

LESSON 6:

LOUISIANA PURCHASE

(Grade 5 Social Studies, Grade 8 Social Studies, Grade 11 United States History)

Written by Kris McIntosh

Summary of Lesson: These primary source items are to be used within a larger Social Studies unit on President Thomas Jefferson's administration (1801-1809) and the purchase of Louisiana Territory in 1803. Students will analyze a letter from President Thomas Jefferson to Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin, a letter from President Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, the List of Indian Presents, and a painting by Charles M. Russell.

Objectives: Students will

- Discover the economic aspect of funding the Louisiana Purchase, and
- Analyze the role of presents as an indicator of peace.

TEKS:

(5.4C) History. The student is expected to identify examples of U.S. territorial expansion.

(8.1C) History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history through 1877, and is expected to explain the significance of the following date: 1803.

(8.5E) History. The student understands the challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the Republic, and is expected to trace the foreign policies of Presidents Washington through Monroe.

(U.S.10.A) Geography. The student understands the effects of migration and immigration on American society, and is expected to analyze the effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from migration within the United States.

(U.S. 6B) Economics. The student understands the roles played by local, state, and national governments in both the public and private sectors of the U.S. free enterprise system. The student is expected to identify the sources of revenue and expenditures of the U.S. government and analyze their impact on the U.S. economy.

Time Required: One to two class periods

Materials Needed:

Image of Sid Richardson Museum painting *Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Meeting with the Indians of the Northwest*

Projector to show image

Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, July 4, 1803

List of Indian presents purchased by Meriwether Lewis in preparation for the expedition to the West

Individual copies of letter from President Thomas Jefferson to Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin (National Archive Microfilm Roll T 712)

Magnifying glasses

Individual copies of the NARA Document Analysis Sheet

Individual copies of the NARA Photo Analysis Sheet

Procedure: After the unit on the Louisiana Purchase has begun:

- Give each student a copy of President Thomas Jefferson's letter to Secretary of Treasury Albert Gallatin. Divide the students into groups (four students) and give them time to read President Thomas Jefferson's letter. The handwritten letter is difficult to read, so the teacher must be "working" the room, helping students decipher words and explaining the different forms of the letter "s". Use of magnifying glasses may be helpful.

31

To Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the
Treasury of the United States.

Whereas by an Act, passed the tenth day of
November, in the year one thousand eight hundred and three, enti-
tled "An Act authorizing the creation of a stock to the amount of
eleven millions two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the
purpose of carrying into effect the Convention of the 30th of April
one thousand eight hundred and three, between the United
States of America, and the French Republic; and making
provision for the payment of the same"; it is, among other things,
enacted "that for the purpose of carrying into effect the Convention
of the thirtieth day of April 1803 between the United States of
America and the French Republic, the Secretary of the Treasury
do, and he is hereby, authorized to cause to be constituted Certificates
of Stock signed by the Register of the Treasury, in favor of the
French Republic or of its Assignees, for the sum of Eleven
Millions two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, bearing an inter-
est of six per centum per annum, from the time when possession of
Louisiana shall have been obtained in conformity with the Treaty of
the thirtieth day of April 1803, between the United States of America
and the French Republic, and in other respects conformable with the
tenor of the Convention aforesaid; And the President of the United
States is authorized to cause the said Certificates of Stock to be deli-
vered to the Government of France, or to such Person or Persons
as shall be authorized to receive them, in three months at most after
the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty aforesaid and after
Louisiana shall be taken possession of in the name of the Go-
vernment of the United States" — Now therefore Be

Letter from President Thomas Jefferson to Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin; Treasury Department Papers Relating to the Louisiana Purchase; National Archives Microfilm Publication T 712, Roll 1, Frame 31; General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 56, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

2
it known, that, I, Thomas Jefferson, President of
the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested
by the Act before recited, Do hereby authorize and require
you, Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury, to cause to be
delivered to the Government of France, or to such person or persons
as have been authorized to receive the same, the Certificates of stock
which have been constituted in conformity with the Convention of
the thirtieth day of April 1803, between the United States of Ame-
rica and the French Republic —: And for so doing this
shall be your sufficient Warrant.

In testimony whereof, I
have hereunto subscribed my hand
at the City of Washington the
sixteenth day of January
one thousand eight hundred and four.

T. Jefferson

Letter from President Thomas Jefferson to Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin; Treasury Department Papers Relating to the Louisiana Purchase; National Archives Microfilm Publication T 712, Roll 1, Frame 32; General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 56, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- Once all groups have worked their way through the letter, distribute the Document Analysis Sheet. Within each small group, have the students' number off 1-4 and put the number next to their name. The first five questions can be discussed with the entire class, and then question 6 A-E can be addressed in the small groups. After students have completed their analysis, discuss the purpose of the letter.

