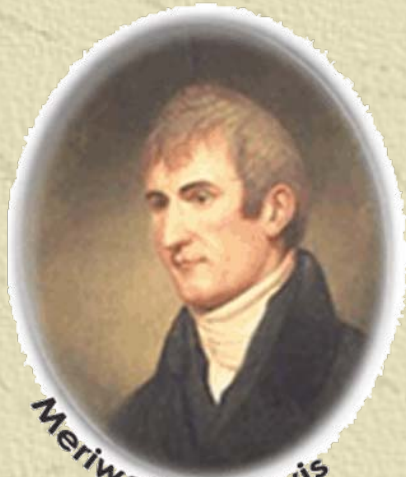


Lewis and Clark

Corps of Discovery



Meriwether Lewis

Meriwether Lewis



William Clark

W. Clark

Also starring... me! I'm Seaman!

The Missouri River



This is where they began their long journey – where the Missouri River meets the Mississippi River.

Lewis and Clark were asked by Thomas Jefferson to explore the Missouri River to its source and the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean.



Camp Wood, Illinois



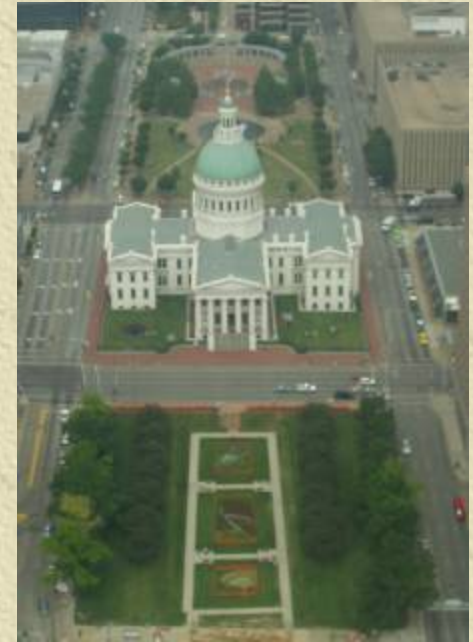
Here I met a nice interpreter who showed me around. This is the captains' room inside the fort.



This is Camp Wood, or Camp River Dubois, where we camped for the winter of 1803 preparing for our voyage.



St. Louis, Missouri



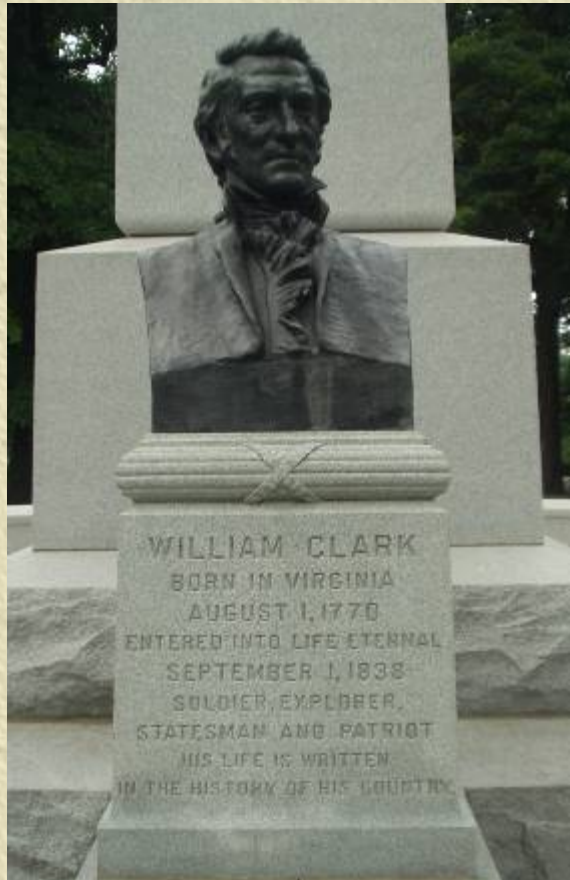
St. Louis has changed a lot in 200 years! The Gateway Arch wasn't there in 1803, but I had fun riding to the top and looking at the view. Wow!

