



Opening the West with Lewis and Clark

An integrated unit for Grade 5

Overview

- A 3-4 week unit of study centering on Lewis and Clark. Core areas involved: math, language arts, science, and social studies.
- Students will read Lewis and Clark: Opening the American West, by Ellen Roger

Areas of Emphasis on the Expedition

- Social Studies - geography, people and history
- Language Arts - critical reading of non-fiction literature, primary source journals, authentic writing
- Math - measurement, surveying, map scale, real estate values
- Science - science of taxonomy, classification of living things

Introduction to Unit

- Social Studies - Show United Streaming clip of expedition
- Language Arts - KWL Chart
- Science - Shoe Classification Activity
- Math - Surveyor guest speaker

Social Studies Activities

- Uncharted Territory
- The student will examine the historical context of the expedition and trace the path followed by the Corps of Discovery
- The Challenges Ahead
- The student will explore the mental, physical, and geographical challenges faced by the Corps of Discovery.
- Mapmaking
- The student will explore the mental, physical, and geographical challenges faced by the Corps of Discovery.
- Analyzing the Lewis and Clark Journals



Creating Cross-Curricular Units-in-a-Day

- The student will use journal entries from the Corps of Discovery to develop a historical narrative of the expedition.
- Lewis and Clark and Native Americans, Part One
- The student will identify the structure of the Dakota Nation and practice communication skills in the context of a conflict.
- Lewis and Clark and Native Americans, Part Two
- The student will work in a group to complete a map and discuss the impact of the expedition on the Lakota Indians.
- Lewis and Clark and Native Americans, Part Three
- The student will identify the contributions that York, Sacagawea, and several Native American tribes made toward the success of the expedition.

Language Arts Activities

- Describing the Unknown to Others
- The student will practice their descriptive writing skills by communicating an unknown idea to another.
- The Art of Communication
- The student will explore communication challenges faced by the Corps of Discovery.
- Documenting an Historic Journey
- The student will write a journal entry from the point of view of one member of the expedition.
- Lewis and Clark ABC Books

Math Activities

- Are We There Yet?
- The student will estimate the time and distance traveled by the Corps of Discovery and construct a multiple line graph to visually compare the data.
- Packing for a Transcontinental Expedition
- The student will estimate the number and types of supplies that would be needed for a trans-continental expedition.
- Collecting and Documenting Specimens





Creating Cross-Curricular Units-in-a-Day

- The student will apply measurement skills and ratio and proportion to collect data on vegetation.

Science Activities

- Naming New Species
- The student will practice skills related to the science of taxonomy.
- Discovering New Species
- The student will compare the positions of select animals in the food web both at the time of the expedition and now.
- Classification of Species
- Visit a local zoo. Take pictures of several animals. Display pictures - labeled with complete classification.
- Trip to a Store (individual activity)
- Talk with the manager of a store to find out how the products are organized. Draw a general floor plan showing the organization.

Evaluation

- Each core class will assess students through:
 - Rubrics
 - Self-evaluation
 - Peer-evaluation

Culminating Projects

- Enhanced Podcast
- Movie
- Design and Create a Game

Field Trips

- Fruitlands, Harvard MA
- Franklin Park Zoo
- http://newali.apple.com/ali_sites/ali/exhibits/1001558/ - virtual



Resources

- <http://www.nps.gov/lewi/forteachers/trunk-reservation-instructions.htm>
- <http://www.lewisandclark.org>
- <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/lewisandclark/resources>
- [http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/Lewis and Clark/resources.html](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/Lewis_and_Clark/resources.html)
- http://www.proteacher.org/c/280_The_Lewis_and_Clark_Expedition.html
- "Lewis and Clark" The Journey of the Corps of Discovery - A Film by Ken Burns