

Lesson Outline: The Louisiana Purchase and Lewis & Clark

I. Introduction: Defining the American West (Early 1800s)

- Understanding the "West" as the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River

- U.S. settlement east of the Mississippi River
- Spain and France's claims to land west of the Mississippi

II. Migration and Economic Growth Along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers

- American families moving westward:
 - On foot through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and Tennessee
 - By flatboats on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers
- Growth of cities along the Ohio River (Cincinnati, Louisville)
- Trade routes leading to New Orleans

III. The Mississippi River Crisis

- Importance of river trade for farmers and merchants
- Foreign control of the Mississippi River and its tributaries
- Napoleon Bonaparte's closure of American trade in 1802
- Economic impact of losing access to the Mississippi River

IV. The Louisiana Purchase

- Napoleon's ambitions for Louisiana and New Orleans
- His need for funds to finance European wars
- Negotiations between the U.S. and France:
 - Robert Livingston and James Monroe's mission to buy New Orleans
 - Napoleon's unexpected offer to sell the entire Louisiana Territory for \$15 million
- Signing of the Louisiana Purchase on April 30, 1803
- The U.S. nearly doubles in size

V. Jefferson's Plans for Exploration

- Need to:
 - Define the boundaries of Louisiana
 - Identify resources and Native American settlements
 - Search for an all-water route to the Pacific
- Selection of Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition
- Lewis choosing William Clark as co-leader

VI. The Lewis and Clark Expedition

- Expedition preparation:
 - Assembling a diverse team of hunters, blacksmiths, interpreters, and soldiers
 - Launching from St. Louis on May 14, 1804, via the Missouri River
- Encounters with Native American tribes:
 - Lakota Sioux and Mandan tribes

- Importance of the Mandan villages as a winter camp

VII. Sacagawea's Role in the Expedition

- Captured as a child and later married to French trader Charbonneau
- Became a guide and interpreter for Lewis and Clark
- Helped secure horses from the Shoshone for the journey through the Rockies
- Her presence reduced hostility with Native American tribes

VIII. Reaching the Pacific Ocean (1805-1806)

- Crossing the Rocky Mountains and navigating the Columbia River
- November 7, 1805: First sighting of the Pacific Ocean
- Wintering on the Pacific Coast with the Chinook tribe
- The return journey (1806) and Lewis and Clark's arrival in St. Louis

IX. Zebulon Pike's Southern Expedition

- Jefferson's commission of Zebulon Pike to explore the southern Louisiana Territory (1806)

- Discovery of Pike's Peak in Colorado
- Capture by Spanish forces in New Mexico
- Observations of Spanish Texas and its growing American population

X. Other Key Events of Jefferson's Presidency

- The Death of Alexander Hamilton (1804)
 - Duel with Aaron Burr
 - Impact on Burr's political career
- The Barbary Wars (1801-1805)
 - American conflict with North African pirates
 - U.S. victory, ending tribute payments for trade in the Mediterranean
- The Embargo Act of 1807
 - British and French interference with American shipping
 - Jefferson's policy of stopping all trade with Europe
 - Economic downturn and opposition from American merchants

XI. Conclusion: Expansion and Its Impact

- The Louisiana Purchase's effect on U.S. territorial growth
- The role of exploration in encouraging migration westward
- Tensions with foreign powers leading toward the War of 1812