A Changing West

Trace how Jefferson's decisions shaped westward expansion.

5.C.7.3 "Explain the impact of President Thomas Jefferson's presidency, including the purchase of Louisiana Territory and its effect on westward expansion geographic and scientific knowledge gained from the Meriwether Lewis and William Clark..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the Louisiana Purchase, the expedition, and treaty efforts; then circle one effect of each and give each action and its effect the same number.

Jefferson's Decisions and the West

1 In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The land stretched west of the Mississippi River toward the Rocky Mountains. The purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States and opened more land to U.S. settlers moving west. But the land was already home to many American Indian Nations. Buying it from France did not give Jefferson the consent of those Nations.

2 Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the new territory and lands beyond it. From 1804 to 1806, the group recorded rivers, mountains, plants, and animals. Their notes and maps gave Americans more geographic and scientific knowledge and helped later travelers plan routes west. American Indian guides and interpreters, including Sacagawea, shared knowledge that helped the expedition travel and communicate.

3 Jefferson also wanted agreements with American Indian Nations as settlers moved west. His officials met with leaders to seek treaties about land and trade, and his government tried to maintain relations through visits, gifts, and trade. Yet U.S. demands for land put pressure on Nations and made treaties hard to maintain. Some Nations resisted giving up land. Westward expansion brought opportunities for settlers but threatened Native homelands.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Louisiana Purchase affect both U.S. settlers and American Indian Nations?

2. How did the Lewis and Clark expedition change what Americans knew, and how could that knowledge affect westward travel?

3. How did American Indian people affect what the Lewis and Clark expedition could accomplish?

4. Why was it difficult for Jefferson's government to maintain treaties as settlers moved west?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining why Jefferson's actions affected settlers and American Indian Nations differently. Connect the Louisiana Purchase to the expedition's findings and to the challenge of keeping treaties.

ANSWER KEY

A Changing West

GRADE 5 · 5.C.7.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the Louisiana Purchase, the expedition, and treaty efforts; then circle one effect of each and give each action and its effect the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Louisiana Purchase affect both U.S. settlers and American Indian Nations?	**It opened more land to U.S. settlers moving west, but that land was already home to American Indian Nations, whose consent Jefferson had not gained.**
2	How did the Lewis and Clark expedition change what Americans knew, and how could that knowledge affect westward travel?	**The expedition recorded rivers, mountains, plants, and animals. Its notes and maps helped later travelers plan routes west.**
3	How did American Indian people affect what the Lewis and Clark expedition could accomplish?	**Guides and interpreters, including Sacagawea, shared knowledge that helped the group travel and communicate.**
4	Why was it difficult for Jefferson's government to maintain treaties as settlers moved west?	**U.S. demands for land put pressure on American Indian Nations, and some Nations resisted giving up land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase opened more land to U.S. settlers, but American Indian Nations already lived there. Lewis and Clark recorded rivers, mountains, plants, and animals with help from American Indian guides and interpreters. Their records helped later travelers plan routes west, bringing more settlers toward Native homelands. As the United States pressed Nations for land, it became harder to maintain treaties, so expansion did not benefit everyone equally.

Accept labels that connect the purchase, expedition findings, and treaty challenges while distinguishing effects on settlers from effects on American Indian Nations. Students should not suggest that France's sale gave the United States the Nations' consent.