

LEWIS AND CLARK

Thomas Jefferson, America's 3rd president, made the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. This purchase from France nearly doubled the size of the United States adding an additional 820,000 square miles of land. The cost back then was only 15 million dollars. Today, that price would convert to over 250 million dollars.

The Louisiana Purchase stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains in the west. Its southern portion stretched from New Orleans to Montana.

Many leaders were against the Louisiana Purchase, arguing that Jefferson didn't have the right to purchase the large plot of land. They also believed the purchase would lead to war with Spain. Congress almost cancelled the purchase but it passed by a vote of 59-57.

Captain Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were asked by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory and western land in North America. In 1804, Congress approved a \$2,500 budget to fund the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Captain Meriwether Lewis was Thomas Jefferson's private secretary. Lieutenant William Clark served in the U.S. Army. Clark was responsible for hiring and training the men. Lewis was responsible for gathering equipment and supplies. Lewis and Clark gathered a team of over 40 men.

They began their expedition on May 14, 1804 from St. Louis, Missouri. The men chosen for the Corps of Discovery were military men with the skills necessary to survive the long and dangerous journey west. To prepare for the journey they packed food, clothing and hunting supplies. They began their journey traveling up the Missouri River against the current. They had one large barge and two smaller boats called pirogues. Because they were traveling against the river current, they used long poles to push the boats off the river banks.

On their journey, the men faced hunger, disease, fatigue, and injury. However, only 1 man died on the expedition from appendicitis.

Lewis and Clark traded with local Native Americans, who showed them which plants were safe to eat. Although there were tensions with some tribes, the two were able to keep things peaceful. They even spent the first winter with the Mandan nation.

Lewis and Clark made friends and traded with many different Native American tribes along the way. On the trip, they met a fur trapper named Toussaint Charbonneau and his Native American wife Sacagawea. Sacagawea, a Shoshone, was kidnapped by the Hidatsa tribe at the age of 12. She was taken during a battle and sold to Charbonneau. The two of them later became interpreters for the expedition.

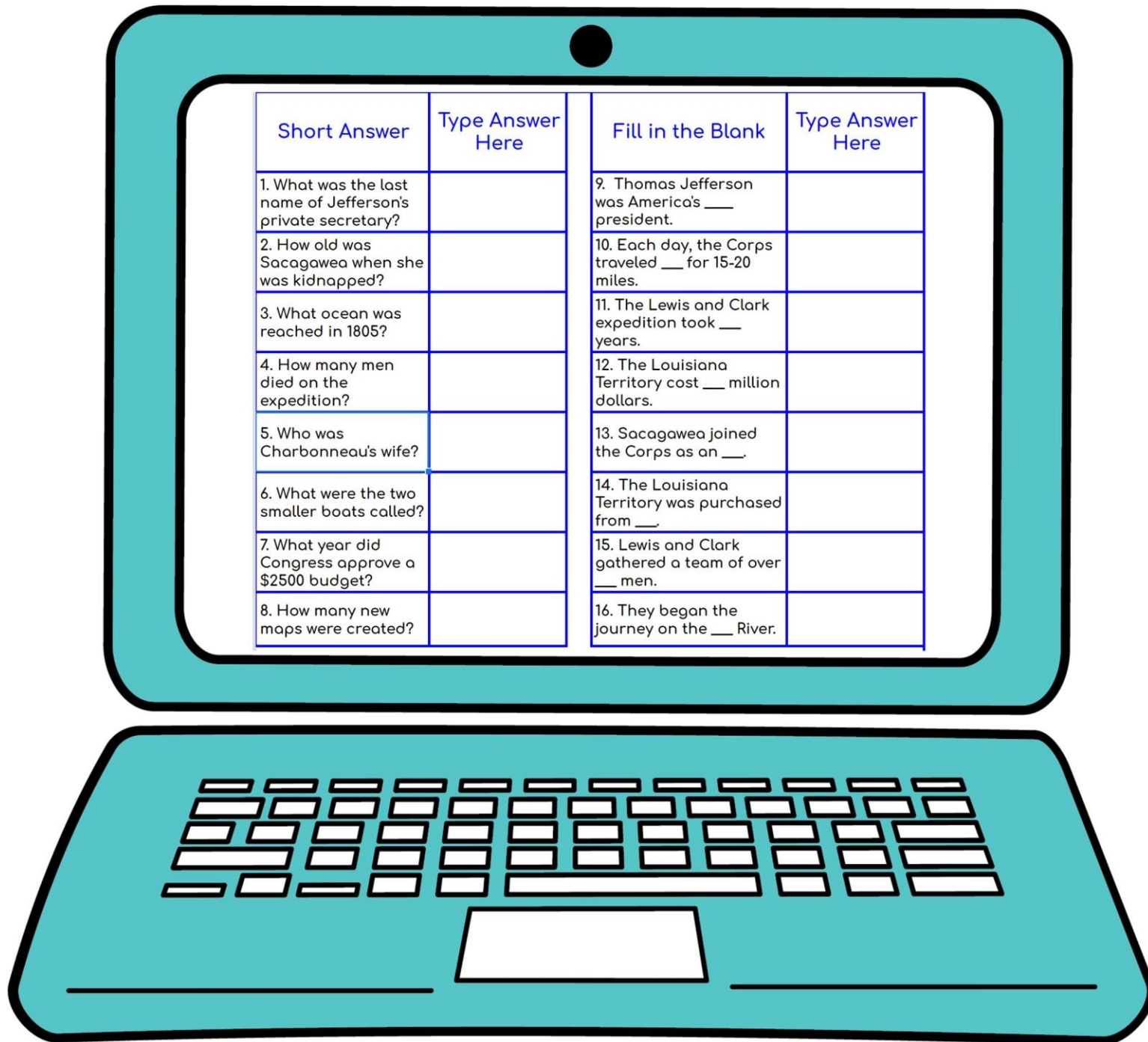
One of the small boats flipped over in the Missouri River and Sacagawea rescued the journals which recorded most of the information about the trip. Lewis and Clark were so thankful to have their journals that they named the river the "Sacagawea River."

