

The Louisiana Purchase

Essential Question

- How did the Louisiana Purchase affect the nation's economy and politics?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

Conestoga wagon (p. 281)

secede (p. 285)

Academic Vocabulary

purchase (p. 283) authority (p. 283)

Key People and Events

Napoleon Bonaparte (p. 282)

Meriwether Lewis (p. 284)

William Clark (p. 284)

Sacagawea (p. 284)

Zebulon Pike (p. 285)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to describe the areas that Lewis and Clark and Zebulon Pike explored.

Explorer	Area Explored
Lewis and Clark	<input type="text"/>
Zebulon Pike	<input type="text"/>

American Diary

In this journal entry from May 5, 1805, Meriwether Lewis describes America's bounty along the trail: "Buffalo Elk and goats or Antelopes feeding in every direction; we kill whatever we wish, the buffalo furnish us with fine veal and fat beef, we also have venison and beaver tails when we wish them; the flesh of the Elk and goat are less esteemed, and certainly are inferior. We have not been able to take any fish for some time past. The country is as yesterday beautiful in the extreme."

—from the journals of Lewis and Clark

Lewis and Clark explore the lands west of the Mississippi River.

Western Territory

Main Idea As Americans moved west in the early 1800s, Spain and France made a secret agreement about land that affected American trade.

History and You If you have ever moved to a new city or state, what challenges did you face? How did you learn where grocery stores or your school were located? Read to learn about challenges that the pioneers experienced as they moved west.

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During the early 1800s, Americans moved west in search of land and adventure. Pioneers traveled over the mountains into Kentucky and Tennessee. Many also set out for the less settled areas of the Northwest Territory. Most of these pioneers were farmers. They made a long and exhausting journey over the Appalachian Mountains. Pioneers heading to the western lands had to trudge along crude, muddy roads or cut their way through dense forests.

Settlers loaded their household goods into **Conestoga wagons**, sturdy vehicles topped with white canvas. These westward-bound pioneers traveled with their two most valued possessions: rifles and axes. Rifles were

carried for protection and for hunting animals for food. Axes helped the settlers cut through the dense forests so that their wagons could travel through them.

In 1800 the territory of the United States extended only as far west as the Mississippi River. The area to the west of the river was known as the Louisiana Territory. This region belonged to Spain. It was an enormous area of land, anchored to the south by the city of New Orleans and extending west to the Rocky Mountains. Its northern boundaries remained undefined.

Many of the pioneers established farms along rivers that fed into the upper Mississippi River. They used the river system to ship their crops to markets. The goods they sent downriver were unloaded in New Orleans. The goods were then loaded onto other ships and sent to markets on the East Coast. If the farmers did not have access to the Mississippi River, then there was no way to ship their goods.

Even though the Spanish controlled the region, they allowed the Americans to sail on the lower Mississippi and trade in New Orleans. For the western farmers, this agreement was vital to their economic survival.

Primary Source The Journals

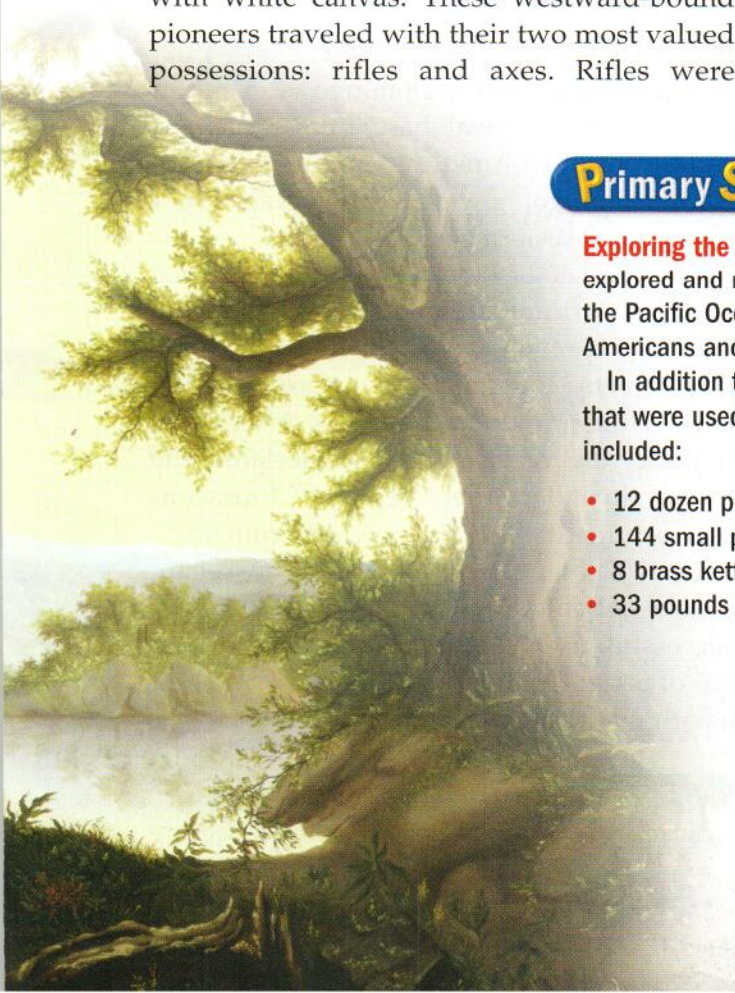
Exploring the West From 1804 to 1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explored and mapped more than 7,000 miles (11,265 km) from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean and back. During the journey, they met with many Native Americans and accumulated valuable information about the western frontier.