St. Louis, Missouri



Under the Gateway Arch is a great museum called the Museum of Westward Expansion. I saw all kinds of animals, a teepee, as well as exhibits on Lewis and Clark, pioneers, and cowboys. There was even a talking William Clark figure. I had a lot of fun here!

St. Louis, Missouri



While in St. Louis, I thought I would pay my respects to Captain Clark at the Bellefontaine Cemetery where he is buried. Captain Clark was 68 years old when he died of old age at the home of his son, Meriwether Lewis Clark.



St. Charles, Missouri



Imagine that! The Katy Trail in Missouri! The Katy Trail is the old railroad route that followed the Missouri River, just like Lewis and Clark did. The MKT rail line ended near Houston and is how Katy got its name (KT). This building was built in 1790 ⇨ and was there when Lewis and Clark passed through St. Charles.



Memorials in Missouri



These memorials along the Missouri River honor Robert Frazer and John Colter, two members of the expedition. After the journey, Colter became a mountain man and was the first white man to discover Yellowstone. The boulder was brought to Missouri from Yellowstone National Park to honor him.



Jefferson City, Missouri



Jefferson City is the capital of Missouri and is named in honor of Thomas Jefferson.

This bronze relief commemorates the signing of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. French Marquis Marbois (right) signs the document that doubled the size of the United States with Robert Livingston (seated) and James Monroe.



Fort Osage- Sibley, MO



After the expedition, Clark was assigned to build Fort Osage in 1808. It was designed to “promote and protect national expansion.” Fort Osage was the westernmost frontier post until 1819.

In June of 1804, Clark noted this would be a good location along the Missouri to build a military and trading post near the friendly Osage Indians.



Kansas Sites



Weston Bend State Park overlooks the muddy Missouri as the river makes a big bend. The expedition also camped near today's Leavenworth, Kansas. This small keelboat model is near Gosling Lake, named for all the young geese Lewis and Clark saw here in July, 1804.

Atchison, Kansas



York assists firing the cannon to celebrate the 4th of July. Lewis and Clark named a nearby creek “Independence Creek” in 1804.



The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles built a life-size keelboat and a red and white pirogue to retrace Lewis & Clark’s journey day-by-day during the 2004-2006 bicentennial.



Atchison, Kansas



My favorite memory was meeting the Discovery Expedition re-enactors in Atchison. Expert hunter George Drouillard and York posed for a picture with me. Then I met Private John Potts down by the keelboat. You can see me posing on Sergeant Floyd's shoulder as he shows me some of the tools and items the Corps used.

Nebraska Sites

This riverboat is named the *Meriwether Lewis*. It is docked at a Lewis and Clark campsite near Brownsville, Nebraska.



I got another good look of the Missouri from this overlook at Indian Cave State Park.

Council Bluffs, Iowa



This area is named for the first council Lewis and Clark had with Native American tribes, the Oto and Missouri Indians. The Western Historic Trails Center isn't far from the Lewis and Clark Monument overlook, where I had another great view.



Onawa, Iowa



Another set of full-size replica boats can be found at Lewis and Clark State Park in Iowa. The expedition pulled the boats by rope, pushed with long poles, rowed, and sailed against the Missouri's current.

During the expedition, the white pirogue was involved in so many incidents of bad luck and accidents that Lewis decided it must be cursed by some "evil genie".



Sioux City, Iowa



Sergeant Floyd was the only member of the expedition to die on the journey. The captains wrote that he died of a “bilious colic,” which was probably a burst appendix. Sergeant Floyd’s Monument sits above the Missouri River. The nearby Floyd River is named after him.



Here I am!

Sioux City, Iowa



This is the Sergeant Floyd Riverboat Museum, which has a reconstruction of what Sgt. Floyd might have looked like based on studying his bones. Have you ever seen a giant painted prairie dog sculpture? This one is between the riverboat and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.



Elk Point, S. Dakota



Shortly after Sgt. Floyd died, the first election held west of the Mississippi River decided which man would be promoted to Sergeant. The members of the Corps elected Patrick Gass. Although he only attended school for 19 days in his life, he kept a journal of the entire trip. Sgt. Gass turned out to be the last surviving member of the expedition, living to the age of 99.



