Lewis and Clark SAC Lesson Plan

Central Historical Question:
Were Lewis and Clark respectful to the Native Americans they encountered on their journey?

WARNING: Read all documents before teaching this lesson. DOCUMENT B MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS. The lesson can be taught without Document B, if you choose to eliminate it.

Materials:
• United Streaming Video Segment: The Lewis and Clark Expedition: The Unfinished Nation: Best Laid Plans
  (http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=F335E856-2B33-4E6C-8886-0DF015FE4156&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US)
• Lewis and Clark SAC Powerpoint (OPTIONAL)
• Lewis and Clark Documents A-D
• Lewis and Clark Guiding Questions
• Lewis and Clark SAC Graphic Organizer

Plan of Instruction:

NOTE: This activity works best if students have an opportunity to read documents and answer guiding questions before starting the SAC.

1. Introduction: If you have not discussed Lewis and Clark, then you can show the United Streaming segment to introduce the SAC:

   The Lewis and Clark Expedition: The Unfinished Nation: Best Laid Plans:
   (http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=F335E856-2B33-4E6C-8886-0DF015FE4156&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US)

2. If this is your students' first SAC, introduce SAC as new activity. Show powerpoint slides. Ask if students have any questions about the structure.

   Today's Question: Were Lewis and Clark respectful to the Native Americans they encountered on their journey?

3. Divide students into groups of 4, and then divide each group of 4 into Team A and Team B.

   Team A argues Lewis and Clark were respectful.
   Team B argues Lewis and Clark were NOT respectful.
Teams use graphic organizer to collect data for their side. [If students haven’t answered guiding questions in advance, they should do so before beginning to collect evidence for their side].

3. Team A presents to Team B, and Team B repeats arguments back to Team A, until Team A is satisfied.

4. Team B presents to Team A, and Team A repeats arguments back to Team B, until Team B is satisfied.

5. Teams try to reach consensus.

6. Share out groups’ consensus. Discuss:
   - Were Lewis and Clark respectful to the Native Americans they encountered on their journey?
   - Should Lewis and Clark be judged for what happened to Native Americans after their trip?
   - Can we judge people in the past by our standards?

Citations:


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Document A: Jefferson’s Letter to Meriwether Lewis (Modified)

To Captain Meriwether Lewis,

In all your interactions with the natives, treat them in the most friendly and peaceful manner. Assure them that the purpose of your journey is innocent, that the U.S. wishes to be neighborly, friendly, and useful to them. Tell them we wish to trade peacefully with them, and find out what articles would be most desirable for both of us to trade.

If a few of their chiefs wish to visit us, arrange such a visit for them. If any of them wish to have some of their young people schooled by us and taught things that might be useful to them, we will receive, instruct and take care of them.

Carry with you some smallpox medicine and explain to them how to use it and encourage them to use it, especially in the winter.

Thomas Jefferson, President of USA

Source: The passage above is from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis on June 20, 1803. The letter gives detailed instructions on how Lewis and Clark should treat Native Americans.
5 January 1805

The old men arrange themselves in a circle. . . the young men have their wives back of the circle. . . the Girl then takes the Old man (who very often can scarcely walk) and leads him to a Convenient place for the business. . . We sent a man to this Buffalo Dance last night, and they gave him 4 girls.

21 November 1805

An old woman & wife to a Chief came and made a Camp near ours. She brought with her 6 young women I believe for the purpose of gratifying the passions of the men of our party.

Source: All the men on the journey kept diaries about their experiences. Above are two entries from William Clark’s diary. The first describes the ritual of the “Buffalo Dance” among the Mandan Indians. The second entry describes setting up camp near The Dalles Indians in present day Oregon.
Document C: *Time Magazine* Article (Modified)

For more than a century, the history of Lewis and Clark’s encounters with the 58 tribes along the trail has been defined by the white men’s journals. The Mandan, who fed them, danced with them and offered them sexual favors over the bitterly cold winter of 1804-5, were described as good neighbors . . .

Today Indians are looking to their own oral histories, as well as reading between the lines of the journals, to re-interpret what happened.

The President of the Western American Indian Chamber in Denver said: “[History books make] Lewis and Clark as friendly protectors of the Indians, but that’s baloney.”

The real truth is that when Clark became the Governor of the Missouri Territory and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, he was in charge of Jefferson’s land-grab policy, which some historians have called “cultural genocide” and “ethnic cleansing.”

Whites brought diseases that killed as many as 90% of some tribes’ members. Most of the tribes Lewis and Clark encountered were forced off their land and herded onto reservations with poor soil.

*Source:* The passage above comes from an article published in *Time Magazine* in June 2002.
Document D: Diary entries of William Clark (Modified)

May 11, 1806

The tribe surrounded us in the lodge. When the chief arrived, we gave him a small medal and spoke to the Indians through Sacagawea. We informed them who we were, where we were came from, and our friendly intentions towards them, which pleased them very much.

August 17, 1806

We said goodbye to our interpreters (Shabono and his wife, Sacagawea), who accompanied us on our route to the Pacific Ocean.

I offered to take his little son, a beautiful, promising child who is 19 months old. They agreed and said that in one year the boy would be sufficiently old to leave his mother and he would then take him to me. I agreed to raise the child as my own, in such a manner as I thought proper.

Source: Many people have heard the name of Sacagawea, the Native American woman who (with her husband and newborn baby) accompanied Lewis and Clark on their journey and served as a translator. Above are Clark’s diary entries about Sacagawea.
Guiding Questions

1. According to Thomas Jefferson, how should Lewis and Clark treat the Native Americans they meet?

2. According to Clark, what happens at the Buffalo Dance?

3. According to these diary entries, what’s one way that Lewis and Clark’s men interacted with the Native American tribes they met?

4. According to this article, why has the history of Lewis and Clark been one-sided?

5. What were some of the long-term outcomes of Lewis and Clark’s journey on Native Americans?

6. Based on these two passages, how would you describe the relationship between Sacagawea’s family and Lewis and Clark?
Structured Academic Controversy: Lewis and Clark

**SAC QUESTION**

During the SAC, you and your group will try to answer the following question:

**Were Lewis and Clark respectful towards the Native Americans they met on the journey?**

**Team A will argue:** YES, Lewis and Clark were respectful to the Native Americans.

**Team B will argue:** NO, Lewis and Clark were not respectful to the Native Americans.

**PROCEDURE**

**30 minutes** With your teammate, read the document. Find three pieces of evidence which support your side.

**10 minutes** Team A presents. BOTH PARTNERS MUST PRESENT!!! Team B writes down Team A’s arguments and then repeats them back to Team A.

**10 minutes** Team B presents. BOTH PARTNERS MUST PRESENT!!! Team A down arguments of Team B and then repeats them back to Team B.

**10 minutes** Everyone CAN ABANDON their positions. Group of 4 attempts to develop a consensus.
Lewis and Clark were respectful: List the 3 main points/evidence that support this side.
1) From Document ______: 

2) From Document ______: 

3) From Document ______: 

Lewis and Clark were NOT respectful: List the 3 main points/evidence that support this side.
1) From Document ______: 

2) From Document ______: 

3) From Document ______: 

Coming to Consensus
STARTING NOW, YOU MAY ABANDON YOUR ASSIGNED POSITION AND ARGUE FOR EITHER SIDE. Use the space below to outline your group’s agreement. Your agreement should address evidence and arguments from both sides.