their descent of the rapids and falls. They portaged 450 yards around the greatest drop of 20 feet on the Oregon side of the river, close to the present day boat landing at Celilo Park. It took most of the day to get the canoes safely down from their encampment of the night before.

During this time Lewis examined the wapato root, an important food for the local people. He also observed his first Chinookan-style canoe for which he traded the smallest of their dugout canoes.

- Mark Fitzsimons

**Source:** Seeking Western Waters, The Lewis & Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific, by Emory and Ruth Strong. Oregon Historical Society Press, 1995.

Undaunted Courage, by Stephen Ambrose. Simon and Schuster, 1996.

Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, by Patrick Gass. Ross and Haines, Inc., 1958.

Lewis and Clark Pioneering Naturalists, by Paul Russel Cutright. University of Nebraska Press, 1969.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

### Site #5 - Wishram/Wakemap Mound & Five Mile Rapids

Along the north side of the Columbia river, a distinctly different group of people, the Wishram, controlled an enormously productive salmon fishery. This fishery exceeded their own needs and provided a trade surplus for which they bartered with other tribes. Tribes from throughout the Columbia Basin, including the Yakima, Walla Walla, and Nez Perce, brought meat, berries, roots, animal skins, horses and other trade goods to exchange for the Wishram's dried salmon.

The largest of several villages along this stretch of the river was estimated to have 3,000 inhabitants at the height of the trading season. Along one stretch of the river, Clark counted 107 baskets of dried salmon that he estimated weighed 10,000 pounds.

On October 24, 1805, Lewis & Clark began their descent of the Short Narrows. After determining that a portage was impossible, the non-swimmers were sent overland with the valuable articles while the swimmers ran two series of rapids in the canoes. As that stretch of water would be considered Class V rapids today, on that day hundreds of Indians gathered to watch with astonishment as they made their run without incident.

The expedition camped that night at the head of the Long Narrows, near present day Horsethief Lake State Park. Gass, an expedition member, noted a village of comfortable wooden houses covered in cedar bark. This site, now known as Wakemap Mound, was excavated between 1953-1957 by the University of Washington.

On October 25th, the expedition negotiated the remaining rapids of the Long Narrows and proceeded to Fort Rock, at the mouth of Mill Creek where they camped for three nights. Here the party rested, made repairs, traded for food, distributed peace medals and celebrated with music and dancing. A nearby site, now called Lone Pine Village, was excavated in 1973.

- Mark Fitzsimons

**Source:** Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, by Patrick Gass, Ross and Haines, Inc., 1958.

Seeking Western Waters, The Lewis & Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific by Emory and Ruth Strong. Oregon Historical Society Press, 1995.

### Site #6 - Lewis' Branding Iron

In the early 1890s Capt. Meriwether Lewis' branding iron was discovered along the north shore of the Columbia near Memaloose Island. Linnaeus Winans of Hood River, Oregon, found the iron exposed among some rocks. Over time possession of the iron passed from Winans to Phillip Jackson who donated it to the Oregon Historical Society in 1941.

As so few artifacts of the Lewis & Clark expedition exist today this is a particularly significant find. Measuring roughly 4 by 5-1/2 inches and about 1-1/2 inches deep, the brand is inscribed with "U.S. Capt. M. Lewis" across the top and a large open rectangle below the name. Brackets on either side of the iron were probably handle attachments, but that part of the iron is missing.

Irons such as this were too large for branding animals. The Lewis and Clark journals indicate this brand was used to mark stops along the Oregon trail.

Lewis branded trees with it carving the date, and sometimes the latitude and longitude of the site, as they traveled through the Northwest. In a gesture of respect, the gravesite of Sgt. Charles Floyd, a member of their party who died along the way, was marked using Lewis' brand.

Many trees in Oregon were tagged with Lewis' brand. But these trees have all since disappeared from the landscape.