In addition to their travel supplies, the expedition also took along items that were used to trade or give as gifts to the Native Americans. These items included:

- 12 dozen pocket mirrors
- 144 small pairs of scissors
- 8 brass kettles
- 33 pounds (15 kg) of tiny beads of assorted colors

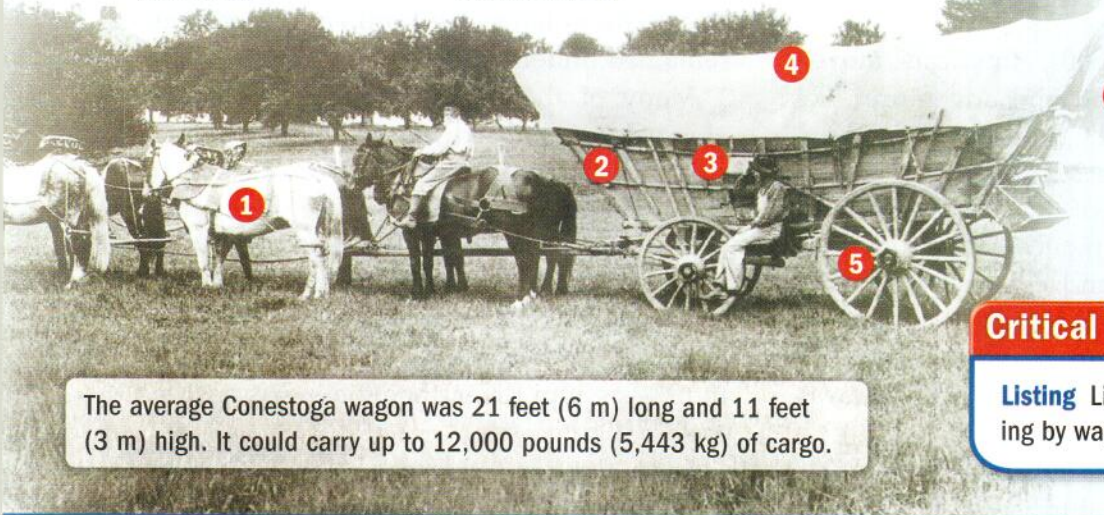
Critical Thinking

Speculating What challenges do you think the expedition might have faced?



Wagons to Go West Conestoga wagons were first built in the Conestoga Creek region of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. During the mid-1700s, these sturdy wagons transported settlers over the Appalachian Mountains. As people pushed even farther westward, Conestoga wagons could be seen rolling across the plains toward Oregon and California.

- 1 Six to eight draft horses or a dozen oxen pull the wagon. The driver rides or walks beside the animals.
- 2 The boat-shaped wagon's high front and back keep goods from falling out on steep mountain trails.
- 3 A toolbox attached to the side of the wagon holds spare parts for needed repairs.
- 4 A white canvas cloth stretches over the hoops, or wagon bows. This cover protects passengers and cargo from heat, rain, and snow.
- 5 Broad wheels help keep the heavy wagon from being mired in the mud.



The average Conestoga wagon was 21 feet (6 m) long and 11 feet (3 m) high. It could carry up to 12,000 pounds (5,443 kg) of cargo.

Critical Thinking

Listing List three things a family traveling by wagon will have to plan for.

