

A LEWIS & CLARK TIMELINE

THE NATIONAL LEWIS AND CLARK BICENENNIAL EXHIBITION

Jan. 18, 1803	Jefferson proposes the expedition to Congress
Spring	Jefferson chooses Lewis as expedition commander; Lewis visits Philadelphia to do research and to buy supplies
June	Lewis asks Clark to join the expedition as co-commander
Summer	Keelboat is constructed near Pittsburgh; Lewis and Clark travel down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi River to St. Louis
October	Louisiana Purchase is ratified by Congress
Winter 1803-4	The Corps winters at Camp DuBois across the Mississippi from St. Louis
May 14	Expedition begins
August 3	Council with representatives of Oto and Missouri tribes
August 30	Council with the Yankton Sioux
September 25-28	Expedition meets with the Teton Sioux
October 10-12	Council with the Arikara
October 27	Arrival at the Mandan and Hidatsa villages
December 24	Fort Mandan completed; winter among the Mandan Indians
February 11, 1805	Sacagawea gives birth to Jean Baptiste
April 7	Keelboat sent downriver to St. Louis; the remaining party heads upriver
June 13	Lewis first sees the Great Falls of the Missouri River
June 17-July 15	Portage around the Great Falls
August 12	Lewis and a small party reach the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass
August 13	Lewis and party meet about 60 Shoshone warriors
August 13-31	Camped with the Shoshone
September 5	Council with the Flathead [Salish] Indians
September 11-22	Expedition crosses the Bitterroot Mountains
September 22	Expedition emerges from the Bitterroot Mountains; encounter the Nez Perce camps
October 7	Expedition leaves the Nez Perce camps
October 16	Expedition reaches the Columbia River
October 20	Clark sees first piece of European clothing on an Indian
October 23	Expedition portages the Celilo Falls on the Columbia; continues past the Dalles
November 19	Reach Cape Disappointment, the mouth of the Columbia River; Pacific Ocean
January 1, 1806	Fort Clatsop completed
March 23	Fort Clatsop presented to Clatsop Indians, expedition heads for home
May – late June	Expedition camps with the Nez Perce awaiting snow melt
July 3	Expedition splits into 3 parties

- July 26-27** Lewis and his party camp with several Blackfeet warriors; they kill two of the warriors in a skirmish
- August 12** All three parties are reunited near the mouth of the Yellowstone
- August 14-17** Expedition returns to Mandan villages; Sacagawea and Charbonneau leave the expedition
- August 21** Council with the Arikara and Cheyenne leaders
- August 31** Return encounter with Teton Sioux
- September 23** Expedition reaches St. Louis and disbands