

## **Map Making with Lewis and Clark**

### **Designed by: Tim Jordan**

#### **Introduction**

Imagine yourself on a fantastic journey of exploration of an unknown world. There are no accurate maps of this strange land that you will explore; you must make your own maps as you go! The goal of this lesson is to have students develop maps as Lewis and Clark did- based on observation.

#### **Content Area and Grade Levels**

This lesson on map making is anchored in Social Studies for high school students

#### **Curriculum Standards**

Louisiana Curriculum Standards to be addressed in this lesson are:  
Social Studies:

##### GEOGRAPHY

\*G-1A-H2 Organizing geographic information and answering complex questions by formulating mental maps of places and regions

\*G-1B-H2 Analyzing the ways in which physical and human characteristics of places and regions have affected historic events

\*G-1D-H2 Examining the challenges placed on humans by the physical environment  
and formulating strategies to deal with these challenges

##### HISTORY

\*H-1A-H3 Interpreting and evaluating the historical evidence presented in primary and secondary sources

\*H-1A-H5 Conducting research in efforts to analyze historical questions and issues

#### **Implementation Overview**

This lesson is to be implemented in correlation with a unit on Exploration of the Louisiana Purchase and will consist of two activities:

1. Students will develop maps based on a virtual internet expedition of the Louisiana Purchase land area.
2. Students will create maps based on an actual outdoor expedition of their communities.

It is recommended that 3-5 hours be scheduled to complete this activity.

#### **Resources Needed**

The following resources and web sites will assist the student with this lesson:

1. Reference books and atlas from school library
2. Paper, markers, paints, compass
3. How to use a compass: [www.uio.no/kjetiki/compass](http://www.uio.no/kjetiki/compass)
4. Finding your way with map and compass: [www.info.er.usgs.gov](http://www.info.er.usgs.gov)
5. Cramer, Zadok. *Navigator, Containing Directions for Navigating the Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers*. (Pittsburgh : Printed and published by Cramer, Spear & Eichbaum, 1811). Available through the LSU Digital Library at <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/u?/lapur,10222> See table of contents for page number of maps. Use this resource and others in the Louisiana Purchase Collection at the LSU Digital Library site to [access period Louisiana maps that will help students to make their map look authentic 19<sup>th</sup> century!](#)

### **Entry Level Skills and Knowledge**

Students need to be familiar with the cardinal directions and have a basic understanding of map scales; otherwise no technical prior knowledge of cartography is needed. This lesson can easily be implemented by the classroom teacher.

### **Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on the following:

1. Did the student work efficiently in his /her group?
2. Did the student follow all directions both in the classroom and in the field?
3. Did the student create an accurate map of the landmarks his group encountered on the field trip?
4. Did the student participate in the “briefing” or classroom discussion about the day’s activities?

### **Possible Variations**

Have students research different methods of navigation using the stars as Lewis and Clark did. Also, have your students teach a friend or parent how To use one of the navigational instruments(compass) to ensure that the student fully understood the lesson.

### **Conclusion**

Point out to your students the importance of a lesson on basic navigation. Map making and map reading are apart of everyday life For many people. Also, mention the importance of knowing how to read a compass could mean the difference between life and death someday.