

Lewis & Clark Among the Indians

Standards

Social Studies:

Kansas History: KH8B111 The student compares and contrasts the foods, housing styles, and traditional arts of early American Indian nations.

U.S. History: US8B3I2 The student uses primary and secondary sources of historical data to construct historical accounts.

Geography: G4B2I1: The student identifies and compares the physical characteristics of Kansas and regions of the United States.

Others:

Objectives

Knowledge:

- Identify three Native American cultures that Lewis and Clark encountered.
- Recognize how the natural environment shaped Native American culture.

Skills:

- reading historical photographs, maps and primary source documents
- observation and inference

Focus Questions

1. How does your environment influence the way you live?
2. How were the Native American tribes that Lewis and Clark encountered different from one another? How were they alike?
3. Why would President Jefferson instruct the explorers to record information about the Indians in the West?

Assessment

- Use cards to create a cultural diversity matrix on the flannel board

Lesson Plan Outline

A. Historical photographs and worksheet

1. Read "Lewis and Clark Among the Indians"
2. Divide into three groups and give each group one set of photographs (three to a set). The tribes to be studied are the Kansa, the Shoshoni, and the Clatsop. Have students read the text and study the photographs then complete the "Lewis and Clark Among the _____" worksheet on their respective tribe.

B. Cultural comparison activity and assessment

1. Have the groups present to the class what they learned about their tribe by creating a matrix using the cards on the flannel board. This lesson illustrates the amount of information that can be gained from reading primary source records and photographs. Also, this lesson reinforces the concept of cultural diversity among the Native American tribes and assists students in making cultural comparisons without cultural judgments.

Extended Activity: Research another tribe encountered by Lewis and Clark. Gather enough information to be able to answer questions identical to those on the "Lewis and Clark Among the _____" worksheet.

Trunk Materials

- 9 photographs (#7-15)
- Cultural comparison activity cards
- Flannel board



Lewis & Clark Among the Indians







President Thomas Jefferson instructed Lewis and Clark to hold diplomatic meetings with the Native American tribes they encountered. By establishing friendly relations, he believed that the United States would benefit economically, through trade, and politically, through alliances. As a man of science, Jefferson was also interested in Native American cultures. The explorers were instructed to gather information on nine different topics about each tribe. The topics were: medicine, morals, religion, history, agriculture and domestic economy, fishing and hunting, war, amusements, and clothing, customs and manners.

Lewis and Clark followed the Missouri River to the Continental Divide and then traveled by way of the Snake and Columbia River to reach the Pacific Ocean. They traversed open prairie, rugged mountains, and dense forests. They encountered more than 50 different Native American cultures living throughout the West. For some of the interior tribes, such as the Shoshoni, this was their first encounter with Euro-Americans.

Lewis and Clark faithfully recorded as much information about Native Americans they encountered as time and energy permitted. When reading the journals, however, remember that Lewis and Clark were outsiders. They were making observations, judgments, and inferences based on comparisons to their Euro-American culture. The journals are still extremely valuable records of Native American history and culture. In the 100 years following the expedition, the Indians' lifestyle changed dramatically as railroads, ranches, farms, and towns encroached on what was once their land.



Cultural Comparison Cards Matrix

Who am I?	Where do I live?	What natural environment do I live in?	What type of home do I live in?	What do I eat?
Kansa			Tipi and permanent lodge	Buffalo, vegetables, and wild plants
Shoshoni			Tipi	Fish, buffalo and wild plants
Clatsop			Timber home	Seafood and wild plants



Name: _____

Lewis and Clark Among the _____

Fill in the tribal name in the blank.

1. Where were they living at the time Lewis and Clark made their journey?
2. Describe the terrain and resources of the area in which they lived.
3. What did they eat?
4. How did they travel?
5. Describe the type of home in which they lived.
6. What else did you learn about these people and the way they lived?
7. If you were with Lewis and Clark, what would you ask these people? What would you want to know?

