

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

WHAT IS THE WEST?

- To Americans in this time period, the west was all land between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River
- In reality, the West as we would consider it today was controlled by foreign countries
- American rights and expansion into the West became the most important issues during Thomas Jefferson's presidency



NAPOLEON

- In 1800, France's dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte forced Spain to cede the area between the Rockies and the Mississippi to France. The Territory was called Louisiana
- Napoleon wanted to build a French Empire there. He closed off the Mississippi River to the Americans



LOUISIANA



- Fortunately Napoleon had problems in the West Indies and in Europe.
- France faced war with Great Britain and Napoleon needed money for weapons – Talleyrand represented the French
- Robert Livingston and James Monroe were sent to France to negotiate shipping rights on the Mississippi
- They saw the opportunity to get more than rights to the Mississippi

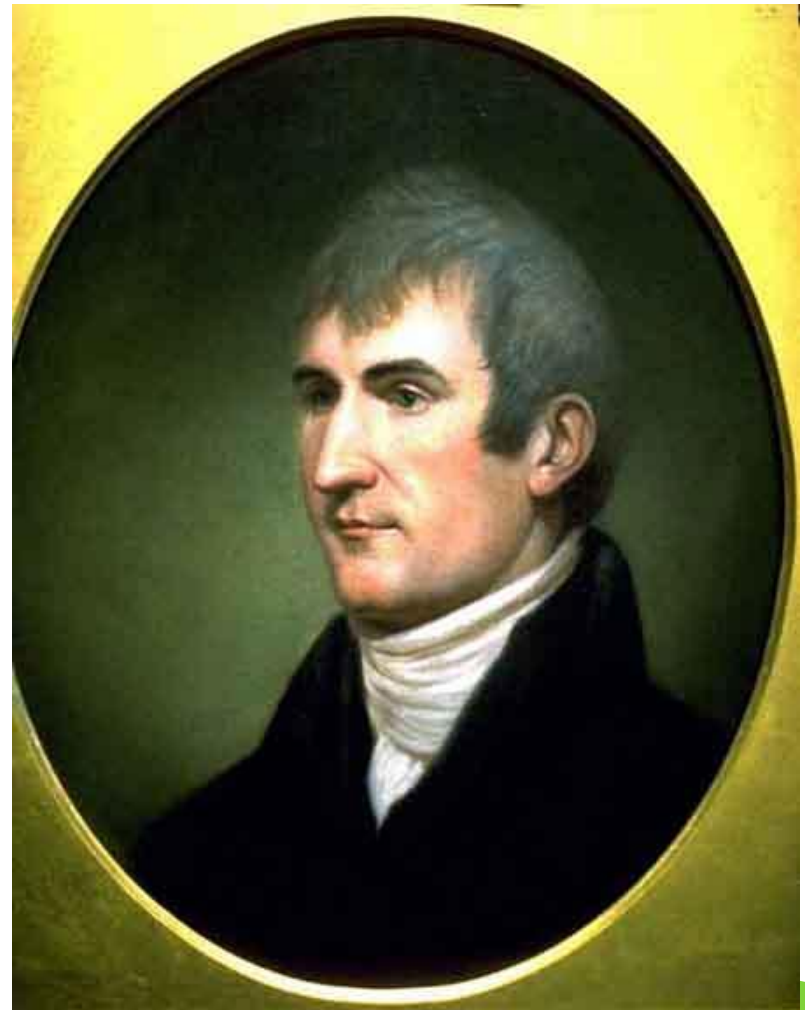
THE DEAL

- Livingston and Monroe offered Talleyrand 7,500,000 for New Orleans
- Talleyrand countered with offering all of Louisiana for 15,000,000. It was 827,987 square miles (less than 4 cents an acre)
- The U.S. nearly doubled in size!!!!



LOUIS AND CLARK

- Thomas Jefferson wanted to know more about the newly acquired Louisiana
- He appointed his secretary, Meriwether Lewis to explore the land and report back about the geology, animals, and Native Americans.



LEWIS AND CLARK

- Lewis asked Captain William Clark to join him so that if anything happened to himself, Clark could carry on with the mission
- They started from St. Charles, Missouri and organized a crew of about 40-50 hunters, gunsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, cooks, soldiers, and several Frenchmen who were familiar with the Native Americans
- The journey began on May 14th 1804



SACAGAWEA

- A 16 year-old Native American which means “Bird Woman”
- She belonged to the Shoshoni tribe
- She volunteered to help Lewis and Clark and she became invaluable.
- Her presence made other Native American tribes trust Lewis and Clark
- Her husband also joined the party and was an excellent guide



BIG SKY COUNTRY

- They went up the Missouri River to the Yellowstone River into Montana or “Big Sky Country”
- They came upon lots of different animals like the mule deer and the grizzly bear



SNAKE TO COLUMBIA

- They next traveled down the Snake River to the Columbia River to present day Washington



THE PACIFIC

- On November 7th, 1805 a thick fog cleared and revealed the Pacific Ocean
- They spent the winter from 1805-1806 on the Pacific Coast
- The Chinook Tribe helped the party find food in exchange for gifts



HOME

- In the Spring of 1806 Lewis and Clark began to return East
- On September 23rd Lewis and Clark arrived in St. Louis, Missouri
- They completed their 8,000 mile journey



REPORTING TO THE PRESIDENT

- Captain Lewis met with Jefferson in Washington DC
- Accounts of their expedition were published and Americans all across the country became excited to move out west.
- Within a decade, talk turned to action and wagon trains began moving west



ZEBULON PIKE EXPEDITION

- While Lewis and Clark explored the northern half of Louisiana, Zebulon Pike explored the upper Mississippi in the NW Territory
- In 1806, Jefferson had Pike explore the southern half of the Louisiana Purchase
- He followed the Arkansas River. HE found an impressive summit and named it Pike's Peak



THE SPANISH

- Even though the land belonged to America, Spain continued to show a presence there. Pike was to report back to Jefferson on their whereabouts
- Pike accidentally led his men into Spanish territory. They were seized and held captive at Santa Fe, NM.
- They eventually let him and his men go back home through Texas

