

Teaching Suggestions

In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson dramatically increased the territory of the United States by approving the purchase of Louisiana from France. He then sent the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the new territory and find a water route to the Pacific. Although there was no direct water route to the Pacific, the expedition recorded a wealth of scientific data about the newly acquired lands and staked the claim of the United States to the Oregon Territory in the Pacific Northwest. This map shows the Louisiana Territory and the routes of the Lewis and Clark expedition, as well as the explorations of Zebulon Pike.

1. Have students color the Louisiana Territory on their maps. Remind them to create a legend for their maps.
2. Ask what river marked the eastern boundary of this territory. Have them label it on their maps.
3. Ask what river Lewis and Clark followed at the beginning of their expedition. Have students label that river. Have them label the Rocky Mountains.
4. Have students name and label the river that Lewis and Clark followed to reach the Pacific Ocean.
5. Ask students what area Zebulon Pike explored after he discovered Pike's Peak. Have them label this area on their map and write in parentheses the name of the country that ruled it.
6. Some of your students might enjoy reading portions of the *Journals of Lewis and Clark*, available in many editions in libraries. Have them mark on their maps the locations described in the selections that they read, and report on the descriptions of the environment of those places.

Louisiana Purchase and Exploration

