



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

The men who mapped the West:



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*Meriwether
Lewis*

*William
Clark*

- In 1803, President Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for a sum of \$15 million dollars. The new land nearly doubled the area of the United States at around 800,000 square miles. This deal is known as the Louisiana Purchase.
- President Jefferson wanted to map the west and to, more importantly, find a “northwest passage”. This was supposed to be a water route that stretched the entire length of the country.
- Meriwether Lewis, the private secretary to the President, was chosen to lead the expedition. He was to find a partner to help him lead the Corps of Discovery.
- He chose William Clark, a fellow Virginia, who had spent time studying astronomy and map-making prior to the journey.
- The two men, along with the Corps of Discovery, about 35 men, some soldiers that were sent along with Lewis and Clark, set out from St. Louis, Missouri in May 14, 1804.
- During the winter of 1804, Lewis and Clark hired Toussaint Charbonneau and his wife Sacagawea, a Shoshone Indian, to serve as interpreters.
- It took Lewis and Clark a year and a half to reach the Pacific Ocean; they reached the ocean in what is now Oregon.
- On March 23, 1806, the Corps of Discovery started their long trek back to St. Louis, and on September 23, 1806, they returned to St. Louis as heroes.
- Lewis and Clark would have had a hard time surviving if it had not been for the kindness and hospitality of many Native Americans that they met.