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

By Kelli Mills and Paige Waggoner Summer Fellowship 2010

Lesson 9: Maps

Purpose: Students will see how maps of the United States changed as a result of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

1763 French map.jpg

Students will re-examine this map introduced in Lesson 2.

1783 NA map.jpg

Students will re-examine this map introduced in Lesson 2.

1784 US map.jpg

Students will re-examine this map introduced in Lesson 2.

After looking at these maps and re-examining their Venn diagrams, students will predict what changes they might see from maps drawn during and after the Lewis and Clark expedition.

confluence.JPG

This November, 1803 map, drawn by members of the expedition shows the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

mapdraft.JPG

A draft drawn by Lewis, showing the Missouri River valley area.

mapfinal.JPG

The final copy of the draft map above.

After looking at these two maps, students will discuss what map features are present and what map features would be helpful to include. (map key, compass rose, etc.) Teachers may use the following map observation sheets/websites:

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/map analysis worksheet.pdf

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/map.html

Students can then compare the draft maps to the finalized maps after the expedition.

1812 US map.jpg

French map of U.S., after the Lewis and Clark expedition.

1818 US map.jpg

U.S. map drawn after the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Students will compare the two maps to a current United States map and discuss which features were established at that point and any differences that were mapped as better map-making equipment was developed and boundaries were formally established.

Assessment: For their newsletter, students will write an article that explains the transformation of the United States boundaries before, during and after the Lewis and Clark expedition.