

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

- (1) Thomas Jefferson became President of the United States in 1801. At that time, the western boundary of the country was the Mississippi River. Thousands of pioneers had crossed the Appalachian Mountains and settled in the Northwest Territory and Southwest Territory. Two western states -- Kentucky and Tennessee -- had been admitted to the Union. Farmers in these areas produced a wide variety of products, including flour, tobacco, pork, butter, cheese, potatoes, apples, salt, and animal skins. Flatboats were used to send these products down the Ohio and other rivers to the Mississippi, then south to the city of New Orleans. The goods were loaded onto ships and carried to cities in the eastern United States and to countries in Europe.

On the map:

- (a) Label the Appalachian Mountains, Ohio River, Mississippi River, and New Orleans.
- (b) In the region between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River, write the 9 products mentioned in the paragraph above.
- (c) Draw arrows (→ → →) south along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans.
- (d) Draw arrows from New Orleans around Florida to the east coast of the United States.
- (2) When Thomas Jefferson became president, Spain owned Florida, which then stretched to the Mississippi River, and the land west of the Mississippi known as "Louisiana." New Orleans belonged to the Spanish, but they permitted American farmers to ship goods through the city. In 1801, France took control of New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory. France, under the leadership of Napoleon, was a much stronger country than Spain. The western farmers were denied use of the Mississippi River and the port at New Orleans, which meant an end to their profitable trade. President Jefferson feared that Napoleon would try to establish a powerful empire in North America. Jefferson sent representatives to France in an attempt to get permission to use the Mississippi and port facilities at New Orleans. It was hoped that the French might even sell New Orleans to the United States. Napoleon knew that he was close to the start of another war with Great Britain. He did not want to anger the Americans and have them form an alliance with Great Britain. Napoleon heard that the United States might send 50,000 troops to capture New Orleans. For these reasons, and to raise money for his army, he decided to sell New Orleans and the whole Louisiana Territory to the United States for \$15,000,000.

On the map:

- (a) In the box next to Washington, D.C., write: President Jefferson buys the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15,000,000. Congress approves the purchase.
- (b) Inside of the Louisiana Territory, write Louisiana Purchase 1803.
- (c) On the back of the map write Results of the Louisiana Purchase, and list:
(1) Doubled the size of the United States. (2) Opened new lands for farming and fur trapping. (3) U.S. controlled entire Mississippi River. (4) U.S. owned the port at New Orleans. (5) Western farmers resumed profitable trade. (6) Ended the threat of a French empire in America. (7) Included all or part of 15 new states.
- (d) Label Florida (Spanish), Spanish Territory (Mexico), and Oregon Country (claimed by U.S., Great Britain, Spain, and Russia).
- (3) President Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory. He had them take notes on geography, mineral resources, the Indians, and animal and plant life. Above all, Jefferson wanted Lewis and Clark to follow the Missouri River to its source in the Rocky Mountains, then follow the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. The president hoped that only a short distance separated the Missouri and Columbia rivers, thus providing a near all-water route to the West Coast. But the explorers found that the actual distance between the rivers was 220 miles. Besides gathering a great deal of information

about Louisiana, the Lewis and Clark Expedition strengthened American claims to the Oregon Country.

On the map:

- (a) Label St. Louis, Ft. Mandan (South Dakota), and Ft. Clatsop (Pacific Coast).
- (b) Label the Missouri River, Columbia River, Colorado River, and Rio Grande.
- (c) Next to Ft. Mandan, write Sacajawea joined expedition as a guide.

- (d) Trace over the dotted line that shows the route of Lewis and Clark from St. Louis to the Pacific Coast and back. Next to the route, write Lewis and Clark 1804-1806.
- (e) Trace the route of Zebulon Pike, who explored the upper Mississippi Valley. Next to this route, write Zebulon Pike 1805-1806. Trace his other route through the Southwest and write Zebulon Pike 1806-1807 next to it. Label Pikes Peak.

