

Reading 7: The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803–1806



When Thomas Jefferson became president of the United States in 1801, about two thirds of the American population was **confined** to an area within 50 miles of the Atlantic Ocean. Two years into his presidency, and interested primarily in the port of New Orleans, Jefferson agreed to **acquire** the entire 820,000-square-mile Louisiana Territory from Napoleon Bonaparte. On April 30, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was signed; at a cost of \$15 million, Jefferson's deal doubled the size of the United States.

In a confidential letter to Congress, Jefferson requested **funds** for an exploratory expedition from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. With the approved \$2,500 as financing, Jefferson chose his private secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, and Lewis's friend, Lieutenant William Clark, to head up what was called the Corps of Discovery.

With few reliable maps of the region in existence, the journey of the Corps of Discovery would prove to be an ambitious **undertaking** beset with hardship. On May 14, 1804, Lewis and Clark set out with a team of thirty-three members trained in botany, zoology, outdoor **survival**, and other scientific skills in search of a passage between the Mississippi and the Pacific.

Their mission included **instructions** to collect data on the Native American population, indigenous plant and animal life, minerals, rivers, lakes, and trade possibilities. By November 1805 their journey had taken them 8,000 miles up the Missouri River, over the Continental Divide, and along the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. Trapper and guide Toussaint Charbonneau assisted the expedition and his Shoshone wife, Sacagawea, **interpreted**, providing valuable advice on edible and medicinal native plants. Despite hunger, sickness, and the hardships of a difficult terrain, the expedition returned amid fanfare to St. Louis on September 23, 1806.

Not only did Clark's detailed maps lay the groundwork for future **migration** westward, but the expedition fulfilled Manifest Destiny, a popular **ideology** at the time that Anglo Americans would **expand** their civilization across the North American continent.

EXERCISE 8-19

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the word from Reading 7.

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|-----------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. _____ | confine | a. incarcerate | b. enclose | c. limit |
| 2. _____ | acquire | a. purchase | b. request | c. forfeit |
| 3. _____ | funds | a. supply | b. financing | c. organization |
| 4. _____ | undertaking | a. prospect | b. venture | c. agreement |
| 5. _____ | survival | a. exercise | b. skill | c. endurance |
| 6. _____ | instruction | a. directions | b. lesson | c. guidance |
| 7. _____ | interpret | a. explain | b. understand | c. translate |
| 8. _____ | migration | a. navigation | b. relocation | c. exploration |
| 9. _____ | ideology | a. belief | b. idea | c. theory |
| 10. _____ | expand | a. spread out | b. elaborate | c. inflate |

EXERCISE 8-20

Complete each of the following sentences with the appropriate choice from the words listed in Exercise 8-19. Be sure to use the correct form of each verb and to pluralize nouns if necessary.

1. You can _____ a broader vocabulary through extensive reading and daily exposure to the language.
2. Fortunately the outbreak has been _____ to a small area.
3. Abstract paintings are difficult to _____.
4. Every creature is concerned first and foremost with its own _____.

5. The government provides _____ to students who need financial assistance.
6. Heat causes materials to _____.
7. Every political party has its own distinct _____.
8. When you take an examination, it is very important to read and follow the _____ exactly.
9. At the end of summer a mass _____ of birds occurs from northern to southern climates.
10. When Europeans first came to North America, settling in a hostile environment was a risky and uncertain _____.

EXERCISE 8-21

Choose the word that corresponds to the best answer.

1. The word *confidential* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
- (A) detailed
 - (B) private
 - (C) conventional
 - (D) public
2. The word *expedition* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
- (A) journey
 - (B) mission
 - (C) group
 - (D) race

3. The word *indigenous* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- Ⓐ threatened
- Ⓑ native
- Ⓒ rare
- Ⓓ useful

4. The word *manifest* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- Ⓐ true
- Ⓑ secret
- Ⓒ predestined
- Ⓓ obvious

Reading 9: The legacy of William Shakespeare



Almost four hundred years after his death, William Shakespeare's dramas still draw crowds, and details about his life continue to **reinforce** the reputation of the world's most renowned playwright. Shakespeare's exact birth date is unknown, but it is believed to be April 23, 1564, as it is close to his baptismal date, April 26. His supposed birth date **coincides** with the date of his death, which is also April 23.

