



Lewis and Clark

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1. EXT. WOODED BACKYARD OR LOCAL PARK

SOLDIERS are **CHATTING** in a small group. **LEWIS STEPS** forward.

LEWIS

Hi, I'm Merriweather Lewis. The year is 1803. I just wanted to tell you that Napoleon sold the Louisiana Territory to us for \$15 million. President Jefferson wants me to explore the new land. My mission is to find the Northwest Passage, a water route to the Pacific Ocean. To collect species of plants and animals. To trade with the native peoples. This is George Rogers Clark.

CLARK STEPS forward, **PATTING** Lewis on the back.

CLARK

We met in the army. We are Co-commanders, even though Lewis is my superior.

A Native American GIRL JOINS Lewis and Clark.

SACAGAWEA

Hi, I'm Sacagawea. They met me along the way and Lewis asked me to join as an interpreter and guide.

SACAGAWEA RETURNS to the **GROUP** in the background.

CLARK

I'm responsible for selecting the men, called the Corps of Discovery. They were soldiers, frontiersmen, and French river men.

LEWIS

I'm responsible for the supplies, blankets, food, tools, weapons, and keelboats.

2. EXT. IN THE DRIVEWAY

All the Frontiersmen and Soldiers form a line or sit on a driveway and make a paddling motion. Sacagawea not in scene.

CLARK

We started out from St. Louis in May 1804 paddling upstream which was exhausting work.

SOLDIER ONE

We didn't see any Indians for two months. We learned that many tribes along the Missouri River were wiped out by smallpox.

SOLDIER TWO

Finally we met with the remaining Indians in this area at place called Council Bluffs.

3. EXT. WOODED AREA

The soldiers put on feathers to play the part of Indians. They stand or sit in a semi-circle.

LEWIS

I have come in peace. This land belongs to the United States. You must obey the Great White Father who lives in Washington. You should not trade with the French or English. I have many gifts for you.

CLARK

Some of these Indians were not happy with us, and many had no idea what we were saying. But President Jefferson told us to avoid conflict because it could hurt the other things we hoped to accomplish.

SOLDIER ONE

We moved up the Missouri and wintered with the friendly Mandan Indians. Here we built cabins to live in and store our supplies.

4. EXT. WOODED AREA - LEWIS IS BY HIMSELF

Lewis is PICKING plants, PLACING them in a JOURNAL, and then WRITING a description. He LOOKS UP.

LEWIS

I am sending back the keelboat with maps, specimens of animals and plants, and a dictionary of Indian words to President Jefferson.

5. EXT. WOODED AREA - CLARK AND THE SOLDIERS

Clark is SITTING with the Corps. He STANDS UP.

CLARK

We are told that there is no way to cross the Rocky mountains by water. So we must by horses and build canoes to carry with us.

Sacagawea MOVES OUT from behind a TREE.

SACAGAWEA

At Fort Mandan, I met Lewis and Clark. I was asked to join the expedition because I knew many Indian languages. I was a Shoshonee and could lead them to my tribe to buy horses. I was the only women on the trip and had a baby along the way.

6. EXT. ANOTHER WOODED AREA WITH HILLS

SOLDIER

The trip over the mountains was nearly impossible. It was snowing in May. We were freezing. We could not find enough food. Our boots were worn out from the path which was comprised of jagged, loose rocks. By some miracle, we made it.

SACAGAWEA

We found the Snake River and from there to the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean.

Everyone is **MILLING ABOUT**. Lewis & Clark are **WRITING** in their **JOURNALS**.

LEWIS

We wintered in Oregon among the friendly Clatsop Indians, compiling information and working on our journals.

SOLDIER TWO

It was cold and wet. Our clothes were rotting on our bodies. The fleas were so bad that we couldn't sleep at night.

SACAGAWEA

We couldn't wait to leave and head home.

7. EXT. DRIVEWAY (WATER)

Everyone **PADDLES** and **MOVES** to A grassy area.

8. EXT. WOODED AREA

Everyone is **STANDING** in a small circle. Lewis **HOLDS UP** his **JOURNAL**.

LEWIS

We accomplished a lot. We discovered several trails to the Pacific through the Mountains. Unfortunately, there was no Northwest Passage. A water route to the Pacific Ocean did not exist. We made many maps of the area. We recorded new plant and animal life. We learned about the native peoples who lived the territory.

Clark **PUTS** his arm **AROUND** Soldier One.

CLARK

The most amazing fact is that we did not lose any men from the Corps of Discovery except one from appendicitis.

SOLDIER ONE

We fought no battles with any Indian tribes. We avoided fighting the fierce Sioux even though they tried to stop us from continuing our journey.

CLARK

News of the success of our expedition spread throughout the States. It encouraged many settlers to move West into the Louisiana Territory.

The End.

