

Language Arts Extensions

- Introduce the Kentucky focus of the Lewis & Clark story with the worksheet, “The Famous Explorers Met in Kentucky: A Lewis & Clark Order-the-Story Activity,” attached. (P/E)
- Given a newspaper template and an excerpt from a historic paper, students may title and illustrate the front page of a newspaper heralding Lewis & Clark’s return to Louisville in November 1806, writing their own story about the adventure for page 2. See the “Be a Newspaper Editor in 1806!” worksheet, attached. (E/M)
Find a few other secondary source examples on the “Old Newspaper Accounts Regarding Lewis & Clark” page of the Library of Congress Web site, “Lewis & Clark on the Information Superhighway:”
www.lcarchive.org/newspapers.html
- After reading Lewis’s detailed descriptions in the journals, ask students to write a 1,000-word description of a plant or animal that they have directly observed. (E/M/H)
- How did we imagine the West before Lewis & Clark? Investigate Thomas Jefferson’s speculations about the West—woolly mammoths, mountains of salt, and erupting volcanoes. Ask students to write a narrative piece to describe the fantasy of the unknown places. A visual arts extension could bring the fantasy landscapes in their imagination to life through illustration. (E/M/H)
- Did Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor keep a journal? The captains required the squad leaders to do so, and Sergeant Floyd wrote in a journal until his untimely death. Students will “find” Pryor’s lost literary record of the Expedition, and the entries (written by the student) will tell of this Kentuckian’s experiences. What did he say about his cousin’s death on the Trail? How did he tell the story of losing his horses to thieves on his important mission to the Mandan villages in August 1806? (E/M/H)
- How do you communicate with English, French, dozens of Indian languages, and sign language in the mix? Try the “Language Chain” activity on the PBS Web site: http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/class/idx_lan.html (E/M)
- Have some Translation Fun! Pull excerpts from the Expedition journals and ask students to rewrite the text, correcting misspelled words and sentence structure and deciphering the meaning. For example, see this before and after of Charles Floyd’s sentence from August 16, 1804:
Capt Lewis and 12 of his men went to the Creek a fishen Caut 709 fish Differnt Coindes

Captain Lewis and 12 of his men went to the creek a-fishin’ (or “fishing”). They caught 709 fish of different kinds.

The Famous Explorers Met in Kentucky

A Lewis & Clark Order-the-Story Activity

Read each of the sentences below and decide the best order to make a story. Number each sentence from 1 to 7.

_____ President Thomas Jefferson asked Meriwether Lewis to explore new land in the West.

_____ A welcome home party was held at Locust Grove in Louisville on November 6, 1806.

_____ Lewis, Clark, York, and the Kentucky men launched the boats on October 26, 1803, and headed West.

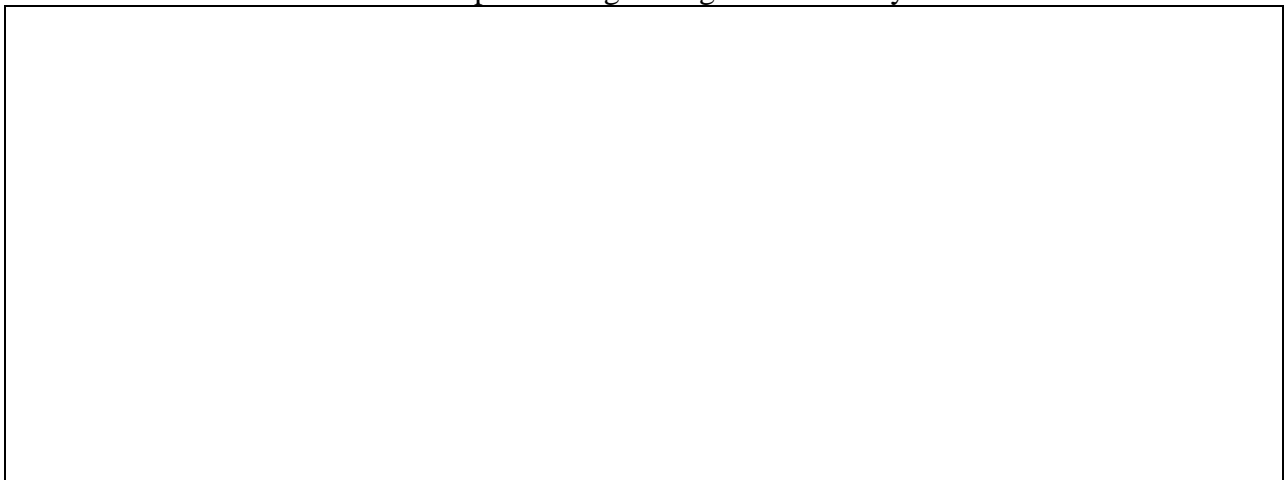
_____ William Clark lived in Kentucky and Indiana Territory, and he looked around his community for good hunters and brave men to join the “Corps of Discovery.”

_____ Captain Lewis picked William Clark to help him lead the Expedition, and William Clark told his slave, York, that he would be going with the explorers.

_____ Lewis brought boats down the Ohio River and met Clark and York in Louisville on October 14, 1803.

_____ After three years and 9,000 miles of travel, Lewis, Clark, and York came back to Kentucky.

Draw a picture to go along with this story.



Be a Newspaper Editor in 1806!

Newspapers were the first way that Americans learned about the amazing stories of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, even though it took weeks for “news” to reach the newspaper, be printed, and be distributed throughout the states. Louisville newspapers, the *Palladium* and the *Western World*, were the first to carry many of the stories about the Expedition, but sometimes what they were printing was more like gossip than a true account of the details.

