

People Who Moved West

Identify how key people shaped exploration and settlement.

SS.5.A.6.2 "Identify roles and contributions of significant people during the period of westward expansion."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each person's name. Circle the words that tell the person's role or contribution to westward expansion.

Many Roles in Expansion

- ① In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson arranged the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States. He wanted leaders to learn about the new land. Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead the Corps of Discovery. From 1804 to 1806, they kept careful notes on rivers, plants, animals, and Native nations while seeking a route to the Pacific Ocean.
- ② Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman, joined the expedition with her baby son, Jean Baptiste. She helped the group communicate with Native people and recognize useful plants. When the party reached Shoshone territory, her knowledge and family connections helped them obtain horses needed to cross the Rocky Mountains. Her presence with a baby also signaled that the group came peacefully, not as a war party.
- ③ Years later, explorer John C. Frémont led government survey expeditions in the West. In the 1840s, he traveled through areas including Oregon and California with an experienced guide and other explorers. Frémont's reports described trails, rivers, and mountain passes. His information helped people planning to move west, although his reports sometimes made the journey sound easier than it really was.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Thomas Jefferson do to support exploration of western land?

2 What was the role of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark? Give one contribution they made.

3 How did Sacagawea help the expedition cross the Rocky Mountains?

4 How did John C. Frémont's reports affect people who planned to move west?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label comparing Thomas Jefferson's and Sacagawea's roles. Include one accurate contribution from each person and explain how their roles supported exploration in different ways.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each person's name. Circle the words that tell the person's role or contribution to westward expansion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Thomas Jefferson do to support exploration of western land?	He arranged the Louisiana Purchase and chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead the Corps of Discovery.
2	What was the role of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark? Give one contribution they made.	They led the Corps of Discovery. They recorded information about rivers, plants, animals, and Native nations while seeking a route to the Pacific Ocean.
3	How did Sacagawea help the expedition cross the Rocky Mountains?	Her knowledge and family connections in Shoshone territory helped the group obtain horses needed to cross the mountains.
4	How did John C. Frémont's reports affect people who planned to move west?	His reports gave people information about trails, rivers, and mountain passes, helping them plan to move west.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Thomas Jefferson supported exploration by choosing Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead the Corps of Discovery. Sacagawea helped the expedition communicate with Native people and obtain horses in Shoshone territory. Jefferson made a government decision, while Sacagawea gave practical help during the journey.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each person's role and contribution when they are supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for one accurate contribution for Jefferson, one for Sacagawea, and a clear comparison of their different roles.