Vermillion, S. Dakota



On August 25, 1804, I set off with Lewis, Clark, and 9 of the men to investigate what the Indians call "Mountain of Little People or Spirits." After six miles, I was so hot and tired that I collapsed and was sent back to the nearest creek. It may not look like a big hill, but this time I made it to the top and saw a terrific view of the flat, flat plains around us.

Clark: "It is supposed to be the residence of devils. They are in human form with remarkable large heads and about 18 inches high. They are very watchful and are armed with sharp arrows."



Scientific Discoveries



Grizzly bear

Lewis and Clark described over 300 new plant and animal species.



Bitterroot



Mountain goats



Pronghorn antelope



Big horn sheep



Magpie



Coyote

Prairie Dogs

South Dakota Department of Tourism "Lewis and Clark
Trail: The South Dakota Adventure"



When the Corps came across a prairie dog town, they called the animals “barking squirrels.” They decided to capture one and send it back to Thomas Jefferson.

It took the men nearly all day to catch one of the critters from its underground burrow. They finally captured one after filling its burrow with buckets of water.



Lynch, Nebraska



“Old Baldy”



This landmark represents the site where Lewis and Clark first discovered the prairie dog on September 7, 1804. Not far from the Missouri River, my little friend and I posed for a picture.

Pierre, S. Dakota



On September 25, Lewis and Clark met with three chiefs of the Teton Sioux. The meeting was tense. At one point, the Indians aimed their bows and arrows and the Corps drew their rifles. Chief Black Buffalo ordered the warriors to back down, but he did not want to let the Corps continue up the river.



After 4 nervous days and nights of camping on an island for safety, Lewis and Clark moved on. Because of their bad mood, they named it “Bad Humor Island” and the nearby river, the Bad River.

Mandan, N. Dakota



As they continued up the river, Lewis and Clark found an abandoned Mandan Indian Village. It was named "On-a-Slant" since it was built on a slope. Here you can go inside the earth lodge and learn about Mandan life.



North Dakota

The influence of buffalo and Native Americans like Sacagawea can be seen in the Dakotas. These statues are found at the capitol building in Bismarck.



These large statues in Washburn represent Lewis and Clark meeting Big White, Chief of the Mandan Indians. Lewis and Clark gave Peace Medals to many Indian chiefs to promote friendship.



Fort Mandan, N. Dakota



The Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived at the Mandan-Hidatsa Indian villages on October 25, 1804. They stayed for over five months that winter. Here they met Charbonneau and Sacagawea. Her baby, Jean Baptiste, was born here.

The men built several dugout canoes that winter. In the spring, some of the men returned to St. Louis in the keelboat with notes, maps, and animal specimens.



Fort Mandan, N. Dakota



Interior courtyard



The captains' room



York, Sacagawea, and Charbonneau's room



Infantry room



Blacksmith shop



Guard Room

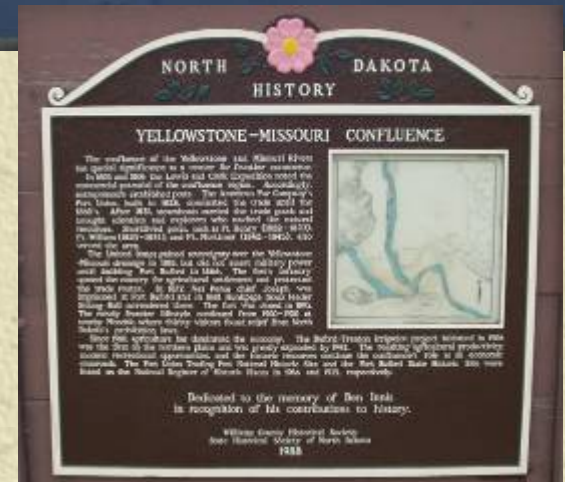
Knife River Indian Village



After being kidnapped as a girl, Sacagawea was living at this Hidatsa Indian village when she met Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur trader. The Hidatsa earth lodges are very similar to Mandan lodges. There are many round depressions in the ground showing where the lodges collapsed about 200 years ago.

N. Dakota/Montana Border

This is where the Yellowstone River meets the Missouri River. Lewis and Clark arrived here on April 25, 1805. They knew someday this would be a good place for a fort.



