

The Lewis & Clark Expedition: Philadelphia, First Stop on the Journey



Component	Description
Title of Lesson Content/Subject Area	The Lewis & Clark Expedition: Philadelphia, First Stop on the Journey US History
Context	<p>Thomas Jefferson, during the 1780s and 1790s, approached American military hero George Rogers Clark and French scientist Andre Michaux to undertake a scientific expedition across the continent, and he offered to finance adventurer John Ledyard's proposal to cross North America from west to east. These plans did not mature; but once Jefferson became president in March 1801, he had the power of his office to propel his beloved project forward.</p> <p>Jefferson embraced Enlightenment-era science, especially the documentation of nature based on empirical investigation. Reflecting that interest, his library at Monticello included hundreds of volumes, maps, and scientific reports on North American subjects, places, and discovered species. There was only one city in America to which Jefferson would send Lewis to prepare for his task, Philadelphia. Philadelphia had the learned men of science and medicine who could teach Lewis what he'd need to know to fulfill Jefferson's enumerated requests. Philadelphia was the city where he could purchase all the goods he would need for the expedition.</p> <p>Meriwether Lewis arrived about May 12, 1803, in Philadelphia, a city of twelve thousand dwellings inhabited by eighty-one thousand residents. Philadelphia had served as the nation's capital from the American Revolution to 1800. No other American community possessed the concentration of learning needed to teach Captain Lewis what he must know to succeed in the vast, uncharted western wilderness.</p> <p>Lewis first visited Benjamin Smith Barton (1766-1818), professor of natural history and botany at the University of Pennsylvania, also a friend of Jefferson, who tutored Lewis on how to collect, describe, and preserve plants. Barton had studied in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Gottingen, Germany, and had written the first textbook on botany in the United</p>

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States, a copy of which Lewis carried throughout the expedition. Barton also loaned him his own copy of Antoine Simon Le Page DuPratz's *The History of Louisiana*, a book that Lewis carried across the continent and back.

Robert Patterson (1743-1824) deepened Lewis' knowledge of latitude and longitude. He was the University of Pennsylvania's vice-provost and professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, as well as the long-time secretary of the American Philosophical Society—eventually succeeding to its presidency. Patterson also taught navigation at a number of Philadelphia schools, and he enthusiastically supported the American popular museum of natural science and art that Charles Willson Peale had recently installed at Independence Hall.

Dr. Benjamin Rush (1746-1813) advised Lewis on health standards to maintain on the trail, diet, and internal cleansing, as well as the need to obtain knowledge of diseases in the west from the Indians. He had studied medicine in Edinburgh, and became a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Medicine and Clinical Practice. His prestige had made him an authority figure during Philadelphia's yellow fever epidemic of 1793, but his total reliance on bleeding to cure fever had yielded unfavorable results. Rush's interest in human thought processes has caused him to be recognized as a forerunner of modern psychiatry, although he seems to have had no interest in Meriwether Lewis' characteristics of abnormal mental anguish.

Caspar Wistar (1761-1818), another Philadelphia intellect, alerted Lewis to the possibility of finding the remains of mastodons and other fossils. He served as vice president of the American Philosophical Society for twenty years, becoming its president when Jefferson resigned in 1815, and he published the first American textbook on anatomy. Like Rush and Barton, Wistar had studied medicine in Edinburgh, acknowledged as the center of western medical learning. He lectured at the University of Pennsylvania from the chair of anatomy and, like Rush and Barton, was a physician at Pennsylvania Hospital, America's first hospital dedicated to serving the poor, including the insane.