Lewis' journal of April 20, 1806 notes that some of his irons were bartered along with beads near the Snake and Columbia rivers. No doubt Lewis decided to barter the brand away as it was excess weight, had served its purpose and was not needed for the return trip home.

- Robin Harrower

**Source:** Oregon Historical Society Museum, Portland, Oregon.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

## Site #7 - Clah-cle-la/Cascades

Where the Bonneville Dam now stands, the Lewis & Clark expedition ran into a series of formidable obstacles in late fall of 1805 and early spring of 1806. First, the Columbia River narrows at that point into the "Great Shute", a stretch of impassable, tumbling, rock-studded water which forced a long difficult portage for canoes and cargo over slick rocks, made even more treacherous during terrible weather.

Second, the natives of the Shalalah Indian Nation (Clah Cle Le and Wah Cle Le Tribes, etc.), were generally helpful and respectful, but some of the Wah Cle Le who lived further west below Beacon Rock were described as "pilfering thieves". There were several confrontations over hatchets, clothing and a dog - which almost led to gun play on one occasion. A Clah Cle Le chief who was respected for his help, was given a small peace medal after his apology for "a small group of bad Wah Cle Le men".

Expedition members scouted the area as far as the west end of "Strawberry Island", now Hamilton Island, finding temporary fishing villages, burial grounds, flea infestations, and root digging areas.

The Clah Cle Le site, noted by Lewis & Clark as a temporarily abandoned village, was studied in the late 1970s and described by archaeologist Alex Bourdeaux as a "post-Bonneville slide area (less than 500 years old) seasonal fishing village of temporary large mat lodges and smaller dwellings". This site is now under the water of the tail race of the Bonneville Dam's second powerhouse.

- Chelsea Browne

**Source:** The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark From the Pacific to the Rockies, Volumes 7, 8 and 9, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

Oregon Archaeological Society sources: archaeologist, Alex Bourdeaux and OAS member, Harvey Steele.

## Site #8 - Lady Island

On the return trip from the Oregon coast in 1806, the Lewis & Clark expedition made several stops along what is now Portland, Vancouver, Camas and Washougal. They encountered many tribal villages and exchanged information and goods as they traveled back along the Columbia River.

Along Lady Island, near Washougal, Lewis & Clark both spent time noting native plants, animals and recording the dress and customs of the people found there. From the information on many of Clark's maps, recent generations of Native Americans have been able to establish proof of where their ancestors once lived.

Lewis also made the following journal entries about the native people on and near Lady Island, on April 9 and 11, 1806:

*"... they sometimes sink their houses in the earth, and at other times have their floors level with the surface of the earth; they are generally built with boards and covered with Cedar bark. most of them have a deviation in their houses near the entrance which is at the end or in the event of it's being a double house is from the center of a narrow passage. several families inhabit one apartment.*

*"... The women of these people pierce the cartilage of the nose in which they wear various ornaments... most of the women braid their hair which hangs in two tresses one hanging over each ear."*

*"... The men usually cew their hair in two parcels which like the braided tresses of the female hang over each ear in front of the shoulder, and gives and additional width to the head and face so much admired by them. These cews are usually formed with throngs of dressed otterskin crossing each other and not roled in our manner around the hair."*

- Pam Lawson

**Source:** Lewis & Clark Provision Camp; The Lewis & Clark Expedition, March 31 to April 6, 1806, by Roger Daniels. Published in COLUMBIA Magazine: Fall 2002; Vol. 16, No. 3.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

## Site #9 - Sauvie (Wappato) Island

Lewis first described this island as high, extremely fertile, and intersected with ponds that produced great quantities of wappato. Hence the name, Wappato island. The island also had a heavy growth of cottonwood, ash and sweet willow.

Returning from the coast, on March 30, 1806, the expedition briefly stopped at a canoe landing downstream from the villages of Clan-nah-quah and Mult-no-mah. Here, one of the natives identified the location of a village, Shotoe, across the Columbia. Upon leaving the island, the expedition was accompanied by several large canoes of natives from at least four different tribes. Lewis felt their principle objective was merely to indulge their curiosity.