Loma, Montana



When Lewis and Clark arrived here on June 2, 1805, they were unsure about which river was the Missouri. The Mandan Indians had told them about the Great Falls upstream, but had not mentioned another river. Lewis named it Maria's River after his cousin. He and Clark split up and explored each river. After 9 days, they decided the southern river must be the Missouri. All the men disagreed with them, but agreed to follow the captains. Luckily, Lewis & Clark chose correctly.



Fort Benton, Montana



Explorers at the Marias

Within 55 years of Lewis and Clark's exploration through this wild area, steamships would dock here, bringing people and goods up and down the Missouri River. It took a steamship 60-65 days to get here and tickets cost \$150.



Great Falls, Montana



Lewis described the Great Falls as the “grandest sight” he had ever seen. Farther upstream he found 4 more falls. What they thought would be a half-day trek around one waterfall, turned out to be almost a month of portaging around five waterfalls. Pushing the canoes on handmade rolling platforms over rough ground and prickly pear cactus exhausted the men. Today, dams have been built on all the falls, making them look much less beautiful than when Lewis found them.

Great Falls, Montana



This diorama at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center shows how the portage took place.



Across the river from this statue, Lewis was chased into the water by a grizzly.



Clark discovered this natural spring, now called Giant Springs. Lewis described it as the largest spring he'd ever seen. It flows at nearly 8,000,000 gallons per hour.

The Gates of the Mountains



Today, one of the best places to actually travel on the river as Lewis and Clark did is to take a boat tour through the Gates of the Mountains. Lewis named the Gates when he came upon these huge limestone cliffs which appeared to open a passageway to the mountains.

You might see pelicans, bald eagles, deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and many more animals on the tour.



The Gates of the Mountains



Can you see the elephant?



The "Monster" can be seen inside the Gates, along with Indian pictographs painted with red minerals hundreds of years ago.



Three Forks, Montana



Ouch! Those prickly pears hurt my paws, so here I am relaxing where the Missouri River merges with the Jefferson. These two rivers join the nearby Gallatin River (below). This is Missouri Headwaters State Park. It marks the beginning of the Missouri River, America's longest river, and I've traveled along all of it!

Montana



The expedition began to follow the Jefferson River, which now passes through the town of Twin Bridges.

On August 10, 1805, Sacagawea recognized Beaverhead Rock, a large rock that looks like the head of a swimming beaver. She knew they were near the summer home of the Shoshone Indians where she grew up. Can you see the head of a swimming beaver?



Disson, Montana



The expedition met up with the Shoshone Indians here at Camp Fortunate. While Sacagawea was translating, she realized the chief was her brother, Cameahwait, whom she had not seen since her childhood. Overcome with joy and tears, she still managed to help negotiate for horses, which they would need to get over the mountains.

Lemhi Pass, Montana/Idaho



Another of my favorite places was sitting atop the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass. Today a one way dirt road brings travelers to this beautiful spot.

Imagine Lewis' mixture of emotions when he saw range after range of mountains to the west instead of water that might lead him to the Columbia River and the Pacific.

Lemhi Pass, Montana/Idaho



On August 12, 1805, Lewis wrote about the “most distant fountain of the waters of the mighty Missouri,” which begins at this little spring on Lemhi Pass. One of the men with him, Private McNeal, joyfully “stood with a foot on each side of this little rivulet.” I thought I would do the same and stood on this rock that protects the spring today.

Salmon, Idaho



Because this is her homeland, the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, and Education Center teaches about the Lemhi Shoshone Indians and has a scenic nature walk. Can you see me peeking out of the teepee?

Lolo, Montana



Lolo Creek



The expedition camped at this site on September 9 and 10 of 1805. They named it Travelers' Rest because it was such a nice spot to camp after crossing one mountain range and preparing to cross another. Native Americans had camped here for centuries. Lewis and Clark came back to this spot on their return trip.