Sacagawea joined the Corps of Discovery as an interpreter, but proved to be an even more useful guide. She showed the men edible plants and how to peacefully trade with various tribes. She also helped the expedition get essential supplies and horses. She was able to prevent hostile relations with other Native American tribes - all while carrying her baby on her back. The Corps traveled west for 15-20 miles each day toward the mountains.

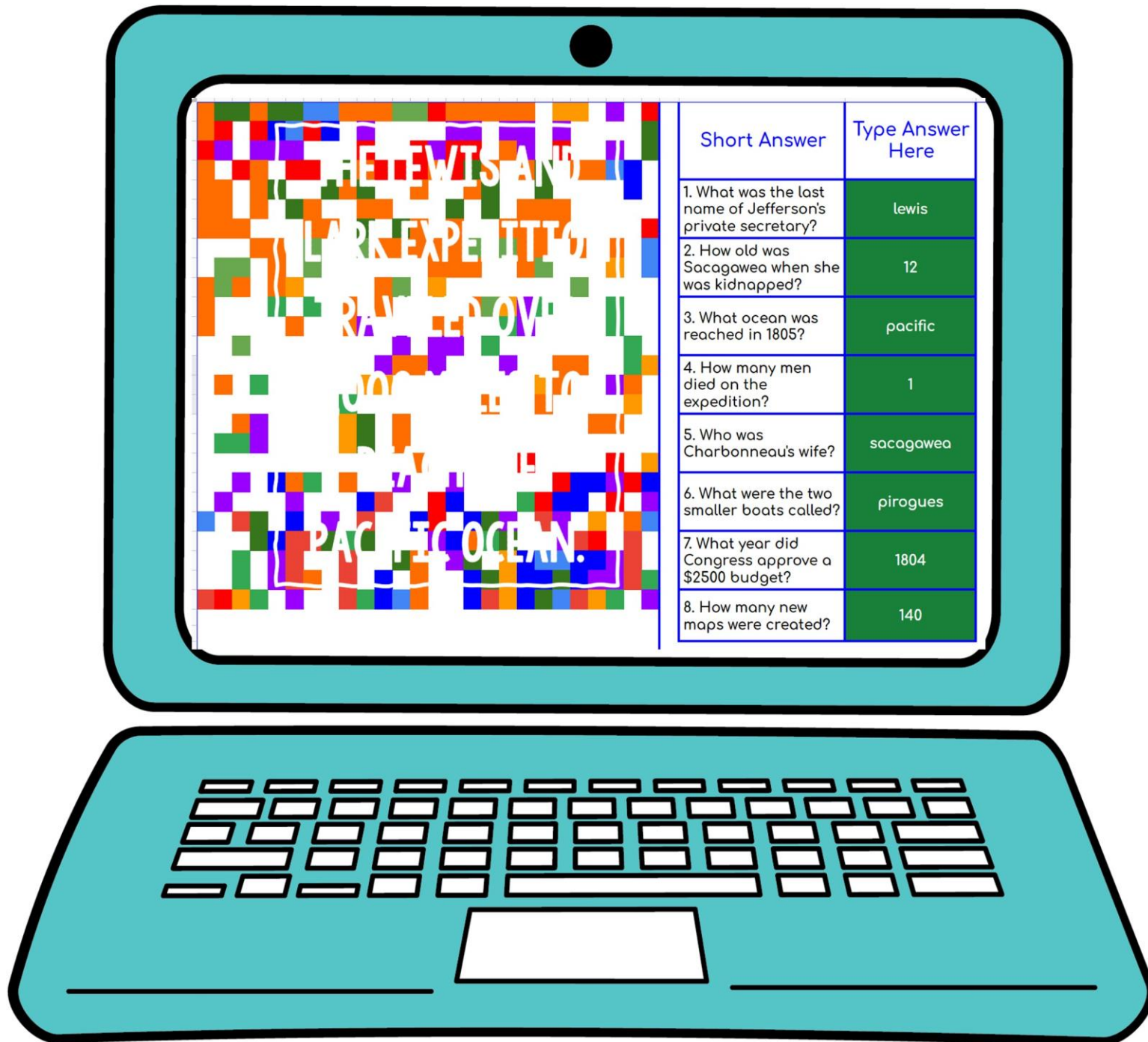
The Lewis and Clark expedition took 2 years, 4 months and 10 days. When they reached Great Falls in Montana it took the men one month to carry their boats around the falls. Lewis and Clark were nearly arrested by the Spanish for being near their territory. The expedition finally reached the Pacific Ocean in 1805.

The goals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were to study plants, animals, birds, geology and the geography of the new land. To keep journals and document the climate, map the lands, identify natural resources and establish a claim by the United States.

The results of the journey were incredible. The Lewis and Clark expedition created 40 new maps of the western region. They identified 178 types of new plants. They discovered 122 different animals. Animals discovered included the prairie dog, grizzly bear, bighorn sheep, magpies, and antelope. New natural resources were also found and brought back.



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What was the last name of Jefferson's private secretary?		9. Thomas Jefferson was America's ____ president.	
2. How old was Sacagawea when she was kidnapped?		10. Each day, the Corps traveled ____ for 15-20 miles.	
3. What ocean was reached in 1805?		11. The Lewis and Clark expedition took ____ years.	
4. How many men died on the expedition?		12. The Louisiana Territory cost ____ million dollars.	
5. Who was Charbonneau's wife?		13. Sacagawea joined the Corps as an ____.	
6. What were the two smaller boats called?		14. The Louisiana Territory was purchased from ____.	
7. What year did Congress approve a \$2500 budget?		15. Lewis and Clark gathered a team of over ____ men.	
8. How many new maps were created?		16. They began the journey on the ____ River.	



Short Answer

Type Answer Here

1. What was the last name of Jefferson's private secretary?

lewis

2. How old was Sacagawea when she was kidnapped?

12

3. What ocean was reached in 1805?

pacific

4. How many men died on the expedition?

1

5. Who was Charbonneau's wife?

sacagawea

6. What were the two smaller boats called?

pirogues

7. What year did Congress approve a \$2500 budget?

1804

8. How many new maps were created?

140



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