## Essential Question:
What impact did the Louisiana Purchase have on America?

### Focus Areas:
- Lewis & Clark
- Spanish, French & Native Americans
- Constitutionality of the Louisiana Purchase

## Procedures:
1. **THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE** mapped out. Read the introduction to the Louisiana Purchase and locate the territory on the map. Color in or label the territory that was purchased in the Louisiana Purchase on the map. Using available resources to you, list at least 6 current states that make up this territory. Next, label the location of the Mississippi River on the map.
2. Read the passages and answer the questions that follow.
3. Interpret the quote from Meriwether Lewis. Restate Lewis’s comments in your own words.
4. **ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS.** Study the political cartoon and then answer the questions below.
5. Define the VOCABULARY words with words from the Word Bank.
6. **SYNTHESIS.** Design a character to serve as a mascot for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. You can either draw a picture OR describe your character in writing.
7. Write a one paragraph journal entry about your experiences on the trip by choosing 1 of 3 tasks laid out by President Thomas Jefferson in AMERICAN EXPLORATION JOURNALS.

## Work to Be Returned:
1. LOUISIANA PURCHASE map labeled.
2. Completed answers to the reading passages.
3. Your interpretation of Meriwether Lewis’ quote.
4. Completed answers to the POLITICAL CARTOON.
5. Definitions to the VOCABULARY.
6. A drawing or description of your character for Lewis & Clark’s expedition.
7. A one paragraph journal entry.

## Resources:
- Louisiana Purchase Map
- "Under My Wings Every Thing Prospers" by New Orleans artist J. L. Bouqueto de Woiseri

## Time Allocated:
One (60) minute lesson.

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**The Louisiana Purchase**

The Louisiana Purchase is considered the greatest real estate deal in history. The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France at a price of $15 million, (approximately four cents an acre). The ratification of the Louisiana Purchase treaty, doubled the size of the United States, and gave the United States control over the Mississippi River. This new vast territory gained by the United States, now provided opportunity for westward expansion.

**Directions:**
1.) Color in or label the territory that was purchased in the Louisiana Purchase on the map below.
   a. List (6) current states that make up this territory.
2.) Label the location of the Mississippi River on the map below.

Directions: Read the passages below and answer the questions that follow.

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE: BACKGROUND**

Beginning in the 17th century, France explored the Mississippi River valley and established scattered settlements in the region. By the middle of the 18th century, France controlled more of the present-day United States than any other European power: from New Orleans northeast to the Great Lakes and northwest to modern-day Montana. In 1762, during the French and Indian War, France surrendered French Louisiana west of the Mississippi River to Spain. Spain, no longer a dominant European power, did little to develop Louisiana during the next three decades.

In 1801, Spain signed a secret treaty with France to return Louisiana Territory to France. Since the late 1780s, Americans had been moving westward into the Ohio River and Tennessee River valleys, and these settlers and farmers were highly dependent on free access to the Mississippi River and the strategic port of New Orleans. The Mississippi was essential for trade for many Americans. U.S. officials feared that France, growing under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte, would soon seek to dominate the Mississippi River and access to the Gulf of Mexico. Robert Livingston, U.S minister to France, was ordered to negotiate with French minister Charles Maurice de Talleyrand for the purchase of New Orleans. Negotiations moved swiftly, and at the end of April the U.S. agreed to pay $15,000,000 for the Louisiana Territory.

**WAS THE PURCHASE CONSTITUTIONAL?**

Jefferson welcomed the news from France. Still he was not sure whether the President had the power to purchase Louisiana. He had always insisted that the federal government had only those powers spelled out in the Constitution. The document said nothing about a President having the power to buy land. In the end, Jefferson decided that he did have the authority to buy Louisiana. The Constitution, he reasoned, allowed for the President to make treaties. At his request, the Senate approved the treaty, and the Louisiana Purchase went into effect. In 1803, the United States took control of the vast lands west of the Mississippi.

**Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)**

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were chosen by Thomas Jefferson to lead an important expedition to explore the new territory that lay west of the Mississippi River to find out about the land, people, rivers, and anything else of
interest in the new, vast, unknown region. Many Americans believed in manifest destiny which is the belief that the United States and its settlers are destined to expand west and throughout the continent. Lewis and Clark along with other explorers made up the Corps of Discovery. The group set off on their journey from St. Louis where the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers meet, on May 14, 1804.

