

Chapter 10 – 2

The Louisiana Purchase

The United States purchased vast lands west of the Mississippi from France

Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis & William Clark to explore the territory

Control of the Mississippi

- 1 million Americans lived between the Appalachian Mountains & the Mississippi River
- Mississippi was relied on for shipping crops to New Orleans
- Spain controlled New Orleans and often times threatened to close the port
- Thomas Pinckney: Sent by President Washington to find a way to keep the vital port open
- Pinckney Treaty – Spain agreed to let Americans ship their goods down the Mississippi to New Orleans
- In 1800, Spain signed a treaty giving Louisiana back to the French

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- French took control of the land which alarmed Jefferson b/c French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte had set out to conquer Europe
- Bonaparte wanted to grow food in Louisiana and ship it to French Islands in the West Indies
- Inspired by the French Revolution, enslaved Africans in Haiti led a revolt to fight for their liberty
- Toussaint L'Ouverture was the leader of this revolt
- 1804: Haitians declared their independence

The United States Buys Louisiana

- President Jefferson wanted to buy New Orleans so farmers would be able to ship their goods through the port
- Robert Livingston & James Monroe were sent to New Orleans to buy the land and could spend up to \$10 million
- After many discussions, the U.S. bought it for \$15 million
- Jefferson reasoned that the Constitution allowed Presidents to make treaties (Louisiana Purchase)
- Meriwether Lewis (Private Secretary) was to lead a team of explorers to study the lands
- He asked William Clark to go with him

The Lewis & Clark Expedition

- About 50 men made up the “Corps of Discovery”, and included York, an enslaved African-American who was a boyhood friend of Clark
- Lewis & Clark stayed with the Mandan tribe in North Dakota during the first winter
- Met a Native woman named Sacagawea, who was a member of the Shoshone tribe
- Shoshone tribe supplied the expedition with food & supplies and advise for the best route to take
- In the Rocky Mountains, they crossed the Continental Divide

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- Continental Divide: A mountain ridge that separates river systems flowing toward opposite sides of a continent
- Some rivers flow east from the Rockies into the Mississippi and drains into the Gulf of Mexico
- Some rivers flow west from the Rockies and empty into the Pacific Ocean
- November 7th , 1805 Lewis & Clark reached the Pacific Ocean

Pike Explores the West

- From 1805-1807 Zebulon Pike explored the upper Mississippi River, Arkansas River and parts of present day Colorado & New Mexico
- In 1806, he viewed a mountain peak rising above the Colorado Plains which is now called Pikes Peak
- Pike and his men were captured by the Spanish, who took his maps & journals, but was able to hide one map in the barrel of his gun
- His report from his expedition greatly expanded American's knowledge about the Southwest
- In 1812, Louisiana had a big enough population to become a member of the Union

Extra Notes