The French Threat

In 1802, however, the Spanish suddenly changed their policy. They refused to allow American goods to move into or past New Orleans. President Jefferson confirmed that Spain and France had secretly agreed to transfer the Louisiana Territory to France.

Jefferson was alarmed. This agreement between Spain and France posed a serious diplomatic and economic threat to the United States. France's leader, **Napoleon Bonaparte**, had plans to create empires in Europe and the Americas. Jefferson believed French control would put American trade on the Mississippi River at risk. Jefferson authorized Robert Livingston, the new minister to France, to offer as much as \$10 million for New Orleans and West Florida in order to gain control of the territory. Jefferson believed that France had gained Florida as well as Louisiana in its secret agreement with Spain.

Revolt in Santo Domingo

Napoleon saw Santo Domingo as an important Caribbean naval base from which he could control an American empire. Events in Santo Domingo, however, ended Napoleon's dream of a Western empire.

The ideas of the French Revolution inspired enslaved Africans and other laborers in Santo Domingo to revolt against the island's plantation owners. Toussaint-Louverture (TOO•SA LOO•vuhr•TYUR) led the rebels. After fierce fighting, the rebels won and declared the colony an independent republic. Toussaint-Louverture established a new government.

In 1802 Napoleon sent troops to regain control of Santo Domingo, but they were not successful. By 1804, the French were driven out of Santo Domingo. The country regained its original name of Haiti.

Reading Check **Explaining** Why did French control of the Louisiana Territory worry Jefferson?

The Nation Expands

Main Idea The Louisiana Purchase opened a vast area to exploration and settlement.

History and You Imagine you are preparing to lead an expedition to explore new lands. Who would you travel with? What would you like to research? Read about the exploration of the Louisiana Territory.

Without Santo Domingo, Napoleon had little use for Louisiana. Napoleon, however, needed money to finance his plans for war against Britain. The French believed that it was time to sell the Louisiana Territory.

French foreign minister Charles de Talleyrand informed the American diplomats that the entire Louisiana Territory was for sale. Robert Livingston and James Monroe, who was Jefferson's new special representative, were taken completely by surprise. They were not authorized to accept such an offer. The deal, however, was too good to pass up. After a few days of negotiation, the parties agreed on a price of \$15 million.

The new territory would provide cheap and abundant land for farmers for future generations and give the United States control of the Mississippi River. Jefferson worried, though, about whether the **purchase** was legal. The Constitution said nothing about acquiring new territory. By what **authority**, or power, could he justify the purchase? Livingston wrote from Paris. He urged Jefferson to accept the deal before Napoleon changed his mind. Jefferson decided the government's treaty-making powers allowed the purchase of the new territory. The Senate approved it in October 1803. The size of the United States doubled.

Lewis and Clark

Little was known about the newly acquired land west of the Mississippi. Even before the deal was complete, Jefferson had been making plans to learn more about the western territory. He persuaded Congress to sponsor an expedition to gather information about the new land. Jefferson was particularly interested in the expedition as a scientific venture.

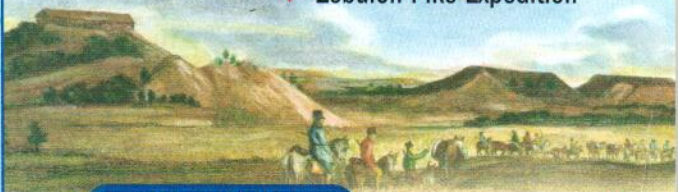
Louisiana Purchase and Westward Expansion



"The great objects in view . . . were to . . . acquire such geographical knowledge of the southwestern boundary of Louisiana as to enable our Government to enter into a definite arrangement for a line of demarcation between that territory and North Mexico."

—Lt. Zebulon Pike, 1806

▼ Zebulon Pike Expedition



Map Skills

Movement Why did the expedition travel so far north into the territory?

Maps in Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

People IN HISTORY



Sacagawea

Shoshone Interpreter

Sacagawea, the daughter of a Shoshone chief, was kidnapped by the Hidatsa when she was a young girl. Later, she was sold to a French Canadian fur trader who married her.

The couple brought along their infant son when they were hired as interpreters by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark for their expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

Sacagawea made herself invaluable. She negotiated the purchases of horses, found edible wild plants, and made moccasins and clothing. Clark wrote that her presence alone calmed fears among Native Americans:

William Clark's journal ▼



"The sight of This Indian woman . . . confirmed those people of our friendly intentions, as no woman ever accompanies a war party of Indians in this quarter [region]."

