

6. Lead On, Sacagawea by David White

A ¹Lewis and Clark blazed a new trail by land to the Pacific Ocean. ²They hoped to find a way for fur traders to reach tribes in the West. ³They also wanted to see if the new land would be a good place to settle.

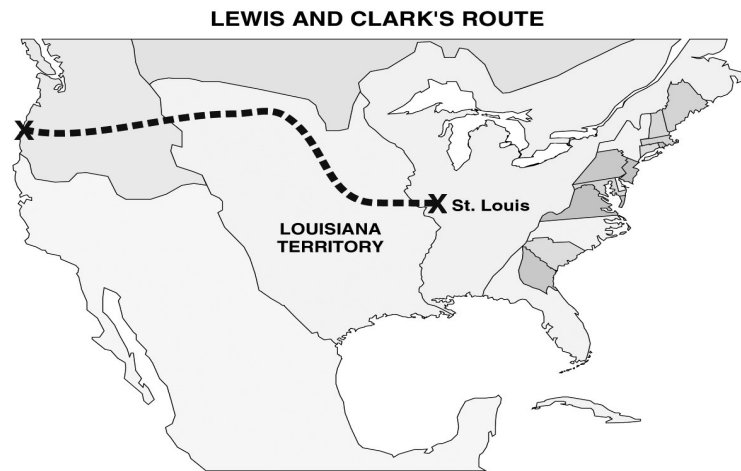
B ⁴Their trip took almost three years and covered 8,000 miles. ⁵It began near St. Louis in May 1804. ⁶They stopped in North Dakota for the winter. ⁷During their stay, they hired a Native American guide. ⁸Her name was Sacagawea.

C ⁹Lewis and Clark were white and spoke only English. ¹⁰Alone, they might not have been welcomed by the tribes. ¹¹They thought Sacagawea would be a big help to them. ¹²She spoke two Native American languages. ¹³She had family living in the West who could get them supplies. ¹⁴She also knew the safest paths and rivers to take.

D ¹⁵She had just given birth to a baby boy. ¹⁶She carried the baby on her back the whole way. ¹⁷They found that having a woman and baby with them let the tribes know that they were a friendly group.

E ¹⁸The group started west in the spring. ¹⁹They traveled on foot over the tall mountains, which were snowy even then. ²⁰They traveled by boat when they could to save time.

F ²¹The explorers reached the west coast in the winter of 1805. ²²They headed home the next spring. ²³Lewis and Clark brought back new, important facts about the land in the West, its plants and animals, and its native peoples.



DIRECTIONS: Circle the letter next to the correct answer or write the answer on the lines given. When asked, write the number of the sentence or the letter of the paragraph that is the best evidence.

1. Sacagawea spoke two Native American languages. Why did Lewis and Clark think this would help?

Which 2 sentences are the best evidence? _____, _____

2. Which of these might be another reason Lewis and Clark hired Sacagawea to lead them west?
- A. She could get them fresh food.
 - B. She could carry extra supplies for them.
 - C. She knew how to paddle a boat.
 - D. She knew how to use native plants.

Which sentence is the best evidence? _____

3. Why did the explorers NOT cross the mountains in winter?

Which sentence is the best evidence? _____

4. Which of these probably best explains why the explorers traveled by boat in some places?
- A. They were more comfortable in boats than on horses.
 - B. The boats had more room for supplies than the horses did.
 - C. The rivers went directly to the west coast.
 - D. It was usually faster than traveling on land.

Which sentence is the best evidence? _____

5. What does sentence 3 suggest about travelers who would go west after Lewis and Clark?
- A. They would go in pairs.
 - B. They would go there to stay.
 - C. They would follow the same route.
 - D. They would take Native American guides.

Answers

6. Lead On, Sacagawea (p. 24)
Reading Level: 4.5

1. Sacagawea spoke two Native American languages. Why did Lewis and Clark think this would help?

She could help them talk to the natives.

2 best evidence sentences: **9, 10**

2. Which of these might be another reason Lewis and Clark hired Sacagawea to lead them west?

A. She could get them fresh food.

B. She could carry extra supplies for them.

C. She knew how to paddle a boat.

D. She knew how to use native plants.

Best evidence sentence: **13**

3. Why did the explorers probably NOT cross the mountains in winter?

Since the mountains were snowy even in spring, they were probably too snowy in the winter.

Best evidence sentence: **19**

4. Which of these probably best explains why the explorers traveled by boat in some places?

A. They were more comfortable in boats than on horses.

B. The boats had more room for supplies than the horses did.

C. The rivers went directly to the west coast.

D. It was usually faster than traveling on land.

Best evidence sentence: **20**

5. What does sentence 3 suggest about travelers who would go west after Lewis and Clark?

A. They would go in pairs.

B. They would go there to stay.

C. They would follow the same route.

D. They would take Native American guides.