

Summary: The Nation Grows

President Jefferson

John Adams was the second President of the United States. He belonged to the Federalist party. This group believed the national government should be stronger than the state governments. The Federalists wanted to make laws to help manufacturers. When Thomas Jefferson became President, the Federalists gave up power. Jefferson belonged to the Democratic-Republican party. This group believed state governments should be stronger than the federal government. They wanted to help farmers.

Farmers wanted to ship their products down the Mississippi River to Louisiana. This land belonged to France. President Jefferson sent representatives to meet with the French ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte. They asked Napoleon if Americans could keep trading on the river. Napoleon needed money to go to war against Great Britain. He sold Louisiana to the United States. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the country.

Exploring the West

Jefferson sent soldiers to explore Louisiana. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the group. It was called the Corps of Discovery. Jefferson wanted them to study the land, plants, animals, and climates of the West. He also wanted the corps to learn about the cultures of the western American Indians and to look for a water route to the Pacific. Sacagawea, the group's interpreter, was an American Indian woman. She helped the corps speak to American Indians. The corps left in 1804 and returned in September 1806. They learned about the land and the people, but did not find a water route to the Pacific.

In 1805 Zebulon Pike led a group to find the source of the Mississippi River. They explored Missouri and went north to Minnesota. They learned about the land, but did not find the river's source. Later they explored the Arkansas and Red rivers. The Corps of Discovery and Pike's explorers led the way for traders and pioneers in the west.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

manufacturer *noun*, people who use machines to make goods

corps *noun*, a team of people who work together

interpreter *noun*, someone who helps people who speak different languages understand each other

source *noun*, the place where a river begins



After You Read

REVIEW Why did Jefferson send representatives to France? Circle what the representatives asked Napoleon Bonaparte.

REVIEW What tasks did Lewis and Clark complete on their expedition? Highlight the sentence that tells what the Corps of Discovery expedition learned.