

Chris  
Introduction A B

Have you ever heard of Westward Expansion? It was a time in American history when Americans started expanding west. Wow! How could the US' land double in one day? Well, it did because Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Purchase ~~in 1803~~. In the same year explorers started exploring the Louisiana Purchase. Thomas Jefferson must have really wanted Lewis and Clark to explore this new land that was around 2 million square miles! 40 years after that, the Oregon Trail started then in 1869 people built the Transcontinental Railroad.

---

Chris

## Lewis and Clark

In 1803, Thomas Jefferson, the president at that time, bought the Louisiana Purchase from France. It stretched from the Mississippi River until the Rocky Mountains. In that same year, Jefferson recruited Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to go on an expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase. Jefferson really must have wanted to explore the new land. In 1806, Lewis and Clark, return to Missouri after traveling to the Pacific Ocean and then back.

As I look on the map, I see that Lewis and Clark went through rivers to get to the Pacific Ocean. Until now, I've never noticed that there were advantages by walking and advantages by sailing. Instead of sailing on one river, Lewis and Clark went through many rivers, walking a little to arrive at the next river. At the Rocky Mountains Lewis and Clark were smart and did not climb them but find a way pass it, such as a gap.

Think about all the things they must have traded with the Native Americans! From animal furs to weapons they helped in any way. Then, Lewis and Clark may have hunted fish while they were traveling by boat, or they could

①

Chris

Lewis and Clark

have gotten food from the Native Americans they met on the way. If Lewis and Clark did get food from the Native Americans they would have to give something back because of kindness. For example, I think they would have gave the Native Americans things they didn't have such as dinnerware, pots, pans, and many more.

Now that you have read this text, think about how Lewis and Clark survived on this 3 year journey. Was it the food they ate? The place they slept?

Chris

## The Oregon Trail

In 1846 Great Britain and the US signed the Oregon Treaty. This allowed people to move west on the Oregon Trail. Mexico probably surrendered from the US in 1847 because of the huge numbers of people that were moving west. In 1848, the US must have wanted people to move west because they paid 15 million dollars to sign Treaty of Hidalgo which was the land of the far west. I guess nobody wanted to move west so the US must have created the Homestead Act, giving people free land because it would be a waste of money. This must also have encouraged people to move west on the Oregon Trail.

The Oregon Trail was a way for pioneers to travel west, to Oregon City, but it was way more than that. I can imagine the excitement of the people when they reached the end of the trail. This must have meant that the Oregon Trail was hard and very difficult. Until now, I've never noticed how long the Oregon Trail was. Now that I look at the map, the Oregon Trail was about 8 states long <sup>each</sup> about the size of Oregon. That was very long. Also, according to the map, the Oregon Trail was about 2,400 miles.

①

Chris

## The Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail's last stop for the pioneers was Oregon City. Then they were finally at the end of the trail at Abernethy Green. It must have been difficult on the way because of so many obstacles in your way. For example, rivers, especially the Mississippi River and the Missouri River. Also, don't forget the Rocky Mountains. On this adventure, after you end, you must restart everything! For example, houses, farming, and many many more.

②

Chris  
The Transcontinental Railroad

It was very hard moving goods to the west and bringing goods to the east in the west, but the US has created a railroad that would allow people to move from the east to west, each other. The United States created a transcontinental railroad that would allow people to move from Iowa to California. In 1869 the railroad was completed. People must have traded guns for animal skins with the Native Americans, or people in the east may have been supplied with food from the west. Also, in California, people could've traded gold for many different items. In the west of the United States there were many natural resources.

Also, people west helped to move from the east to west, each other. The United States created a transcontinental railroad that would allow people to move from Iowa to California. In 1869 the railroad was completed. People must have traded guns for animal skins with the Native Americans, or people in the east may have been supplied with food from the west. Also, in California, people could've traded gold for many different items. In the west of the United States there were many natural resources.

crowded with less farm land available but there were many factories. In the west there was good farmland. The west would supply the east with crops while the east would supply the west with items.

As I look on the map I can imagine workers dying and getting hurt by building this long railroad. As I look on the map, the railroad was from Iowa to California. That is very long! →

①

Chris

## The Transcontinental Railroad

Until now, I've never noticed how long it took for the Chinese workers to finish this railroad.

In 1849, the California Gold Rush began. The end of the Transcontinental Railroad was at California. The Transcontinental Railroad may have been a way for miners to get to California! The miners wouldn't have to travel by wagon or walk to California.

## Conclusion b

Now that you have read this text, think about why Thomas Jefferson would send Lewis and Clark this quickly to explore the Louisiana Purchase. Also, think about how transportation has changed to get to the west of the US.