Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Lewis and Clark Expedition: Comprehension

Nonfiction: History · about 180 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🧭 The Lewis and Clark Expedition

In 1803, the United States bought a huge area of land from France called the Louisiana Purchase. It doubled the size of the country. But no one in the government knew much about this land. President Thomas Jefferson asked Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore it.

In May 1804, Lewis, Clark, and about 40 men set out from near St. Louis in boats. Their group was called the Corps of Discovery. They traveled up the Missouri River, mapping the land and recording plants and animals they had never seen before, such as prairie dogs and grizzly bears.

In the winter, they met a young Shoshone woman named Sacagawea and her French Canadian husband. Sacagawea joined the expedition with her baby son. She helped them talk with Native American groups and trade for horses they needed to cross the Rocky Mountains.

In November 1805, the explorers finally reached the Pacific Ocean. Clark wrote in his journal, "Ocean in view! O! The joy." They returned to St. Louis in 1806. Their maps and journals helped Americans learn about the West.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. the history of France B. how to draw maps C. the journey of Lewis and Clark to explore the West D. the life of Thomas Jefferson

2. **Detail:** What was the Louisiana Purchase?

   A. a store in Louisiana B. a treaty with England C. a ship D. land the United States bought from France

3. **Detail:** Who asked Lewis and Clark to explore?

   A. President Thomas Jefferson B. George Washington C. the king of France D. Sacagawea

4. **Detail:** What river did they travel up?

   A. the Ohio River B. the Hudson River C. the Rio Grande D. the Missouri River

5. **Detail:** How did Sacagawea help?

   A. She drew all the maps. B. She built their boats.

   C. She helped them talk with Native American groups and trade for horses. D. She cooked for the president.

6. **Inference:** How do you think Clark felt when he saw the Pacific Ocean? Use a detail.

ANSWER KEY

The Lewis and Clark Expedition: Comprehension (answers)

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6. **Inference:** How do you think Clark felt when he saw the Pacific Ocean? Use a detail.
   He felt joyful and excited; he wrote, "O! The joy."