John Ordway, an expedition member, said these people, as well as those on the coast, made "the neatest and handsomest lightest best formed canoes I ever Saw & are the best hands to work them."

At this time Lewis & Clark had more interaction with the Wappato Island natives than on the previous journey from November 4-5, 1805. As they passed Wappato Island they identified, named and recorded five Native American nations and one village site on the island, and at least three more nations near the shoreline of today's Multnomah Channel.

Although Lewis & Clark recorded eleven villages, it is now known that there were many more native sites on and around Wappato Island. Archaeological evidence indicates these villages range in age from roughly 3,000 years before present to the 1830s, when disease swept through the area and ended the occupation of Wappato (Sauvie) Island. The island was not inhabited again until the Hudson Bay Company and early American settlers began to use this land for agriculture when it then became known as Sauvie Island.

- Dennis Torresdal

**Source:** The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark From the Pacific to the Rockies, Volumes 7, 8 and 9, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

## Site #10 - Bachelor Island

After spending a sleepless night on November 4, 1805 at a "wet and disagreeable camp" near an island crowded with geese, ducks and swans which made "noise horid" (sic), the expedition proceeded west on the Columbia. They passed several villages, one (Cathlapotle) was described as 14 large compact houses stretching one-quarter of a mile along a slough (Bachelor Island Slough). Seven canoes of villagers came out to observe and trade with the strangers as they cruised past.

Lewis & Clark learned that word of their approach had preceded them down the river, bringing out large numbers of fearless and curious Indians wherever they stopped. In some cases, the Indians were pushy and troublesome as they attempted to pilfer from canoes and camps if not closely watched. Expedition members, therefore, did not visit many villages unless supplies were needed. They often paddled by villages camping after dark to avoid potential Indian problems.

On March 29, 1806 during the return trip, the expedition stopped at Cathlapotle (population estimated at 900), considered a major trading center on the Columbia River, for supplies. After being fed fish and wappato the Indians asked for gifts and were traded small items for needed wappato, dogs and sea otter skins.

Nearby Bachelor Island (excavated by OAS in 1972) was identified by Lewis & Clark as containing a village, however, they did not visit it. Cathlapotle was excavated in 2000 by a crew from Portland State University, under the direction of archaeologist Ken Ames. An extensive report on this project is available at: <http://crm.cr.nps.gov/archive/22-3/22-03-6.pdf>.

- Chelsea Browne

**Source:** The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark From the Pacific to the Rockies, Volumes 7, 8 and 9, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

Portland State University, Department of Anthropology.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

## Site #11 - Deer Island

The Lewis & Clark expedition traveled by Deer Island both going to (November 5-6, 1805) and returning from (March 27-28, 1806) the Pacific coast. Smaller than Sauvie (Wappato) Island, Deer Island was nonetheless part of a highly populated area of the northwest.

During one dinner stop, Lewis took a short walk and found the remains of an old village within the lower part of this island. He described this general area as, "A fertile land and a handsome valley crowded with Indians".

A large nearby village was identified as "Quathahpootle." It was opposite an area identified as Coffin Rock, the local Indians burial grounds. They roughly estimated the number of "souls" found here to be between 2,000 and 4,000.

Upon the expedition's return trip in March 1806, Lewis noted that between 9am and 10am he and other expedition members shot 7 white and black-tailed deer. The island was so heavily populated with deer, in fact, the natives gave it its name for just this reason.

Lewis also described the island as having large populations of waterfowl such as, Swans, ducks, geese, and other birds, including vultures. He recorded the physical characteristics of the birds, deer and other wildlife in detail while hiking through Deer Island.

By the 1830s the Indians were gone from this area, primarily having died off from one of several diseases that swept through at that time. Today much of the island has been flooded from the dams along the Columbia River. What remains of the island is now a wildlife refuge.