Lolo Trail, Montana/Idaho



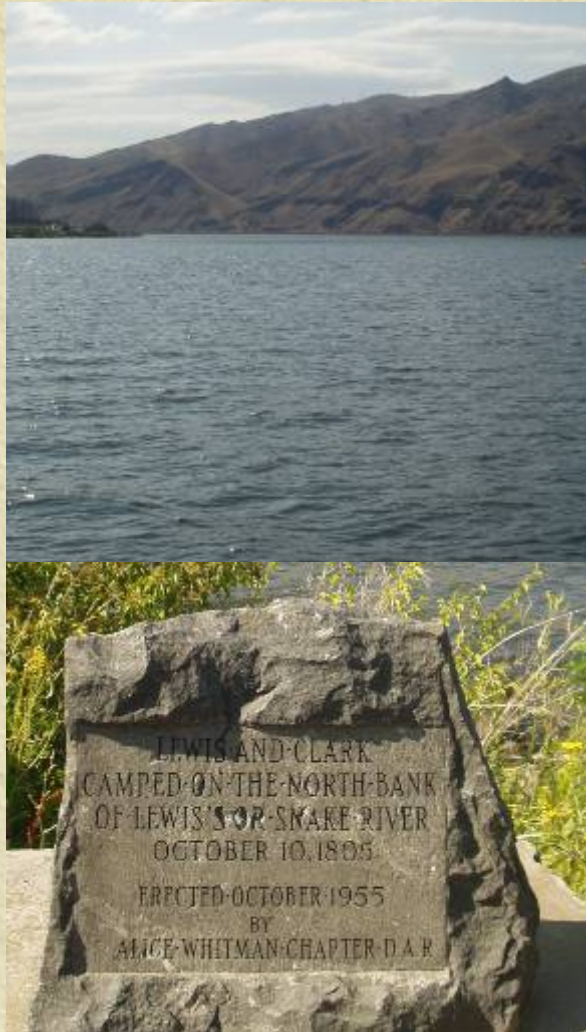
The Lolo Trail across the Bitterroot Mountains is one of the only places you can retrace the overland footsteps of Lewis and Clark. Guided by a Shoshone Indian, "Old Toby," the Lolo Trail proved to be the hardest part of the journey. At one point, Old Toby even lost the trail; horses fell down steep ridges. For ten long days, freezing temperatures and snowfall froze the men's moccasins and rifles. There were no animals to hunt, so the men were forced to eat candles and kill some of their horses for meat.

Weippe, Idaho



Clark weakly stumbled out of the mountains ahead of Lewis and discovered three young Nez Perce Indian boys on this prairie. He gave the frightened boys some ribbons and they took Clark to their camp. The expedition's men were fed and treated well by the Nez Perce. The men learned that the nearby Clearwater River would lead them toward the Pacific, so once more they made canoes.

Idaho/Washington



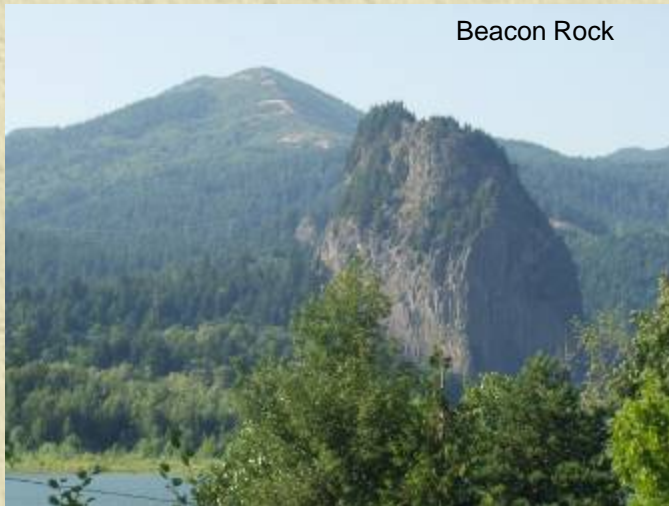
Traveling downstream for the first time, the Corps took the Clearwater to Lewis' River, which is now called the Snake River. Along the Snake River they saw a large rock resembling a hat. They named it... what else? Hat Rock, of course! These geese at Hat Rock enjoyed some of my lunch.