The primary purpose or goal of the expedition was to explore and map out the newly acquired territory, find a practical route across the Western half of the continent, and establish an American presence in the territory. The campaign's second goal was scientific and economic: to study the area’s plants, animal life, and geography, and establish trade with local Native American tribes.

A third goal of the expedition was to find out about the Native Americans living in the newly purchased Louisiana Territory. Lewis and Clark had strict instructions from President Jefferson to keep good relations with the Native Americans that they met on the journey. During their journey, Lewis and Clark hired a French-Canadian trader named Toussaint Charbonneau and his wife Sacajawea, a Shoshone Native American. Their baby Jean Baptiste also joined the expedition. Sacajawea helped Lewis and Clark during their journey as a guide and interpreter in dealing with other Native Americans. The presence of a woman and a baby on the expedition came as a sign of peace to other Native Americans that they encountered. At the end of the journey in 1806, with maps, sketches and journals in hand, the explorers returned to St. Louis to report their findings to Jefferson.

1.) Which two countries had control over the Louisiana Territory before the United States? __________ & __________
2.) Do you think the President's decision to purchase Louisiana was Constitutional? Why or why not?
3.) What is manifest destiny?
4.) Why was access to the Mississippi River important for many Americans? ________________________________
5.) How long did the Lewis and Clark expedition last? _______
6.) What were the goals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition? List and explain at least three.
   ● __________________________________________________________________________________________
   ● __________________________________________________________________________________________
   ● __________________________________________________________________________________________
7.) Who was Sacajawea and how did she help Lewis and Clark?
8.) Now that the United States has doubled in size, predict what you think needs to happen with this new land. Explain your prediction by incorporating the goals from the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

INTERPRET THE QUOTE

Eager for information about this vast uncharted wilderness, President Jefferson sent several teams of explorers to map the land and report back on the plants and animals they found there. Meriwether Lewis of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition wrote:

...we were now about to penetrate a country at least two thousand miles in width, on which the foot of civilized man had never trodden; the good or evil it had in store for us was for experiment yet to determine...

In Your Own Words...

Restate Lewis's comments in your own words. Why would he say that no “civilized man” had been there when Native Americans had lived on the land for thousands of years?

ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS
Study the political cartoon and then answer the questions below.

1. Who or what does the eagles represent? ________________________________

2. What is the artist’s opinion of the Louisiana Purchase? ________________________________

3. How might the city of New Orleans prosper as a result of the Louisiana Purchase? ________________________________

Vocabulary

Define the following words with words from the Word Bank.

Any large area of land  Slang for “walked”  A large brown or gray bear living in North America
A large area of flat, rolling grasses with few or new trees  A bison  Not mapped; unknown  To go into or through

1. Uncharted: __________________________________________ 2. Penetrate: __________________________________________


7. Territory: __________________________________________

Synthesis

Design a character to serve as a mascot for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. You can either draw a picture OR describe your character in writing.

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

OR Draw on Next Page
American Exploration Journals

Your job is to pretend you are a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. You are going on the exploration in order to bring back information about the Louisiana Purchase so the President would like you to keep a journal of what you have experienced. The expedition took over a year to complete and because of that the members involved had to provide for themselves and bring enough supplies to make it all the way to their destinations.

Your Task - Write **ONE** Journal entry about your experiences on the trip. President Jefferson had three tasks for his expeditions:

1. Explore the Western portion of the Louisiana Purchase
2. Establish positive relations with the Native Americans
3. Describe the Landscape, Plants & Animals

You will write a journal entry that will include one of the tasks. This means you will write just one entry about the exploration of the western portion **OR** one about establishing relations with the natives **OR** one describing the landscape, plants or animals discovered.

**Journals should include appropriate dates and one of three entries described below.**

Appropriate Dates: (This expedition was from 1804-06)

- An entry talking about an experience exploring the purchase
- A journal entry explaining how you helped establish good relations with the natives
- A journal entry describing the Landscape, plants or animals

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