

# LEWIS AND CLARK: EXPLORERS OR CONQUERORS?

## Challenge Question

When Jefferson purchased the Louisiana territory from France, he commissioned Lewis and Clark to explore the new territory. What was the purpose behind this mission? Were they sent as explorers to discover the new land and record findings, or was there a hidden agenda?

## Research

With your partner, explore the resources in My Collection (<http://www.seaofliberty.org/node/1170>) and document observations, notes and findings in the Primary Source Matrix. After you will use the matrix to answer the focus questions below.

Review all of the documents before answering the questions.

Record your observations and information on the research matrix worksheet.

## Focus Questions

- Consider a Map of North America of 1803, before the Louisiana Purchase. What do you see as the value of this land? What value do you think Jefferson saw?
- What do all these documents reveal about Jefferson's attitude towards the Northwest Territory?
- How does Jefferson feel about the Native Americans already living in the Northwest? Does this surprise you?
- Why was it important for Lewis and Clark to explore this new territory?

Complete the focus questions below. Make sure to provide complete answers. Use the completed research matrix to help you answer the questions.

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