

Lewis and Clark: Their Journals, Their Maps, and Their Dog

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Lesson 8: Interaction with Indians (Native Americans)

Purpose:

Expose students to the idea of Lewis and Clark as ambassadors/diplomats to the native tribes in the western territories.

Follow the interactions that go well and that go badly. Have students develop questions re why.

Teacher will create a Question-Answer-Response (QAR) chart that will record the students' questions, and guide them toward questioning the motivations of the parties involved, specifically, the U.S. government, the explorers, and the Native Americans. As the students questions are answered, record that on the chart as well.

[QAR Chart.docx](#)

Using the following journal entries from the Lewis and Clark expedition, students will discuss how the explorers carried out their orders from President Jefferson to introduce themselves to the native tribes.

[giftstoindians1.JPG](#)

This is one of many entries where Lewis or Clark details the titles and medals given to native chiefs they encounter.

[giftstoindians2.JPG](#)

In this entry, the Indians are given whiskey and gunpowder.

[informingindians.JPG](#)

Lewis and Clark inform the Indians of the strength of the United States government and warn that their "defence and comfort" depend on cooperation with representatives of the US.

[rippingoffindians.JPG](#)

Lewis writes of trading items of little worth to the Indians in exchange for 3 horses. One of his men also trades a pair of pants for a horse.

[tradegoesbadly1.JPG](#)

Clark introduces the interaction with an Indian council.

[tradegoesbadly2.JPG](#)

Here, the second chief is insolent in both words and gestures and the groups nearly exchange arrows and guns.

[makingtomahawks1.JPG](#)

Lewis's Tuesday entry details having the expedition blacksmith make tomahawks for the Indians.

[makingtomahawks2.JPG](#)

A drawing of the tomahawk.

Assessment: Students will create two articles about the interactions with Indians. One will contain a positive interaction, the other a negative interaction and how it was resolved.