Few official documents apart from sundry property records, court documents, tax records, and a will exist to substantiate the details of Shakespeare's life. Born and raised at Stratford-upon-Avon, England, he **presumably** attended Stratford Grammar School. Church records show that in November 1582, at age 18, he married Anne Hathaway. By 1594, Shakespeare was an actor, **published** poet, and playwright, and beginning in 1599, he became part owner of the Globe Theatre. Because the few known facts about his life are so prosaic, speculation about "the real Shakespeare" abounds with an almost cultlike fervor.

While details of his life are sparse, the brilliance of Shakespeare's work goes unchallenged. Shakespeare's canon currently **comprises** thirty-eight plays written between 1590 and 1612 and **consists** of histories, comedies, tragedies, and romances. Shakespeare **contributed** thousands of words to the English language (*fanged, birthplace, arch-villain*) and expanded the dramatic possibilities of blank verse, making it mimic the rhythm of speech even as he elevated speech to poetry. He heightened the **psychological** realism of his characters, making their struggles endlessly adaptable to theater in different times and places.

Shakespeare discoveries, though rare, continue to make news. In June 2012, archaeologists finally located the **foundation** of the lost Curtain Theatre in London, where *Henry V* and *Romeo and Juliet* would have first been staged.

One wonders if Shakespeare foresaw his legacy when he composed these lines in *Julius Caesar*: "How many ages **hence**/Shall this our lofty scene be acted over/In states unborn and accents yet unknown!?"

EXERCISE 8-25

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the word from Reading 9.

1. _____ **reinforce** a. reiterate b. confirm c. strengthen
2. _____ **coincide** a. collide b. match up c. conclude
3. _____ **presumably** a. supposedly b. possibly c. boldly
4. _____ **publish** a. disseminate b. print c. advertise
5. _____ **comprise** a. encompass b. include c. be made up
6. _____ **consist** a. be composed b. conform c. deliver
7. _____ **contribute** a. cause b. furnish c. donate
8. _____ **psychological** a. mental b. imaginary c. deviant
9. _____ **foundation** a. justification b. agency c. base
10. _____ **hence** a. presumably b. therefore c. from now on

EXERCISE 8-26

Complete each of the following sentences with the appropriate choice from the words listed in Exercise 8-25. Be sure to use the correct form of each verb and to pluralize nouns if necessary.

1. The Introduction to Academic Writing class is designed to give students a solid _____ on which they can build when doing research and writing academic papers.
2. Our Geography class _____ of nothing but dry, boring lectures.
3. _____ pain is often more difficult to bear than physical discomfort.

4. I'm very excited that the college newspaper is going to _____ my article in the upcoming edition.
5. My brother's birthday _____ with Independence Day.
6. In this class everyone is expected to _____ actively to the discussion rather than just sit there and stare into space.
7. A water molecule is _____ of one oxygen and two hydrogen atoms.
8. These three papers contain exactly the same answers; _____ my suspicion that the students were copying from each other.
9. Mnemonic techniques such as pictures or key words can _____ your memory and understanding of a new word.
10. _____ the instructor will tell us what sections of the book we should study before we take the test.

EXERCISE 8-27

Choose the word that corresponds to the best answer.

1. The word *substantiate* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
 - (A) document
 - (B) verify
 - (C) disprove
 - (D) confirm
2. The word *sundry* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
 - (A) various
 - (B) dubious
 - (C) distinct
 - (D) specific

3. The word *prosaic* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- Ⓐ obvious
- Ⓑ curious
- Ⓒ unclear
- Ⓓ mundane

4. The word *mimic* in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- Ⓐ imitate
- Ⓑ satirize
- Ⓒ improvise
- Ⓓ reproduce