**Unit 3: Creating a National Political System and Culture (1783 - 1824)**

[Topic 4: Mixed Messages: Lewis and Clark Encounter Native Americans](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=03&topic=04)

**The Native Americans**

While Lewis and Clark were the first Americans to see much of what would become the western United States, those same lands had long been occupied by native peoples.

Over the course of the expedition, the Corps of Discovery would come into contact with nearly 50 Native American tribes. Quickly, the captains learned how many different definitions there really were for the word “Indian.” The Mandans lived in earth lodges, farmed corn and were amenable to trade with America. The Teton Sioux slept in tepees, hunted buffalo and guarded their territory fiercely against anyone who passed through, whether foreign or Indian. Some tribes had never seen a white or black man before Lewis and Clark. Others spoke bits of English and wore hats and coats they received from European sea captains.

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**The Meeting Ceremony**

Over the course of the expedition, Lewis and Clark developed a ritual that they used when meeting a tribe for the first time. The captains would explain to the tribal leaders that their land now belonged to the United States, and that a man far in the east – President Thomas Jefferson – was their new “great father.” They would also give the Indians a peace medal with Jefferson on one side and two hands clasping on the other, as well as some form of presents (often trade goods). Moreover, the Corps members would perform a kind of parade, marching in uniform and shooting their guns.

**Emerging ESOL / Reader**

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**Vocabulary**

* encounter - meet
* Native Americans/native people – the first people to live in America
* tribe - a group of people that live together
* march – to walk the same way at the same time
* uniform – clothes that are all the same for a group of people

**The Native Americans**

Lewis and Clark were the first white men to see parts of western North America. Native people lived there for a very long time before Lewis and Clark got there.

**The Meeting Ceremony**

Lewis and Clark told the native people that the land was for a “great father”. The “great father” was President Thomas Jefferson. They gave the natives small gifts. The men with Lewis and Clark marched in their uniforms and shot their guns.

1. Who were the first people to see parts of western North America?

The first people to see parts of western North America were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Circle the right answer.

The men with Lewis and Clark:

1. Gave guns and uniforms to the natives.
2. Met President Jefferson and his father.
3. Said that the land was not for natives.

3. Pick one word. Tell why the native people would feel that way.

scared mad sad surprised

Native people would feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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| **BONUS** - Draw a picture that shows Lewis and Clark meeting native people. Write two or more words about the picture. |

**Intermediate ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 3: Creating a National Political System and Culture (1783 - 1824)**

[Topic 4: Mixed Messages: Lewis and Clark Encounter Native Americans](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=03&topic=04)

**Vocabulary**

* **encounter** – meet
* **Corps of Discovery**- Lewis and Clark and the people with them
* **Indians** - the name many white people had for Native Americans
* **Native Americans / native people** - the first people to live in America
* **tribe** - a group of people that live together
* **trade** - buy and sell things
* **Sioux** - said like “two”
* **ritual** - doing things the same way every time
* **medal** - a round piece of metal with words and pictures on it
* **march** - to walk the same way at the same time
* **uniform** - clothes that are all the same for a group of people

**The Native Americans**

Lewis and Clark were the first white people to see the western land that become the United States. The land was home to native people for a very long time before Lewis and Clark got there. The Corps of Discovery met about 50 Native American tribes. They learned fast that there were many different kinds of “Indians”. The Mandans had dirt houses, grew corn and would trade with America. The Teton Sioux slept in tepees, hunted buffalo and did not let anyone cross their land. Some tribes had never seen a white or black man before Lewis and Clark. Some spoke English and wore hats and coats they got from white men.

**The Meeting Ceremony**

Lewis and Clark had a ritual when they met new tribes. They told the natives that the land was for the United States and President Thomas Jefferson. They said that Jefferson was the “great father” and he lived far away in the east. They gave the natives peace medals with Jefferson on one side and two hands together on the other side. They gave small presents, marched in their uniforms, and shot their guns.

1. What would you do if you were a Native American the first time you saw Lewis and Clark come into your tribe?
2. Make a list of three things that the Corps of Discovery found out about Native Americans.
3. Why did the medal have two hands on it?

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| **BONUS** - Draw a Venn Diagram for any two groups you read about here. |

**Advanced ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 4: Geographic and Economic Change Shape the Nation (1824-1865)**

[Topic 2: Chinese Immigrants on the Trans-Continental Railroad](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/inquiry-kits.html?unit=04&topic=02)

Source 4, “Mark Twain’s Observation about Chinese Immigrants in California”

This excerpt was written by Mark Twain in 1872.

**Vocabulary**

* **for a living** - to make money at a job

There are 70,000 Chinamen living on the Pacific Coast of the United States. They are crowded into the Chinese Quarter in small, wooden houses that are one story tall. They seem to like living very close together on very narrow streets. The Chinese Quarter is outside of town. Most Chinese wash clothes for a living. They pin a bill to the clean clothes but most customers do not understand it. It costs only $2.50 to get 12 things cleaned, much less than a white person would charge for the same job. Many Chinese wash-houses have signs that say, “Washing” or “Washer and Ironer” or “Washer”. Most of the house servants and cooks are Chinese men, no Chinese women or white people. The servants are quick, obedient, patient, smart, energetic, and hard-working. A Chinese worker needs to see a job done only once to learn it. If his master cuts up a table to build a fire, the Chinaman would then always use furniture to make fires.

All Chinamen can read, write and do numbers easily. In California, they rent small pieces of land so they can have gardens. They raise vegetables even from the sand and don’t waste anything. If a white person (Christian) throws something away, a Chinaman takes it to save carefully and use somehow. They collect old fish cans that people throw away and melt them. Then they sell the melted metal.

1. Name three ways Chinese men made a living.
2. Why would the Chinese do so many hard, dirty jobs?
3. Do you think that living in the Chinese quarter helped or hurt the Chinese?

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| **BONUS** - Make a T-chart that shows the points of view of the Chinese and the whites about:   * where the Chinese live * the jobs Chinese have * each other * how much money the Chinese make |