- Kathy and Sarah Brophy

**Source:** The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Volume 6. c. 1990, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, second printing, 1994.

## Site #12 - Lewis & Clark Campsite

On November 10, 1805 the expedition was forced to camp on the northern shore of the Columbia River near what is now Point Ellice in Megler, Washington. Raining almost continuously for fifteen days, with winds blowing so hard they felt it too dangerous to put out into the Columbia River in their canoes.

During this part of the journey, the men had been wet for so long that their leather clothes were literally rotting off them. All of their supplies and bedding were soaked, and they were trapped in a cove scarcely large enough to contain them. Their baggage was in a small cove a half mile away, and their canoes were at the mercy of the waves and the driftwood. To protect the canoes from being dashed onto the rocky shoreline, they were deliberately sunk with stones.

Encamped on a layer of drift logs, some 4 to 7 feet thick and up to 200 feet long, they watched this driftwood wash right up the 400 to 500 feet tall cliffs from which small pebbles dangerously, and constantly, fell. During high tide the logs shifted and floated around endangering everyone.

Unable to move from November 10-15, 1805, Clark noted, "About 3 o'clock the wind lulled, the river became calm, (we) I had the canoes loaded in great haste and Set Out, from this dismal nitch where we have been confined for 6 days passed, without the possibility of proceeding on, returning to a better Situation, or get out to hunt, Scerce of Provisions and torrents of rain poreing on us all the time--proceeded on passed the blustering point (Point Ellice, or as a Clark called it Point Distress) below which I found . . . a village of 36 houses uninhabited by anything but flees, here I met G. Shannon (an expedition member) and 5 Indians."

They stayed here until November 25, 1805. But up to this point they still had not explored the Oregon side of the river in this area nor had they found the future site of Fort Clatsop.

- Dennis Torresdal

**Source:** The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. November 2, 1805-March 22, 1806, Volume 6. c. 1990, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, second printing, 1994. Pages 37-48 and 49-50.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

## Site #13 - Fort Clatsop

Seeking calmer ground than that of Point Ellice, the Lewis & Clark expedition crossed to the southern side of the Columbia River. There they found a site sheltered from the wind and rough waters. That site is near the present day replica of Fort Clatsop, seven miles south of Astoria.

Named after the Clatsop Indians who lived nearby and traded with Lewis & Clark, this fort would be the expedition's home from December 1805 to March 1806. Living through periods of rain and cold, dogged by fleas, rheumatism and bad food, they worked to boil sea water for salt, repair equipment, trap and shoot food, and prepare for the return trip.

It was here where Lewis recorded extensive observations of the surrounding landscape, including nearly 400 species of plants, animals and fish - many not known before this time. Clark reworked his geographical observations and river charts to make an accurate map of the Northwest.

In January of 1806 a whale washed ashore further south of Fort Clatsop. Clark and several of the expedition, including Sacajawea, traveled to see both the coast and this "monstrous fish". Upon arriving little of the whale, except its skeleton, remained. The local natives had made quick work of the meat and blubber. Later, Clark was able to barter with a local tribe for about 300 pounds of the blubber.

In March 1806, the expedition set off for the return trip, leaving Fort Clatsop behind. Over time the fort deteriorated in the wet climate of the coast.

In 1955 local citizens and service clubs using Clark's maps and sketches, constructed a replica near the site of the original fort. In 1958, it became part of the US National Park Service and is now known as the Fort Clatsop National Memorial.

- Robin Harrower

**Source:** The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, November 2, 1805-March 22, 1806, Volume 6. c. 1990, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, second printing, 1994.

Fort Clatsop, US National Park Service.

## Site #14 - The Willamette River

Clark speculated that a large river had to drain the vast area between the Cascades and Coastal mountains. However, he failed to see it on the westward journey. But on April 2, 1806, a group of Indians told him of a great river they called Mult-no'-mah that discharged behind an island Clark called Image Canoe Island. The next day Capt. Clark, six of his men, and an unnamed Indian hired as a guide and pilot for the price of a "sun glass" (magnifying glass) canoed to this river.

