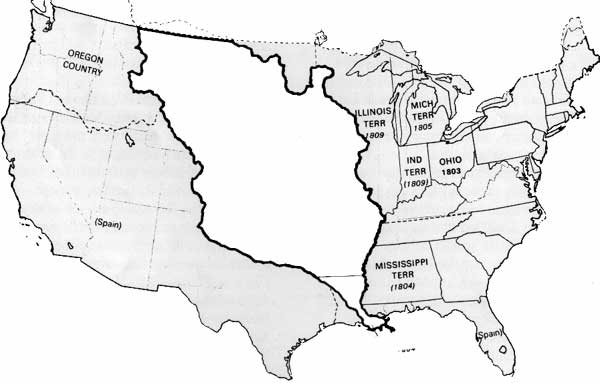
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**The Louisiana Purchase**

*The Louisiana Purchase is considered the greatest real estate deal in history. The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France at a price of $15 million, (approximately four cents an acre). The ratification of the Louisiana Purchase treaty, doubled the size of the United States, and gave the United States control over the Mississippi River. This new vast territory gained by the United States, now provided opportunity for westward expansion.*

***Directions:***

1. *Color in the territory that was purchased in the Louisiana Purchase on the map below, and label it with the name Louisiana.*
2. *Draw in the location of the Mississippi River on the map below*

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***Directions:*** *Read the passages below and answer the questions that follow.*

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE: BACKGROUND**

Beginning in the 17th century, France explored the [Mississippi](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/mississippi) River valley and established scattered settlements in the region. By the middle of the 18th century, France controlled more of the present-day United States than any other European power: from [New Orleans](http://www.history.com/topics/new-orleans) northeast to the Great Lakes and northwest to modern-day [Montana](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/montana). In 1762, during the [French and Indian War](http://www.history.com/topics/french-and-indian-war), France surrendered French [Louisiana](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/louisiana) west of the Mississippi River to Spain. Spain, no longer a dominant European power, did little to develop Louisiana during the next three decades.

In 1801, Spain signed a secret treaty with France to return Louisiana Territory to France. Since the late 1780s, Americans had been moving westward into the [Ohio](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/ohio) River and [Tennessee](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/tennessee) River valleys, and these settlers and farmers were highly dependent on free access to the Mississippi River and the strategic port of New Orleans. The Mississippi was essential for trade for many Americans. U.S. officials feared that France, growing under the leadership of [Napoleon Bonaparte](http://www.history.com/topics/napoleon), would soon seek to dominate the Mississippi River and access to the Gulf of [Mexico](http://www.history.com/topics/mexico). Robert Livingston, U.S minister to France, was ordered to negotiate with French minister Charles Maurice de Talleyrand for the purchase of New Orleans. During these negotiations, the French asked Livingston if the United States was interested in purchasing all of Louisiana Territory. It is believed that the failure of France to put down a slave revolution in Haiti, the impending war with Great Britain and probable British naval blockade of France, and financial difficulties may all have prompted Napoleon to offer Louisiana for sale to the United States. Negotiations moved swiftly, and at the end of April the U.S. agreed to pay $15,000,000 for the Louisiana Territory.

**WAS THE PURCHASE CONSTITUTIONAL?**

Jefferson welcomed the news from France. Still he was not sure whether the President had the power to purchase Louisiana. He had always insisted that the federal government had only those powers spelled out in the Constitution. The document said nothing about a President having the power to buy land. In the end, Jefferson decided that he did have the authority to buy Louisiana. The Constitution, he reasoned, allowed for the President to make treaties. At his request, the Senate approved the treaty, and the Louisiana Purchase went into effect. In 1803, the United States took control of the vast lands west of the Mississippi.

**Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)**

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were chosen by Thomas Jefferson to lead an important expedition to explore the new territory that lay west of the Mississippi River to find out about the land, people, rivers, and anything else of interest in the new, vast, unknown region. Many Americans believed in **manifest destiny** which is the belief that the United States and its settlers are destined to expand west and throughout the continent. Lewis and Clark along with other explorers made up the Corps of Discovery. The group set off on their journey from St. Louis where the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers meet, on May 14, 1804.

The primary purpose or goal of the expedition was to explore and map out the newly acquired territory, find a practical route across the Western half of the continent, and establish an American presence in the territory. The campaign's second goal was scientific and economic: to study the area's plants, animal life, and geography, and establish trade with local Native American tribes.

A third goal of the expedition was the find out about the Native Americans living the newly purchased Louisiana Territory. Lewis and Clark had strict instructions from President Jefferson to keep good relations with the Native Americans that they met on the journey. During their journey, Lewis and Clark hired a French-Canadian trader named Toussaint Charbonneau and his wife Sacajawea, a Shoshone Native American. Their baby Jean Baptiste also joined the expedition. Sacajawea helped Lewis and Clark during their journey as a guide and interpreter in dealing with other Native Americans. The presence of a woman and a baby on the expedition came as a sign of peace to other Native Americans that they encountered. At the end of the journey in 1806, with maps, sketches and journals in hand, the explorers returned to St. Louis to report their findings to Jefferson.

1. Which two countries had control over the Louisiana Territory before the United States?

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1. What is manifest destiny?

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1. Why was access to the Mississippi River important for many Americans?

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1. Why did Napoleon agree to sell the whole Louisiana Territory to the United States?

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1. Do you think the President’s decision to purchase Louisiana was Constitutional? Why or why not?

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1. Now that the United States has doubled in size, predict what you think needs to happen with this new land. Explain.

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6.) How long did the Lewis and Clark expedition last? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7.) What were the goals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition? List and explain at least three.

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8.) Who was Sacajawea and how did she help Lewis and Clark?

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