Read the copy of an actual article in the *Palladium* on October 2, 1806. We have “reprinted” it in our issue. This was the *very first* newspaper report of Lewis & Clark’s return from the West! It’s not very exciting, is it? Do you think it is totally accurate?

Today, newspapers look very different, and big news like the Lewis & Clark Expedition could fill the front page. Compare this article from the *Palladium* with a major story in a newspaper today.

You can become the editor of this imaginary November 6, 1806, edition of the *Palladium* and layout a page that you think will attract readers.

Step 1: Choose one of the four **headlines**, write it on a strip of paper, and place it on top.

Explorers Once Thought Dead Now Home
Lewis & Clark Return from Pacific Adventure
Kentucky Heroes Home from Expedition
Corps of Discovery Live to Tell Secrets of West

Which headline would sell the most papers?

(Newspapers in 1806 didn’t have big, eye-catching headlines, but yours can!)

Step 2: Choose one of the four **captions** to paste in the appropriate spot, then draw a **picture** to go along with the caption in the blank box. This will dress the page up. Your choices are:

Before arriving in Louisville, Capt. Lewis studied fossils at Big Bone Lick, but no woolly mammoths were found in the West.

Last evening, William and Lucy Croghan (sister of Capt. Clark) hosted a welcome home dinner for the explorers at their Locust Grove estate.

Chief Big White of the Mandan nation of the Great Plains arrived in Louisville with the explorers, his wife Yellow Corn, and their children.

This was the scene on October 14, 1803, when the much-anticipated flotilla arrived in Louisville to recruit hunters and woodsmen for the Expedition.

(Newspapers wouldn’t *really* be illustrated for another 50 years or so, but remember, we’re just pretending!)

Step 3: Select the **second page story**. Choose from one of the four titles below or create your own. Write the story and add illustrations if you like. What “angle” do you think readers would find most interesting?

Local Man Is Only Explorer to Die on Expedition
Harrowing Accounts of Grizzlies, Raging Falls & Indians
Trapper’s Dream! Western Lands Rich with Beaver
Direct River Route Not as President Hoped

(Newspapers in 1806 didn’t have descriptive titles for articles the way newspapers do today. Just look at the “Title” on the October 2 article!)

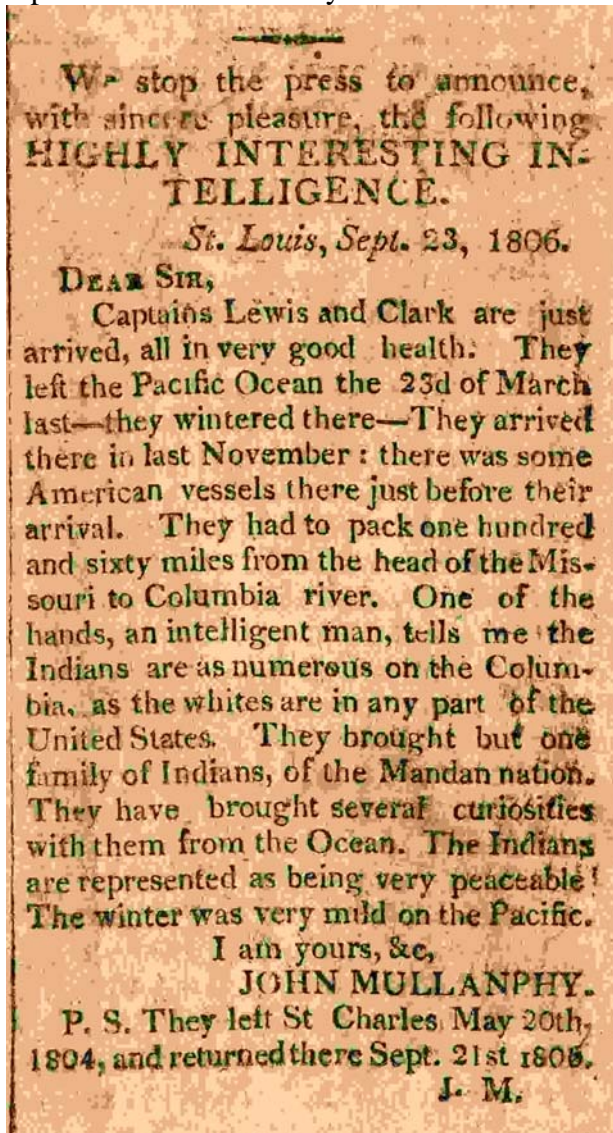
Step 4: Stand back and admire your work! You have created the front page!

Palladium

Louisville, KY
November 9, 1806

[Choose one headline and place it here.]

We first reported to you on the breaking news of the return of Captains Lewis and Clark in our edition of October 2. Here is a reprint of this earlier story.



Courtesy of Filson Historical Society.

As more information comes to light we can, in fact, report that the actual distance between the mouth of the Missouri and the Columbia is 240 miles, and 140 of those

miles are over a treacherous mountain path. These precise calculations have been made by our own William Clark, the Expedition's mapmaker and co-commander, who also corrects the statement that the winter on the Pacific was "mild." According to the captain, winter at Fort Clatsop was most disagreeable. In a report typical of those three months near the sea, Captain Clark wrote: "The winds violent Trees falling in every derection, whorl winds, with gusts of rain Hail & Thunder, this kind of weather lasted all day, Certainly one of the worst days that ever was!"

It was in this last fortification along the Trail that Captain Clark put his final touches on his most important map to the Pacific, and the co-commanders realized that they had, indeed, "found the most practicable and navigable passage across the continent of North America," as Captain Lewis has written.



[choose a caption for this spot and draw a picture to go along with it above]

Read another Expedition story on p. 2