Within this letter, President Jefferson is asking Secretary of Treasury Albert Gallatin to generate stock to pay for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. The amount is set according to the agreement between France and the United States. The treaty, which includes the purchase price, is being ratified by the Senate. President Jefferson will determine who will deliver the stock to the person representing the French government. Ask students, "If you were Secretary Albert Gallatin, would there be any doubt in your mind that you have the authority to do this?"

- After introducing students to William Clark and Meriwether Lewis, and the goals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, share the letter from President Jefferson to Mr. Lewis. Ask students to list what supplies they believe would be necessary for such an exploration. Introduce the idea of carrying presents to those who you might run into on the journey. What gifts would be appropriate? Share with students the List of Indian Presents. Ask students to speculate on the reasons these particular gifts were purchased.
- To conclude this discussion, show the painting by Charles M. Russell. Assign each student to fill in the Photo Analysis Sheet, using the same type of questions to analyze the painting.
- You may also wish to share information about the Jefferson Peace Medal with students. A Jefferson Peace Medal, Interactive Website for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Discovering Lewis and Clark, VIAs Inc., online version on November 2, 2006, is available at: <http://www.lewis-clark.org/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=350>
- After discussing the painting, assign students to write a letter to President Thomas Jefferson detailing this exchange of presents.



Captain William Clark Meeting with the Indians of the Northwest,
by Charles M. Russell, 1897, Oil on Canvas
Sid Richardson Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

1803, July 4

Dear Sir

(74)

Washington. U.S. of America. July 4. 1803.

In the journey which you are about to undertake for the discovery of the source and course of the Mississippi, and of the most convenient water communication from thence to the Pacific ocean, your party being small, it is to be expected that you will encounter considerable dangers from the Indian inhabitants, should you escape those dangers and reach the Pacific ocean, you may find it imprudent to hazard a return the same way, and be forced to seek a passage round by sea, in such vessels as you may find on the Western coast. but you will be without money, without clothes, & other necessaries; as a sufficient supply cannot be carried with you from hence. your resource in that case can only be in the credit of the U.S. for which purpose I hereby authorize you to draw on the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War & of the Navy, of the U.S. according as you may find your draughts will be most reasonable, for the purpose of obtaining money or necessaries for yourself & your men: and I solemnly pledge the faith of the United States that these draughts shall be paid punctually at the date they are made payable. I also ask of the Consuls, agents, merchants & citizens of any nation with which we have intercourse or amity, to furnish you with those supplies which your necessities may call for, assuring them of honorable and prompt payment, and our own Consuls in foreign parts where you may happen to be, are hereby instructed & required to be aiding & assisting to you in whatever may be necessary for procuring your return back to the United States. And to give more certain satisfaction & confidence to those who may be disposed to aid you, I Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America, have written this letter of general credit ^{for you} with my own hand, and signed it with my name.

Th Jefferson

To
Capt. Meriwether Lewis.

22938

The Thomas Jefferson Papers Series 1. General Correspondence. 1651-1827 Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, July 4, 1803, Image 731 of 1207

Online version on November 2, 2006, available at:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Search under "Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis July 4 1803 with copy".

The Library of Congress, American Memory

Thomas Jefferson and Early Western Explorers, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington. U.S. of America. July 4. 1803.

Dear Sir

In the journey which you are about to undertake for the discovery of the course and source of the Missouri and of the most convenient water communication from thence to the Pacific ocean, your party being small, it is to be expected that you will encounter considerable dangers from the Indian inhabitants. Should you escape those dangers and reach the Pacific Ocean, you may find it imprudent to hazard a return the same way, and be forced to seek a passage round by sea, in such vessels as you may find on the Western coast. But you will be without money, without clothes, & other necessaries; as a sufficient supply cannot be carried with you from hence. Your resource in that case can only be in the credit of the U.S. for which purpose I hereby authorise you to draw on the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War & of the Navy of the U.S. according as you may find your draughts will be most negociable, for the purpose of obtaining money or necessaries for yourself & your men: and I solemnly pledge the faith of the United States that these draughts shall be paid punctually at the date they are made payable. I also ask of the Consuls, agents, merchants & citizens of any nation with which we have intercourse or amity to furnish you with those supplies which your necessities may call for, assuring them of honorable and prompt retribution. And our own Consuls in foreign parts where you may happen to be, are hereby instructed & required to be aiding & assisting to you in whatsoever may be necessary for procuring your return back to the United States. And to give more entire satisfaction & confidence to those who may be disposed to aid you, I Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America, have written this letter of general credit for you with my own hand, and signed it with my name. ... Th: Jefferson

FC in the hand of Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress.

