

Lewis and Clark

Read the both accounts below. Then, answer the questions about the similarities and differences and the point of view of the accounts.

ACCOUNT 1

[Clark]

Monday May 14th 1804 ^[4]

Rained the forepart of the day I determined to go as far as St. Charles a french Village 7 Leags. ^[5] up the Missourie, and wait at that place untill Capt. Lewis Could finish the business in which he was obliged to attend to at St Louis and join me by Land from that place 24 miles; by this movement I calculated that if any alterations in the loading of the Vestles or other Changes necessary, that they might be made at St. Charles

I Set out at 4 oClock P. M. in the presence of many of the Neighbouring inhabitants, and proceeded on under a jentle brease up the Missourie to the upper Point of the 1st Island 4 Miles and Camped on the Island which is Situated Close on the right (or Starboard) Side, and opposit the mouth of a Small Creek called Cold water, a heavy rain this after-noon

The Course of this day nearly *West* wind from N. E

ACCOUNT 2

[Whitehouse]

Monday 14th May 1804. ^[4] hard Showers of rain. this being the day appointed by Capt. Clark to Set out, a number of the Sitizens of Gotian ^[5] Settlement came to See us Start. we got in readiness. Capt. Lewis is now at St. Louis but will join us at St. Charls. about 3 Oclock P.M. Capt. Clark and the party consisting of three Sergeants and 38 men ^[4] who manned the Batteaux and perogues. we fired our Swivel ^[7] on the bow hoisted Sail and Set out in high Spirits for the western Expedition. we entered the mouth of the Missourie haveing a fair wind Sailed abt. 6 miles and Camped on the North Side.—

1804 Monday May 14th ^[8] This day being appointed for our departure, from Wood River, a number of the Inhabitants (Americans) from Goshen settlement came to see us start for the Western Ocean; we got in readiness, at 3 o'Clock P.M. Captain William Clark, Three Sergeants and 38 Men, who mann'd the boat, and Two pettiaugers; ^[9] fired the Swivel from the Bow of the Boat; hoisted Sail, and set out in

high spirits, for our intended Western expedition: we entered the mouth of the Mesouri River, having a fair Wind from So East, and Rain; we sailed up the said River about Six Miles, and encamped on the North side of it.— The River Misouri is about one Mile wide, and on the South side of it near its mouth is an Island and its waters are always muddy occasion'd by its banks falling in, the current Runs at about five Miles & a half p hour; the banks are very steep, and the bottom very muddy. Wood River lies in Latitude 38° 54° North & the mouth of the River Mesouri 38° 54 39' North & Longitude 112° 15 West from Greenwich.

(From <https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/>)

ACCOUNT 3

One year after the United States doubled its territory with the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition leaves St. Louis, Missouri, on a mission to explore the Northwest from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

Even before the U.S. government concluded purchase negotiations with France, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned his private secretary Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, an army captain, to lead an expedition into what is now the U.S. Northwest. On May 14, the “Corps of Discovery”—featuring approximately 45 men (although only an approximate 33 men would make the full journey)—left St. Louis for the American interior.

The expedition traveled up the Missouri River in a 55-foot long keelboat and two smaller boats. In November, Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur trader accompanied by his young Native American wife Sacagawea, joined the expedition as an interpreter. The group wintered in present-day North Dakota before crossing into present-day Montana, where they first saw the Rocky Mountains. On the other side of the Continental Divide, they were met by Sacagawea’s tribe, the Shoshone Indians, who sold them horses for their journey down through the Bitterroot Mountains. After passing through the dangerous rapids of the Clearwater and Snake rivers in canoes, the explorers reached the calm of the Columbia River, which led them to the sea

(From <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/lewis-and-clark-depart>)

1. What information does Account 1 have that Account 2 does not? _____

2. What is the difference in point of views between Account 3 and Accounts 1 and 2?

3. What are some of the similarities between the first-person accounts and the third-person account? _____

4. Why do you think it is helpful to read a first and a third person account of the same event? What are the differences in what you learn? _____
