Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West with Lewis and Clark Literature Projects

MODERN-DAY MAP

Make an enlarged copy of the "U.S. Lewis & Clark Map" at the back of the book. As you read, pause at places that are mentioned by location. On your map, draw a small symbol, and then along the edges of your copy, design the text for a monument that might be erected at that location. Describe and honor each location's event.

NEWFOUND CANINE

Seaman was a Newfoundland. What makes these dogs special? Do some research, and then create an encyclopedia entry to enlighten others about the amazing Newfoundland. Make sure to include a picture in your entry.

MERI & WILLIAM

The last names of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark have become famous. It's important to remember, however, that they were real people!

Use the link below to create a trading card for each of these men.

As you read through the novel, design a trading card for real men and women that you encounter. http://www.readwritethink.org/classroomresources/student-interactives/trading-card-creator-30056.html

DEAL OF THE DAY

The day that President Jefferson acquired an enormous amount of land through the Louisiana Purchase must have been filled with excitement! Pretend that you were a newscaster on that day in 1801, and record a 1-2 minute news clip telling about the Purchase. You might consider including some interview with some people "on the streets" to memorialize the emotion of that day.

A HERO'S BOAT

Lewis and Clark traveled in a keelboat. What exactly was this vessel? Use Internet sources to discover what this boat looked like, and then draw a diagram. Label at least 8 different parts, and use your diagram to explain how these boats worked to a friend.

PACK AND PLAN

Read the packing list for Lewis and Clark's expedition at the site below. Imagine how different this list might be today! Write your own detailed list of what you might need to pack if you were to take a cross-country journey. Make sure to divide your packing list into categories like those included here.

MAPMAKER'S TOOLS roughout their journey, the na

Throughout their journey, the pair of explorers used complicated equipment, along with celestial observations, to create maps of the newly-acquired land. Create a minidictionary of the following terms, and include a sketch of each piece of equipment: sextant, compass, octant, quadrant, chronometer, telescope, thermometer.

SEEK AND FIND

Lewis and Clark used longitude and latitude to help them in their mapmaking. Did you know that we have modern equipment that can help us find our location? Grab a few friends and family members and a GPS, and try your hand at modern locating by taking a geocaching expedition. Perhaps you will find surprises like Lewis and Clark did! http://www.geocaching.com/

BOTANY FOR BEGINNERS

The early explorers carefully studied many specimens of nature on their expedition. Take a walk outside and collect four different plants. Next, use all of your senses to write as detailed a description as you can of each plant on individual index cards. Then, see if a friend or sibling can correctly match your cards with the plants, using just your detailed descriptions.

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

dx equ.html

The captains of the expedition had to treat their men for many ailments along the way. Boils, head colds, toothaches, malaria, frostbite, snow blindness, dysentery, snakebites, exhaustion, and heatstroke were just a few of these diseases. Create "treatment cards by labeling 5-10 index cards with ailments on the front and popular treatments of the 1800s on the back.

SACAGAWEA'S WAMPUM

Create a virtual wampum belt like Sacagawea might have worn. Try to include a pattern. Print your design, and then calculate its worth! Count your blue/purple beads. Every 3 blue/purple beads would have been worth 1 penny. 6 white beads would have been worth a penny. Add together the monetary value. Finally, make up a story to explain your pattern.

http://www.nativetech.org/beadwork/wampu mgraph/index.html

A COLLAR FOR SEAMAN

What a journey this heroic dog had! Once you have finished reading the novel, create a collar out of a strip of canvas, ribbon, or other creative material to honor his journey. Use symbols, designs, and/or patterns that represent important moments and events from his explorations with Lewis and Clark. Use your collar to re-tell the story of the novel to someone who has never heard about Lewis and Clark's journey westward!