While in Philadelphia, Lewis purchased more than thirty-five hundred pounds of equipment for his assignment. Philadelphia was the best place to find the specialized merchandise he required. Twenty-eight Philadelphia merchants and artisan manufacturers, as well as the army's

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Duration	<p>Schuylkill Arsenal, sold items and services to Lewis, and he carefully inspected each purchase. These expenditures provided life necessities for the twenty-eight month venture: portable shelter, clothing, illumination, Indian trading goods, weapons, powder and ball, health maintenance items, emergency food, navigational and cartographic instruments, construction tools, and packing boxes. Philadelphia inventor Isaiah Lukens provided Lewis with one of his compressed air rifles, a curiosity that fascinated the Native Americans the Corps of Discovery encountered.</p> <p>After arranging for his two and a half tons of equipment and supplies to be carefully packed in thirty-five boxes, one hogshead, and a variety of kegs, Lewis hired a suitable wagon—probably a Conestoga and five horses through William Linnard, a military agent. The wagon driver left Philadelphia for Harpers Ferry on June 10. Lewis left Philadelphia for Washington, D.C., eight days later. The Lewis and Clark expedition had begun.</p> <p>1-2 class periods</p>
Objective	SWBAT understand the scientific and economic importance of Philadelphia in the early 19th century ITO compose an essay explaining why Meriwether Lewis began his journey in Philadelphia.

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<p>Standards</p>	<p>PA Academic Standards 8.2.9.B Compare the impact of historical documents 8.3.9.A Comparison of the role groups and individuals played in social, political, cultural and economic development of the U.S.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.</p>
<p>Anticipatory Set</p>	<p>Display on smartboard copy of original invoice of goods purchased in Philadelphia by Meriwether Lewis, "A Memorandum for the articles in Readiness for the Voyage of 1803." (http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3519961)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ask students what they think this document might be. What was it's purpose? What does it tell the reader? •Brainstorm with students what items they would need for a trip lasting eighteen months to a land unknown, perhaps to another planet.
<p>Direct Instruction</p>	<p>Present background information on Meriwether Lewis' preparatory visit to Philadelphia and the environs. Highlight people, places, and acquisition of goods. Article: " Firm Foundations in Philadelphia"</p> <p>(file:///Users/teacher/Desktop/Philadelphia%20Chapter:%20Lewis%20and%20Clark:%20Philadelphia%20Connection%20Frank%20Muhly.webarchive)</p> <p>Option: Distribute a copy of the article, "Firm Foundations in Philadelphia," to students, assign sections to small groups. Have student Jigsaw the article.</p>
<p>Guided Practice (and/or Cooperative Practice)</p>	<p>Distribute a copy of the article and a graphic organizer, the Outliner, to each student (see resources). Have students independently, or in small groups, complete the graphic organizer on the article "Firm Foundations in Philadelphia"; students should compare and discuss their results.</p>
<p>Independent Practice</p>	<p>Using a computer or ipad, direct students to read independently the article, "To Equip an Expedition" which includes a list of two tons worth of goods(Cost: \$2500) purchased by Lewis while in Philadelphia. (file:///Users/teacher/Desktop/Lewis%20and%20Clark%20.%20Inside%20the%</p>

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Closure	Have students check off the items with which they are familiar. They should research the meaning of the unknown items and make notes (definition) next to the term on the paper of its meaning.
Assessment	Have students write a brief article for <i>Poulson's American Daily Advertiser</i> , a popular Philadelphia newspaper in 1803, explaining Meriwether Lewis' visit to Philadelphia and what he accomplished while in Philadelphia.
Key Terms	Scientific expedition, Enlightenment, merchants
Resources and Materials	<p>Memorandum for Articles in Readiness for the Voyage of 1803 (Yale University Library)...Purchases of goods in Philadelphia (document) http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3519961</p> <p>Article on Lewis' preparation trip to Philadelphia/Pennsylvania entitled "Firm Foundations in Philadelphia: The Lewis & Clark Expedition's ties to Pennsylvania." file:///Users/teacher/Desktop/Philadelphia%20Chapter:%20Lewis%20and%20Clark:%20Philadelphia%20Connection%20Frank%20Muhly.webarchive</p> <p>Article: "To Equip an Expedition." file:///Users/teacher/Desktop/Lewis%20and%20Clark%20.%20Inside%20the%200Corps%20.%20To%20Equip%20an%20Expedition%20%7C%20PBS.webarchive</p>

