

Louisiana Purchase

- The U.S. was growing and prospering
- The land west of the Mississippi River was known as Louisiana
- It was owned by Spain then by France
- Napoleon (the dictator of France) wanted to begin a new French empire in the west (Louisiana and Haiti)
- He lost control of Haiti and decided there was no reason to keep Louisiana
- In 1803 Jefferson sent Monroe to France to persuade Napoleon to sell part of the Louisiana to the U.S.
- Instead of only part of Napoleon he sold all of the territory to the U.S. on April 30, 1803 for \$15 million (about 3 cents an acre)
 - This more then doubled the size of the U.S. and included the area from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains
 - very little was known about this area

Lewis and Clark

- Thomas Jefferson had been interested in exploring the Louisiana Territory and chose 27 year old Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition
 - Lewis chose William Clark to co-lead the expedition with him

Goals of the expedition:

1. Find an all water route to the Pacific Ocean
2. Establish relationships and open up trade with the American Indians
3. Collect information on the land, animals and plants in the territory
4. Create maps
5. Record a detailed account of what they found

Expedition

May 1804-left from St Louis with supplies and about 30 men

Oct-arrived in the Mandan Villages (North Dakota) spent the winter there

Spring 1805-continued up the Missouri River in canoes

- Charbanneau and his wife Sacagawea joined them (she would help navigate and translate)

Summer 1805-reached the Rocky Mountains and the Shoshone Indians guided them across the mountains

Fall 1805-reached the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. Stayed the winter there.

Sept 1806- returned to St Louis

Results:

- scientific information
- reports from the West
- accurate maps of the territory
- no all water route across the country

Pike's Expedition

-In 1806 Zebulon Pike left from St. Louis on a Southern route to find the source of the Arkansas and Red Rivers

-Headed across the Great Plains and into Spanish territory where they were arrested and accused of being spies

-They were released and returned to the U.S. in 1807

Results:

- Never explored the Red River
- Brought back information on the Great Plains and the Rio Grande River.

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Results:

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