



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Louis and Clark” by R. Conrad Stein. This is a nonfiction account of the two-year expedition (1804-1806) undertaken by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in order to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory, which stretched from St. Louis, Missouri to the Pacific Ocean. During their expedition, Lewis and Clark were aided by a knowledgeable Indian woman named Sacagawea, who was able to find edible roots and fruit, scout safe routes for travel, and serve as a translator between the white men and Native Americans. Though Lewis and Clark endured many hardships, they eventually succeeded in reaching the Pacific Ocean and then returning home to St. Louis.

Make a Map

Work with your child to trace the route taken by Lewis and Clark. You may enjoy making a large map that shows their route and charting important events that occurred along the way. Display the map, and share it with the rest of the family.

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary and Expeditions

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Lewis and Clark”:

profusely
dismal

ordeal
peril

terrain
esteem

Discuss the meanings of these words by giving each other examples of things the words name or describe. Then encourage your child to use as many of these words as possible as he or she tells a story of a made-up expedition that the two of you could take together.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Family Expedition Backpacks

Pretend that your family is planning to go on an expedition like Lewis and Clark’s in which you would explore a far-distant place on foot. First, decide on a place – as untamed or as settled as you prefer. Then discuss with your child the difficulties and emergencies you should prepare for, such as bad weather or mudslides. Decide what clothing each family member will need to bring along in order to be prepared for weather emergencies. Decide what the whole family will need to bring along for food, shelter, and other needs. Then make a list of priority items that you would each always have in your personal backpack. Provide a reason for each item.

