



## **The Adventures of Lewis and Clark**

### **Alignment with 5th Grade Educational Standards**

In this unit, students lead the Lewis and Clark Expedition to discover an overland route to the Pacific Ocean. First, they learn about the historical backdrop for the expedition, such as the Louisiana Purchase and President Thomas Jefferson’s longstanding interest in the west. Students experience the challenges faced by the real Lewis and Clark. They have to manage their time wisely while also keeping enough food and supplies to stay alive. They have to negotiate with many different Native American tribes while facing substantial cultural and linguistic barriers. They have to determine the best path forward while navigating difficult terrain. Along the way to the Pacific, students meet a diverse cast of historical characters including a slave named York and a captive woman named Sacagawea. These people help students understand what life was like for non-white people in antebellum America. By the end of the game, students begin to grasp the darker aspects of what this expedition would enable, namely the displacement of Native peoples and expansion of slavery.

#### **Topics Covered**

- The Louisiana Purchase (1803)
- The Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)
  - Finding an overland route from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean via the Missouri and Columbia Rivers
  - Negotiating with western Native American tribes about trade, peace, and geography
- The diversity of Native America in the antebellum period
- Westward expansion, including
  - The role of exploration in making expansion possible
  - Transportation technology
  - Dark side of expansion: Indian removal and slavery

#### **National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies (Early Grades)**

1. Culture
2. Time, Continuity, and Change
3. People, Places, and Environments
5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
6. Power, Authority, and Governance



### **California History-Social Science Framework**

#### Life in the Young Republic

- Louisiana Purchase
- Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Significance of exploration, mobility, and geography
- Role of transportation technologies

#### The New Nation's Westward Expansion

- The significance of the West in the American imagination
- How westward movement impacted Native American populations and environments

### **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies**

4. Political, Economic, and Social Changes during the 19th Century (History)
8. Geographic patterns influencing location and pattern of settlement (Geography).
9. Adaptation and Modification of the Environment (Geography)
11. Free Enterprise System (Economics)
17. Symbols, Customs, Celebrations, and Landmarks that represent American Beliefs and Principles (Citizenship)
22. Contributions of People of Various Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Groups (Culture)
23. Impact of Science and Technology on U.S. Society (Science, Technology, and Society)
24. Critical-Thinking and Information Analysis (Social Studies Skills)
26. Problem-Solving and Decision-Making (Social Studies Skills)