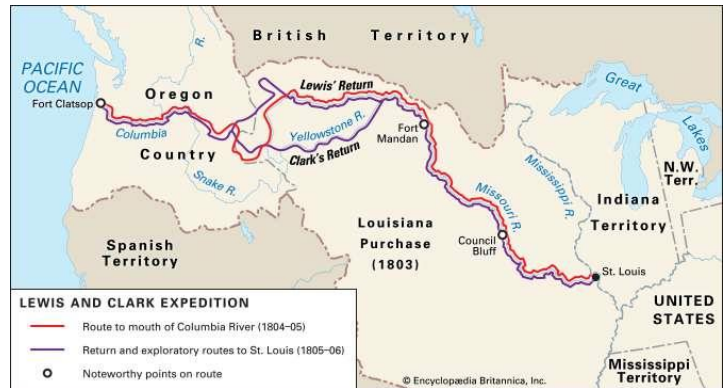


# Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery

In May 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. President Thomas Jefferson sent the Corps of Discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark, to explore the newly acquired territory. The Corps started out from St. Louis in May 1804 and reached the Pacific Coast in November 1805, spending the winter at Fort Clatsop in modern-day Oregon. Their homeward journey began the following spring and they returned to St. Louis in September 1806. Along the way, the Corps discovered plants and animals that had previously been unknown to the West and established relationships with Native American tribes, largely through the aid of Sacagawea. While Lewis and Clark are famed for their discovery of the prairie dog, their expedition was full of scientific marvels and initiated positive relations with dozens of Native American tribes across the growing nation.



Primary Source

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lewis-clark>

Secondary Source

*The Journey of the Corps of Discovery* – Ken Burns film