The guide first took the party past his village, Ne-cha-co-lee, on the Columbia River near today's Portland International Airport. Canoeing further, the explorers entered the Multnomah (Willamette) River. Clark declared it to be one-fourth the size of the Columbia River, with a gentle current, yet deep enough for the biggest of ships. That evening somewhere between the present day St. Johns and Broadway bridges in Portland, they camped near an empty lodge that belonged to people from the Clackamas Nation.

At 3:00 pm the next day Clark pulled the canoe into the village of Ne-cha-co-lee. The village consisted of one long house with seven rooms, each about 30 feet square. Behind this house Clark observed the wreckage of five houses - all that remained of a once very large village.

The guide's father brought forward a woman who was badly marked with the scars of Small Pox. He indicated the villagers had all died of the disease that marked her face. Clark estimated this outbreak of small pox had occurred about 30 years earlier in an epidemic of the 1770's that devastated native populations across America.

In his journal, Clark wrote that other members of this village had reached a great age. He further noted that although many of the aged were blind, they were generously cared for by their families.

Clark had finally seen the elusive Multnomah (Willamette) River, and observed firsthand the tragedy of smallpox. All this was shown by one unnamed Indian guide.

- Dennis Torresdal

**Source:** The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, from the Pacific to the Rockies, Volume 7, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, second printing, 1994. Pages 56-61, 64-66, 69.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

### Site #15 - Cottonwood Beach

Lewis & Clark camped in this vicinity in early April, 1806 on their return trip from the Pacific Ocean.

Described as the lower point of a "handsome prairie" where the Washougal Woolen Mills now stands was the site of their provision camp for six days.

During that time they hunted and dried meat. They took extensive celestial readings and recorded the types of animals and plants found nearby. Members of the expedition explored the surrounding area for as much as 20 to 30 miles on both sides of the Columbia River.

Their diaries are full of descriptions of animals and birds such as ". . . the wood duck one of the most beautiful colored of all birds". Plants such as dentella (slender toothwort) are described as flowering in profusion along the Washougal and Columbia Rivers.

West of the original camping site is Cottonwood Beach, presently a Camas - Washougal Park located north of Lady Island. Much of the original landscape is under water today due to the dams along the Columbia River.

Activities commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark expedition are planned for this park, and an 80-acre wildlife refuge near the City of Washougal, Washington.

A nearby Lewis and Clark wayside is to become a destination point complete with canoe and kayak docks, observation view points and a steamboat landing. Other planned facilities at this site include a gravel trail, wetland enhancements, a plaza, a provision camp, a floating dock and pier, restrooms, picnic tables, shelters and tent camping. These facilities are under development in recognition and celebration of the Lewis & Clark bicentennial of 2004 through 2006.

- Kathy and Sarah Brophy

**Source:** The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, from the Pacific to the Rockies, Volume 7, edited by Gary Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

Seeking Western Waters: The Lewis and Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific, by Emory and Ruth Strong. Oregon Historical Society Press, 1995. Pages 258-270.

Traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail, by Julie Fanselow. Falcon Publishing, 1998, pages 217-241.

### The Columbia River and the Lewis & Clark trail today.

The Columbia River has been greatly changed since the journey of Lewis and Clark nearly 200 years ago. Dams built along the river have altered the landscape so that significant sites, such as Celilo falls, the Long Narrows and many others no longer exist.

The cultural and social landscape has also greatly changed during that time. Industrial and highway development, channelization and dredging of the Columbia, and natural forces of erosion and deposition have resulted in a riverine landscape quite unrecognizable from that of the early 1800s.

Yet despite all these changes, at many locations along this great river it is still possible to see some of the same landscape that Lewis & Clark observed, including rock art here and there, remnants of tribal villages, and certainly some of the indigenous flora and fauna.

Efforts are currently being undertaken by many state and federal agencies and non-governmental groups to establish parks, waysides and other activities that will help to keep alive the world of Lewis and Clark, the native people they encountered, and some of the remaining landscapes of the Columbia River.

To assist the reader with learning more about these activities please see the Lewis & Clark websites listed in the back of this document. Additional information on area museums and future archaeological activities along the Columbia river may be found at the OAS website: [oregonarchaeological.org](http://oregonarchaeological.org). It is hoped that readers of this document will visit sites along the Columbia River to see for themselves some of the same sites observed by Lewis & Clark during their remarkable journey.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION THROUGH THE OREGON COUNTRY 1805-1806

## About the OAS

Over the last fifty years, members of the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) have worked on archaeological digs and related activities throughout Oregon and southern Washington. Those volunteer efforts have aided professional archaeologists in recovering evidence of prehistoric human activities and early pioneer settlements in the Northwest.

Several of the sites mentioned in this document were excavated by OAS volunteers assisting professional archaeologists from area universities, state and federal agencies, and consulting firms. OAS members involved in these activities also contributed to professional papers, documenting artifacts recovered and identifying Native American activities that occurred at these sites. These documents can be found within the OAS library and are available to OAS members and the public for education and research.

OAS volunteers also work with local groups such as Fort Vancouver and the Clark County Museum to analyze and catalog archaeological artifacts in those collections. This greatly aids those at the museum and the fort in organizing the large numbers of artifacts found in these collections.

The OAS has also worked closely with area tribal groups for state and federal protection of Native American sites and artifacts. OAS continues to work with these groups to promote the protection of important archaeological resources.

Beyond Oregon's borders, OAS volunteers have participated in federal programs such as Passports in Time (PIT projects), Heritage Expeditions, Windows on the Past and Adventures in the Past. Volunteering their time has provided much needed assistance to professional archaeologists in Alaska, California, Wyoming, Washington and many other areas around the US.

OAS is a non-profit organization open to the public and counts in its members and supporters many of Oregon's professional archaeologists. OAS is committed to the study and preservation of archaeological sites and to expanding public knowledge of Oregon archaeology. Many opportunities exist to be actively involved in archaeology. If you would like to learn more about the OAS, please call 503-727-3507, or visit our website: [oregonarchaeological.org](http://oregonarchaeological.org).

## LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION READING LIST

The materials listed below include some of the references used for this document as well as other books educators may find useful when developing lesson plans on the Lewis & Clark expedition. The reading list has been divided into 3 sections based on reading levels. All of these books should be readily available through most book stores and public libraries.

### *Books for adult level reading*

**Arts of Diplomacy: Lewis & Clark's Indian Collection**, by Castle McLaughlin. University of Washington Press, 2003.

**Atlas of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Volume 1**, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

**Dear Brother: Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark**, by James J. Holmberg. Yale University Press, 2002.

**Handbook of North American Indians, History of Indian-White Relations, Vol. 4**, by William Sturtevant and Wilcomb E. Washburn. Copyright 1988 by The Smithsonian Institute, US. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

**Handbook of North American Indians, Northwest Coast Vol. 7.**, William Sturtevant and Wayne Suttles. Copyright 1988 by The Smithsonian Institute, US. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

**In Full View**, by Rex Ziak. Muffit House Press, 2002.

**Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery: An Illustrated History**, by Duncan Dayton. Knopf, New York, 1997.

**Lewis & Clark: Voyage of Discovery**, by Stephen E. Ambrose. National Geographic Society, 1998.

**Original Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, 1804-1806 Volumes 1 through 8.** Edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1904--05.

**Sacagawea of the Lewis & Clark Expedition**, by Ella E. Clark and Margot Edmonds. University of California Press, 1979.

**The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark, Through the Rockies to the Cascades, Volume 5**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 2002

**The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark, Down the Columbia to Fort Clatsop, Volume 6**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

**The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark, From the Pacific to the Rockies, Volume 7**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

**The Essential Lewis & Clark**, edited by Landon Y. Jones. Ecco Press, 2002.

**The Journals of the Lewis and Clark**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Newly abridged by Anthony Brandt. The National Geographic, 2002.

**The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Volume 5, July 28–November 1, 1805**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

**The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Volume 6, November 2, 1805–March 22, 1806**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, edited by Gary E. Moulton.

**The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Volume 7, March 23–June 9, 1806**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, edited by Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 1991.

**The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Volume 8, June 10–September 26, 1806**, by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, edited by Gary E. Moulton, University of Nebraska Press, 1993.

**The Lewis and Clark Companion: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Voyage of Discovery**, by Stephanie Ambrose Tubby and Clay Jenkinson. Henry Holt & Company, Inc., July 2003.

**Seeking Western Waters: The Lewis and Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific**, by Emory and Ruth Strong. Edited by Herbert K. Beals. Oregon Historical Press, 1995.

**The Travelers Guide to the Lewis & Clark Trail**, Julie Fanselow. Falcon Press, 1994.

**Traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail**, by Julie Fanselow. Falcon Publishing, June 2003.

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

*Books are for students ages 13-17*

**Fort Clatsop: The Story Behind the Scenery**, by Daniel J. Datillo. KC Publications, 1986.

**Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**, by Patrick Gass Ross and Haines Publishers, Inc., 1958.

**Lewis and Clark Among the Indians**, by James Rhonda. University of Nebraska Press, 1984.

**Lewis and Clark and the Image of the American Northwest**, by John Logan Allen. Dover Publications, Inc., 1991.

**Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery: An Illustrated History**, by Duncan Dayton. Knopf, New York, 1997.

**Lewis & Clark: Voyage of Discovery**, by David Muench. KC Publications, 1977.

**The Journals of Lewis and Clark**, edited by Bernard DeVoto, Mariner Books, 1997.

**The Lewis and Clark Companion: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Voyage of Discovery**, by Stephanie Ambrose Tubby and Clay Jenkinson. Henry Holt & Company, Inc., July 2003.

**The National Geographic Guide to the Lewis & Clark Trail**, by Thomas Schmidt, National Geographic, 2002.

**This Vast Land: A Young Man's Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**, by Stephen E. Ambrose. Simon & Schuster

**The Way to the Western Sea: Lewis and Clark Across the Continent**, by David Sievert Lavender. Anchor Doubleday, 1990.

*Books for young readers ages 5-12*

**Across American: The Story of Lewis and Clark**, by Jacqueline Morley. Franklin Watts, Inc. (Ages 11-12)

**Animals on the Trail with Lewis and Clark**, by Dorothy Patent. Clarion Books, 2002 (Ages 9-12)

**As Far As the Eye Can Reach: Lewis and Clark's Westward Quest**, by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel. Random House Children's Books, 2003. (Ages 9-12)  
**Lewis and Clark**, by Trish Kline. Rourke Publishing, 2003. (Ages 4-8)

**Lewis and Clark Expedition Coloring Book**, by Peter F. Copeland. Dover Publications, 1984 (Ages 4-8)

**Lewis and Clark for Kids: Their Journey of Discovery With 21 Activities**, by Janis Herbert. Chicago Review Press, 2003. (Ages 4-8)

**Meriwether Lewis and William Clark**, by Christine Maloney Fitzgerald. Childrens Press, 1991. (Ages 5-9)

**Native Americans Along the Oregon Trail Coloring Book**, by Joy Stickney. Weatherly Enterprises, 1993. (Ages, 5-7)

**Sacagawea, American Pathfinder**, by Flora Warren Seymour. Aladdin Books, 1991, 1945. (Ages 5-9)

**The National Geographic Guide to the Lewis & Clark Trail**, Thomas Schmidt, National Geographic, 2002.

**This Vast Land: A Young Man's Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**, by Stephen E. Ambrose. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003.

## LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION WEBSITES

### *Oregon*

[www.ohs.org/exhibits/lewis-and-clark-national-bicentennial-exhibition.cfm](http://www.ohs.org/exhibits/lewis-and-clark-national-bicentennial-exhibition.cfm) - For information from the Oregon Historical Society on the National Bicentennial Exhibit on Lewis & Clark.

[www.lcbo.net/](http://www.lcbo.net/) - Oregon's official Lewis & Clark Bicentennial website.

[http://www.lcarchive.org/or\\_lcthf.html](http://www.lcarchive.org/or_lcthf.html) - The Oregon Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

<http://lewisandclarkcoast.com/DTP/> - Destination the Pacific website of activities from Long Beach, Washington to Cannon Beach, Oregon planned for November 2005.

<http://www.nwrel.org/teachlewisandclark/home.html> - The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory website with Lewis & Clark educational resources for teachers.

### *Washington*

<http://www.washingtonhistory.org/wshm/lewisandclark/index.htm> - The Washington State Historical Society's website for information on their Lewis & Clark bicentennial activities.

<http://wa-lcthf.org/> - The Washington State Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

<http://www.wshs.org/lewisandclark/index.htm> - The Washington State History Museum website for information on Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities in Washington.

<http://www.lewisandclark-clark.org/> - Clark County Washington website for Lewis and Clark Expedition information and events.

<http://www.plankhouse.org/> - The Cathlapotle Plankhouse Project.

<http://www.maryhillmuseum.org/calendar.htm> - The Maryhill Museum website for information on upcoming Lewis & Clark-related programs.

### *Government agencies*

<http://www.nps.gov/focl/> - National Park Service website on the Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Clatsop, Oregon.

[www.nps.gov/lecl/](http://www.nps.gov/lecl/) - National Park Service, Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

[www.edgate.com/lewisandclark/](http://www.edgate.com/lewisandclark/) - For the Smithsonian's website titled, *Lewis & Clark Mapping the West*. This website has information on the expedition, cartography and maps, Indian country, and lesson plans for educators.

[lewisandclarktrail.com/nations.htm](http://lewisandclarktrail.com/nations.htm) - This link, from the Smithsonian website listed above, lists the Indian nations the Corps of Discovery encountered on their journey. It also includes links to more information on most of the tribes Lewis & Clark met along the trail.

[www.archives.gov/digital\\_classroom/lessons/lewis\\_and\\_clark/lewis\\_and\\_clark.html](http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/lessons/lewis_and_clark/lewis_and_clark.html) - Teaching With Documents Lesson Plan: The Lewis and Clark Expedition, from the US National Archives & Records Administration.

<http://www.lewisandclarkeducationcenter.com/> - NASA's website "The Lewis and Clark Project"

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/lewis-landc.html> - The Library of Congress website devoted to specific information on many aspects of the Lewis & Clark expedition.

*Other*

[www.lewisandclark.org/](http://www.lewisandclark.org/) - The Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

<http://www.lewisandclark200.org/> - The National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration website.

[lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/](http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/) - The Center for Great Plains Studies, and the UNL Libraries Electronic Text Center, offers access to the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition online.

[www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org/html/teacherresources.asp](http://www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org/html/teacherresources.asp) - The Missouri Historical Society's website. Extensive educational materials are available here for teachers interested in educational materials specifically developed for the Lewis & Clark National Bicentennial Exhibition.

[www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/) - For the National Geographic website on the Lewis & Clark journey. Educational material for students and teachers can be found here.

[www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/](http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/) - For the PBS website and extensive information on the Corps of Discovery, including a fairly detailed timeline of the journey. This site also has classroom resources for the educator.

<http://www.npr.org/features/feature.php?wflid=1609344> - For recent information on an artifact from the Lewis & Clark expedition.