Letter of Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, transcription link, online version on November 2, 2006, available at:

transcripti [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(je00049\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(je00049))) on

Indian Presents

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|----|----|----|--------|
| 12 Pipe Tomahawks | 8 3/4 | | | | 18 |
| 6 1/2 doz Steep Steel Iron | 6 1/2 | | | | 1 62 |
| 1 pair flannel 47 1/2 yds | 12 3/4 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 14 94 |
| 11 1/2 doz Hancock's ap ^d | 13 1/2 | 22 | 8 | 9 | 59 33 |
| 1 doz Ivory Combs | 3 03 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 3 33 |
| 1/2 Catty Ind. S. Silk | 7 03 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 3 75 |
| 24 1/2 doz Head ap ^d | 21 1/2 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 23 17 |
| 1 pair Scarlet Cloth 22 yds | 28 3/4 | 21 | 18 | 9 | 53 50 |
| 3 doz fan. Hoop | 6 3/4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 13 57 |
| 6 doz Binding | 9 1/4 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 11 79 |
| 2 doz Beads | 1 3/4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 3 50 |
| 4 doz: Dutchess Knives | 8 1/4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 33 |
| 12 doz. Pocket Looking Glass | 12 1/4 | | | | 5 19 |
| 15 doz. Buttons 8 1/2 | 3 9/16 | | | | 3 99 |
| 8 doz. Buttons 8 1/2 | 11 1/4 | | | | 12 |
| 2 doz. Non-slippery | 2 7/4 | | | | 2 94 |
| 2 doz. Red Striped Paper | 1 1/2 | | | | 2 50 |
| 72 1/2 doz. Striped silk ribbons | 3 1/4 | | | | 39 62 |
| 3 doz. Beads | 3 1/2 | | | | 2 01 |
| 6 papers Small Bells | 1 1/4 | | | | 4 02 |
| 1 box with 100 large 8 1/2 | 1 1/2 | | | | 2 25 |
| 73 Buttons Beads ap ^d | 2 0 | | | | 41 |
| 3 1/2 doz. Tinned Bands ap ^d | 9 03 | | | | 3 75 |
| 1 doz. Thread | | | | | 3 0 |
| 1 doz: Needle Case | 5 1/2 | | | | 3 56 |
| 2 1/2 doz Locketts | 5 02 | | | | 25 50 |
| 8 1/2 doz. Red Beads | 8 7/2 | | | | 1 067 |
| 2 doz. Earrings | 2 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 74 |
| 8 Brass Knives | 10 1/2 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 6 80 |
| 12 1/2 doz. Brass Knives | 12 1/2 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 62 07 |
| 500 Broaches | 1 1/2 | | | | 6 00 |
| 72 Rings | 32 3/4 | | | | 20 00 |
| 2 Green Mills | 1 1/2 | | | | 18 97 |
| 15 doz: Suspenders | 1 1/2 | | | | |
| carriage | | | | | 446 82 |
| | | | | | 53 |
| | | | | | 507 35 |

List of Indian presents purchased by Meriwether Lewis in preparation for the expedition to the West, 1803; Records of the War Department Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92; Old Military and Civil Records LICON, Textual Archives Services Division (NWCTB), National Archives Building, Washington, DC. Online version on November 2, 2006, available at:

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lewis-clark/images/present-list.gif>

ARC Identifier: 300353

Written Document Analysis Worksheet

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | TYPE OF DOCUMENT (Check one): <input type="radio"/> Newspaper <input type="radio"/> Letter <input type="radio"/> Patent <input type="radio"/> Memorandum <input type="radio"/> Map <input type="radio"/> Telegram <input type="radio"/> Press Release <input type="radio"/> Report <input type="radio"/> Advertisement <input type="radio"/> Congressional Record <input type="radio"/> Census Report <input type="radio"/> Other |
| 2. | UNIQUE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DOCUMENT (Check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting Letterhead <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten <input type="checkbox"/> Typed <input type="checkbox"/> Seals <input type="checkbox"/> Notations <input type="checkbox"/> "RECEIVED" stamp <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| 3. | DATE(S) OF DOCUMENT: |
| 4. | AUTHOR (OR CREATOR) OF THE DOCUMENT: POSITION (TITLE): |
| 5. | FOR WHAT AUDIENCE WAS THE DOCUMENT WRITTEN? |
| 6. | DOCUMENT INFORMATION (There are many possible ways to answer A-E.) A. List three things the author said that you think are important: B. Why do you think this document was written? C. What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document. D. List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written. E. Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the document: |

**Designed and developed by the
Education Staff, National Archives and Records Administration,
Washington, DC 20408**

Written Document Analysis Worksheet, Online version on November 2, 2006, at:
http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/written_document_analysis_worksheet.pdf

Photo Analysis Worksheet

Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

| People | Objects | Activities |
|--------|---------|------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

B. Where could you find answers to them?

**Designed and developed by the
Education Staff, National Archives and Records Administration,
Washington, DC 20408**

Photo Analysis Worksheet, Online version on November 2, 2006, at:
http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf