

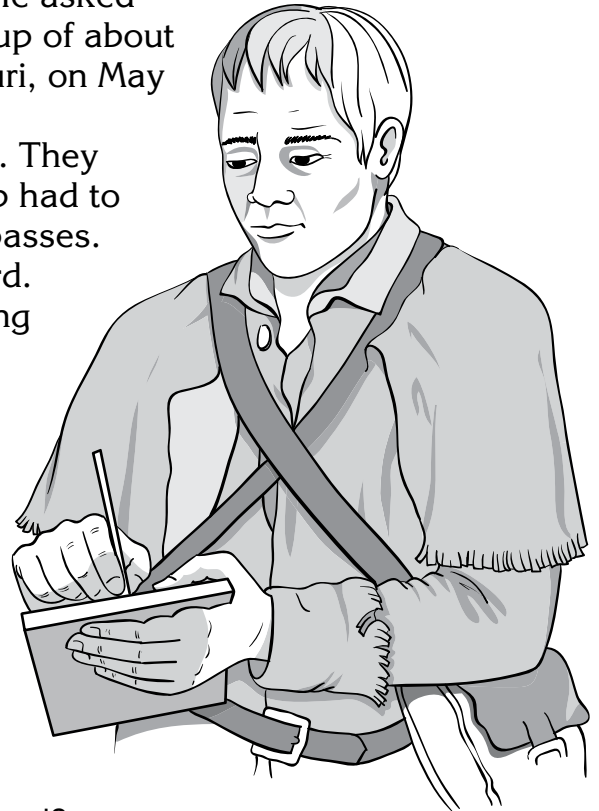
# An Incredible Journey

Lewis and Clark traveled about 8,000 miles into the wilderness.

The United States bought the Louisiana Territory in 1803. Little was known about it or the land beyond it. Congress had set aside money to explore the land. Meriwether Lewis was chosen to lead the journey. He asked William Clark to help him. The pair gathered a group of about 31 men. The journey started near St. Louis, Missouri, on May 14, 1804, and ended on September 23, 1806.

The men traveled to the Pacific Ocean and back. They used boats and horses, and also walked. The group had to struggle through rapids and over rocky mountain passes. Harsh weather and a lack of food made the trip hard. Sacagawea and her husband joined the group during the first winter. She was a Native American who helped them talk to tribes.

Clark mapped the journey. Both men wrote about and drew pictures of 178 new plants and 122 new animals. Their journey helped people learn more about the western part of the United States.



Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Why did Congress want the Louisiana Territory explored?  
a. it was big                      b. to find gold                      c. little was known about it
2. How long did the trip take?  
a. two weeks                      b. two months                      c. two years
3. Which of the following did Lewis and Clark not do on their trip?  
a. make maps                      b. take pictures                      c. talk to Native Americans
4. Which hardship did Lewis and Clark not face?  
a. running out of gas                      b. rapids                      c. lack of food
5. Their trip was important because it \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. was challenging                      b. took two years                      c. uncovered new information about the western United States

# An Incredible Journey

If the statement is a fact, color the canoe red.

If the statement is an opinion, color the canoe brown.

1 The United States bought the Louisiana Territory in 1803.

2 The United States Congress set aside money to explore the land.

3 Lewis and Clark started and ended their trip near St. Louis.

4 The journey shouldn't have taken as long as it did.

5 For part of the journey, the group followed the river.

6 The trip was harder than it should have been.

7 Lewis and Clark traveled to the Pacific Ocean.

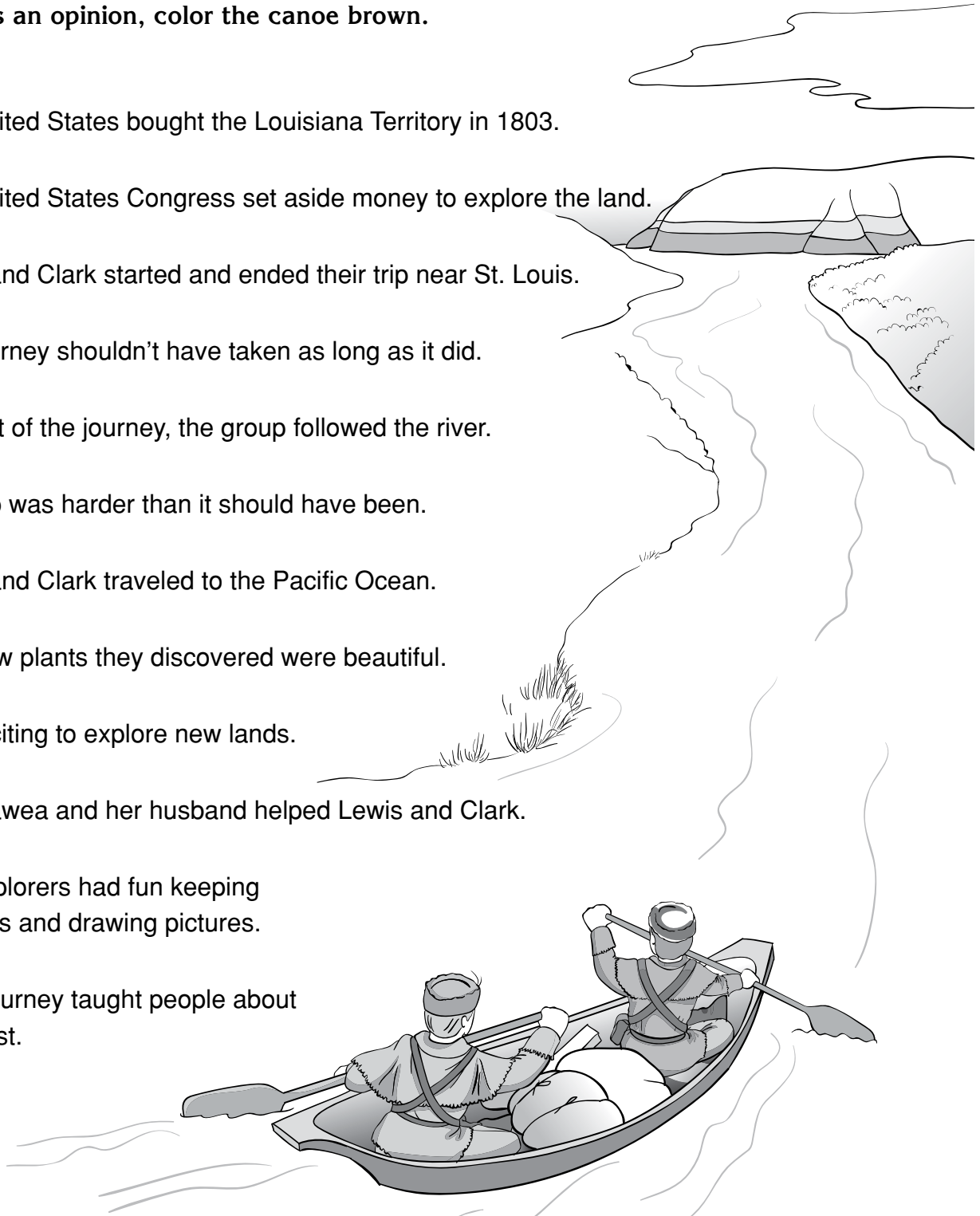
8 The new plants they discovered were beautiful.

9 It is exciting to explore new lands.

10 Sacagawea and her husband helped Lewis and Clark.

11 The explorers had fun keeping journals and drawing pictures.

12 Their journey taught people about the West.



Pretend that you want to be hired to travel with Lewis and Clark. Write a letter convincing them that you would be a good person to have in their group.