

Hook Statement**Lewis and Clark**

The Lewis and Clark Expedition is one of the most iconic explorations in American history. In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, with their team of Naturalists, began a journey starting near St. Louis to explore the Louisiana Purchase. This expedition was a remarkable undertaking for its time and helped shape much of what we now know about the flora, fauna, diverse native cultures, geography, and more from the Trail of Discovery from Missouri to Oregon. Not only did it open up America's western borderlands to scientific inquiry and trade, but it also greatly improved our understanding of its vastness and brought forth knowledge that had been previously unknown. Today, the legacy of Lewis and Clark continues to inspire generations with their tales of courage and discovery. In recognition of their accomplishments, over the years, many monuments and museums have been built in honor of their journeys, such as the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail and Monument in Oregon. These sites are living memorials that continue to bring people together to celebrate Lewis and Clark's historic expedition. Through educational programs, cultural events, and public outreach, the legacy of this great journey lives on in the hearts and minds of Americans today. The expedition helped to explore the geography, systematically learn about the country, build a relationship with the Native American tribes, proved vital for later expansions, and it gave a reminder that exploration can lead to great things.

Introduction

Body Paragraph

The Expedition of Lewis and Clark was one of the most influential events of its time, as it was the first military expedition to explore and map parts of North America that had previously been uncharted. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark worked together with a group of dedicated individuals, including Sacagawea, who acted as an interpreter when they encountered foreign

languages. During their trip, the group collected invaluable data on flora, fauna, geography, and Indigenous cultures in the Louisiana Territory. Not only did this provide information that would help with government policy-making in the region, but it also established several American claims to various parts of what is now several modern-day states. Through their mission's successes, Lewis and Clark set an example for many future expeditions into unknown territories, which would continue to prove beneficial for both exploration and nation-building efforts in the United States today. The great Lewis, Clark and their corps of discovery encountered several Native tribes, who were eager to trade with them and allowed the expedition to use their wealthy resources. In turn, these expeditions laid a foundation for a network of new territories that would continue to prove beneficial for both exploration and nation-building in the years to follow (Lewis et al.). They managed to negotiate with the Mandan-Hidatsa and Perce nations to traverse portions of their lands. This marked a pivotal moment in history as the American West expanded while courting the active participation of indigenous peoples.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the first times that American citizens systematically explored their own country. (Schmitke et al.), stated that the Lewis and Clark expedition of the early 19th century stands as an important milestone in American history. Between 1804-1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explored largely unknown parts of the continental United States systematically. Their findings allowed for a greater understanding of the people and cultures they encountered, helping to paint a more detailed picture of life in America at that time. Ultimately, their exploration paved new roads for Americans eager to gain insight into the land that eventually became known as the United States. The results of their journey helped to shape our understanding of the landscape, climate, and resources of the land west of the Mississippi River. By exploring and mapping out this new area, they were able to

provide valuable insight into how the area could be used and developed. Their exploration also provided a better understanding of the various Native American tribes that populated this region and opened up new possibilities for trade with these groups. The details bring out vivid descriptions of how these tribes lived through adaptation to their environment—in adjusted sheltering structures or balanced provisions for food gathering—and interaction with other tribes to manage different accesses to resources over seasons components and weather conditions (Calloway). It was not only important in terms of its geographical discoveries, but it marked an important moment in American history.

Furthermore, this expedition led to the development of many important relationships with Native American tribes in the region. For instance, during their travels, they established trading posts with various Native American groups to gain access to their resources like horses and food. This created links between members of different cultures which would continue to exist even after the expedition was complete. The peaceable nature of these meetings helped pave the way for future trade relations between native nations and settlers of European descent. Additionally, this expedition provided invaluable data about flora and fauna of the Northwest region. The journals kept by both Lewis and Clark were filled with descriptions of new animals and plants which had previously been unknown to science. Through the exploration of unknown terrains, dozens of new species of animals and plants were discovered that had previously been unseen by Europeans. This provided unprecedented insights into the vast biodiversity of the American West and made significant contributions to science and natural history (Roos). This information was later used for mapping and exploration purposes as well as for understanding the local ecology. Finally, the expedition's journey from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean opened a pathway for further exploration, trade, and settlement in the region. This had a lasting impact on both the

United States and native nations and continues to be remembered as one of the most significant events in American history.

Notably, this expedition also proved vital for later expansion efforts by allowing settlers to traverse what would become known as 'the Oregon Trail.' This trail allowed settlers to travel from Missouri along the Columbia River out West to Oregon Country. Without Lewis and Clark's expedition mapping out this route beforehand, it is doubtful that these travels would have been nearly as easy or successful at such an early point in history. By making extensive records about their travels available for public consumption, Lewis and Clark also set a new standard for exploration methods within North America. They created detailed maps which included geographic features such as rivers, mountains, and other land formations; wrote journals describing flora/fauna found on their trek; as well as providing descriptions of interactions with local tribes along their voyage. These documents shaped how future expeditions documented their findings throughout America's western regions--a process that continues today.

Finally, Lewis and Clark's expedition serves as a reminder that exploration can lead to great things if done correctly. Their efforts opened paths and created relationships that are being used even today. According to (NYT), it famously opened pathways for exploration, colonization, and commerce to previously uncharted parts of the continent. Moreover, its efforts unwittingly forged relationships between the travelers and native populations in ways that few other US expeditions have ever achieved. In 2020, many historians looked back on this renowned mission with admiration--not only because it was so ambitious but because it showed what can be accomplished when two people come together with determination and courage.

In conclusion, Lewis & Clark's expedition was incredibly important for its period due to its influence in expanding US boundaries further into North America, creating beneficial

relationships with Native American tribes through trade negotiations, mapping out routes for settlers heading West via 'the Oregon Trail'; producing detailed documents about their travels; setting standards for future explorations within North America, and serving as a reminder of what can be achieved through tenacity.



College Essay

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