

Traveling with Lewis and Clark

It has been several months since we left St. Louis. Before we left, I said goodbye to my family and told them it would be at least a year before I came back. I was going on a great journey to the ocean with Lewis and Clark.

If I had known then how difficult the trip would be I would have stayed home. Every day we woke up early, and then we would row and row up the river. We only traveled about three miles a day. We were going hundreds of miles.

The first week of the trip was exciting. I thought it would be such an adventure. I fell off the boat, but luckily the other men helped me climb back up. After that I was very careful. But it still was exciting.

We had brought food with us, but we reached the end of our supply rather quickly. We needed more food, so we had to stop to get it. There were no stores along the way, though. We had to hunt and fish to get the food. Then we would make a fire to cook it. At night we slept on the ground. It was getting so cold that I worried.

Lewis and Clark told us we would camp here for the winter. They said that the snow and ice would make it too hard to travel. That was weeks ago. We made a camp with tents, and then we hunted to get more food. We met some Native Americans who helped us. They showed us where to hunt and they even gave us some food they had grown themselves.

We are all so very cold. We go to get wood every day so we can keep the fire burning. Thankfully, we have enough water. That is the one thing we can get without any trouble because we have camped along the river so we are near water.

They say it will be a few more weeks before we move. After that, it will be time to travel once again. I wish I could turn back. I want to go home to my family, but I made a promise. I said I would do this job. But I would like to leave.

When I do return home, I will stay there. I never will travel this far again. I will get a job so that I will no longer need to hunt and fish to get food. I will buy it at the store. I will never have to camp outside again.

CCSSR1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

These are questions you can ask and answer about any story. Write your answers on another page.

1. Sequence: Which event happened first? Which happened last?
2. Character Traits: Name one character. What is one trait you infer that character has? Explain why you think that.
3. Motive: What is something that person does? Why do you think that person does that?
4. Summarize: Summarize the story in four sentences. Tell about the characters and what they do.
5. Main Idea: What do you think is the main idea of the story? Why?