—from the journals of Lewis and Clark

CRITICAL Thinking

Theorizing What challenges might the expedition have faced without Sacagawea?

The expedition would document findings about the territory's plants and animals and recommend sites for future forts.

The expedition was also responsible for finding and mapping the fabled "Northwest Passage." In order to trade with Asia, Europeans had to sail around Africa. The route was time-consuming and costly, so European explorers searched, unsuccessfully, for a more direct route. Once the Americas were colonized, Americans and Europeans continued to sail around Africa or around the tip of South America in order to reach Asia. It became more important than ever to find a water route across North America.

To head the expedition, Jefferson chose **Meriwether Lewis**, his 28-year-old private secretary. During the Whiskey Rebellion, Lewis joined the militia and had been in the army since that time. The expedition's coleader was **William Clark**. Clark was 32 years old and a friend of Lewis's.

Both Lewis and Clark were well-informed amateur scientists. They both had conducted business with Native Americans. Together they assembled a crew of expert river men, gunsmiths, carpenters, scouts, and a cook. Two men of mixed Native American and French heritage served as interpreters. An African American named York was also a member of the group.

The expedition left St. Louis in the spring of 1804 and worked its way up the Missouri River. Lewis and Clark kept a journal and made notes on what they saw and did.

Along their journey, the members of the expedition encountered many Native American groups. One young Shoshone woman named **Sacagawea** (SA•kuh•juh•WEE•uh) joined their group as a guide. After 18 months and nearly 4,000 miles (6,437 km), Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean. They spent the winter there, and then both explorers headed back east along separate routes.

The expedition returned in September 1806. Lewis and Clark collected valuable information about people, plants, animals, and the geography of the West. Perhaps most important, their journey inspired people to move westward.

Pike's Expedition

Jefferson sent others to explore the wilderness in addition to Lewis and Clark. Lieutenant **Zebulon Pike** led two expeditions between 1805 and 1807. He traveled through the upper Mississippi River valley and into present-day Colorado. In Colorado he found a snowcapped mountain he called Grand Peak, known today as Pikes Peak. Americans learned about the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains from his travels. Pike also mapped part of the Rio Grande and traveled across northern Mexico and what is now southern Texas.

Federalists Plan to Secede

Many Federalists opposed the Louisiana Purchase. They feared that states created from the territory would be Republican and the Federalists would lose power. A group of Federalists in Massachusetts plotted to **secede**, or withdraw, from the Union. New England would become the "Northern Confederacy."

The plotters wanted their plan to be successful. They realized that the Northern Confederacy would have to include New York. The Massachusetts Federalists needed a powerful friend in that state who would support their plan. They turned to Aaron Burr. The Republicans cast aside Burr when he refused to withdraw from the 1800 election. The Federalists gave Burr their support when he ran for governor of New York in 1804.

Burr and Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton had never trusted Aaron Burr. Now Hamilton was concerned about rumors of secession. He heard that Burr had secretly agreed to lead New York out of the Union. Hamilton accused Burr of plotting treason. When Burr lost the election for governor, he blamed Hamilton and challenged him to a duel. In July 1804, the two men—armed with pistols—met in Weehawken, New Jersey. Hamilton hated dueling and pledged not to shoot at his rival. Burr, however, aimed to hit Hamilton and shot him. Hamilton was seriously wounded and died the next day. Burr fled to avoid arrest.

 **Reading Check** **Summarizing** Why did France sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

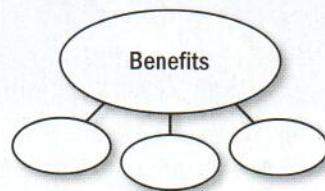
1. Define each of the following terms: **Conestoga wagon**, **purchase**, **authority**, **secede**.

Main Ideas

2. **Specifying** How did the secret agreement between Spain and France affect American settlers?
3. **Summarizing** Discuss the reaction of the Federalists to the Louisiana Purchase.

Critical Thinking

4. **Organizing** Create a graphic organizer like the one below that lists the benefits of acquiring the Louisiana Territory.



5. **Creative Writing** You are the cook on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Write a one-paragraph diary entry that describes the crew and how you feel about the trip so far.

6. Answer the Essential Question

How did the Louisiana Purchase affect the nation's economy and politics?