

## Packed for success.(what Lewis and Clark brought on their travels)

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Wouldn't it be great to travel with Lewis and Clark? Fighting grizzly bears, sailing through whitewater rapids, and climbing mile-high mountains sounds like quite an experience.

What would you pack in your boat if you were going along? Would you pack a warm sleeping bag, a flashlight, and a good map to keep from getting lost? If you went with Lewis and Clark, you wouldn't be able to take any of those things.

When Lewis and Clark set out on their great adventure, they didn't know what to expect. No one in the United States had ever done this before. They spent months planning their trip and deciding what to take. The things they packed in their boats would have to keep them alive for more than two years.

Like most travelers, Lewis and Clark took a map of the land they would be seeing. Their map wasn't much help, though. It was mostly blank! No one had ever drawn a map of the rivers, mountains, and land that they were going to cross. To help them draw a correct map, Lewis and Clark used tools called a sextant and a chronometer. With these instruments, travelers used the stars to find out exactly where they were.

Lewis and Clark filled their boats with gifts to give the people they met. They took beads, scissors, jewelry, shirts, 12 dozen looking glasses (mirrors), 4,600 needles for sewing, and 2,800 fishing hooks. The explorers took these presents to show the people whom they met that they were peaceful and friendly.

For 8,200 miles of travel, the group ate fish, animals they hunted, and "portable soup." Lewis brought 193 pounds of the soup, a dry mix of beans and vegetables. Unfortunately, all the men hated it!

Lewis and Clark knew they would need medicine for sickness, bullet wounds, snakebites, and more. In those days, there were no antibiotics, aspirin, or even Band-Aids. Instead, they packed 600 special pills made by a man named Dr. Benjamin Rush. The explorers called them "Rush's Thunderclappers" because they were so strong.

The explorers also took candles to give light, flint and steel to start fires, warm blankets, and clothes. And, of course, there was Seaman, Lewis's Newfoundland dog.

When Lewis and Clark returned from their two-year trip,

they had run out of many things. Their razors had worn out, so all the men had bushy beards. They wore moccasins instead of boots, and they no longer had any salt for their food. Everyone knew that Lewis and Clark's trip was a big success, though. Their good planning had brought all but one man back safely. (One man--Sergeant Charles Floyd--died on the trip west, probably from appendicitis.) Not only that, but they still had enough gunpowder, lead for bullets, and ink and paper to do the whole trip again.

If you set off to travel through wild country today, what would you put in your boat? Explorers today have some things that Lewis and Clark would have loved to pack.