The Dalles, Oregon



The Snake River took them to the mighty Columbia River. Here the expedition got a beautiful view of Mt. Hood. They camped at Rock Fort and noticed harbor seals hunting salmon in the Columbia. They portaged around some cascading waterfalls. The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center here has Lewis and Clark exhibits.

Beacon Rock/Rooster Rock



Beacon Rock



Rooster Rock

Near Beacon Rock, Lewis noticed the river was affected by ocean tidewater. Today you can climb Beacon Rock with the help of steps and railings. Can you find me? The captains saw sea otters near Rooster Rock.



Astoria, Oregon



This is the viewpoint where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark had finally reached the Pacific and could rest for the winter.



"You are here!"

Astoria, Oregon



The Astoria Column has a giant mural, spiraling around the column. It represents a timeline of Oregon's history, featuring the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



Fort Clatsop, Oregon

December 1805 - March 1806



The Corps spent a wet winter on the Oregon Coast.
It rained 94 of the 106 days they were here.

Fort Clatsop, Oregon

Fort Clatsop was home to 33 people that winter. They hunted elk for the hide, meat, and fat. Christmas dinner was spoiled elk meat.



This young man was making candles in molds, using melted animal fat and wicks.

Fort Clatsop, Oregon



The guard room and meat storage room.



Sacagawea, Charbonneau, and baby Pomp's room.



This statue at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center is named "Arrival." It shows me next to Lewis, while Clark records a new species of flounder held by a Clatsop Indian.

Ecola Creek Oregon



Sign reads (in part): "When word reached Fort Clatsop in January, 1806, that a whale had grounded..., Lewis and Clark outfitted a party to investigate. 'Found only the skeleton of this monster on the sand,' lamented Clark. The explorers measured the whale's skeleton and reported a creature of 105 feet... They watched the Tillamook Indians boiling blubber by dropping heated stones into a wooden trough and then storing the oil in bladders."

Lewis and Clark were able to trade with the Indians for some of the blubber and oil. A wood carving commemorates the beached whale Lewis and Clark saw here.



Seaside, Oregon



"The Salt Makers" by John Clymer

After building Fort Clatsop, some members of the expedition were sent farther south, away from the fresh water of the Columbia River, to boil saltwater from the ocean. The salt that remained after boiling would be used on the return trip to Missouri to cure meat and keep it from spoiling.



This replica salt cairn in Seaside shows how Lewis & Clark's men boiled the saltwater to make salt.

Pacific Ocean

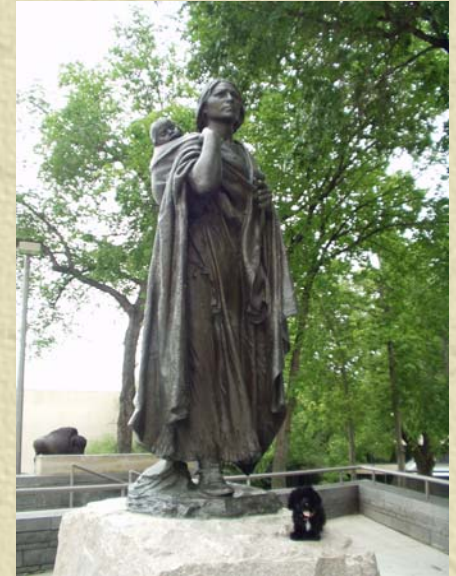


I can't believe I made it all the way to the Pacific Ocean! There were so many beautiful sites along this memorable journey!



Sacagawea and Seaman

Although we have no real way of knowing how to pronounce Sacagawea's name, we do know that Lewis and Clark spelled things phonetically (by how they sounded). In their journals, they always spelled her name with a hard g, like in "go". We do know there is no "j" sound in the Hidatsa or language, so "Sacajawea" is most likely incorrect. The official name adopted by the U.S. Geographic Names Board, National Park Service, and National Geographic Society is **Sacagawea** (sah-CAH-guh-WEE-uh). However, the North Dakota Hidatsa people still prefer "Sakakawea."



Seaman was a Newfoundland dog purchased by Meriwether Lewis for \$20. Newfoundlands are great water dogs that can retrieve game or rescue swimmers. Evidence suggests that when Lewis died, Seaman never left and died upon Lewis' grave. Seaman was a loyal companion.