

GROWTH OF WESTERN DEMOCRACIES**Traveler's Tales**

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explored North America from 1804 to 1806 to find a navigable water route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. Although they found no “Northwest Passage,” their expedition was in many ways a great success. Throughout the journey, both Lewis and Clark took notes on their surroundings. ♦ *As you read the journal entries below, think about how Lewis and Clark responded to what they saw. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

From the Journals of Lewis and Clark

November 7, 1805 [Clark]

A cloudy foggy morning some rain. We set out early, proceeded under the starboard shore under a high rugged hills with steep ascent, the shore boalt and rocky, the fog so thick we could not see across the river. Two canoes of Indians met and returned with us to their village, which is situated on the starboard side behind a cluster of marshy islands, on a narrow channel of the river through which we passed to the Village of 4 Houses. They gave us to eat some fish, and sold us, fish, wappato roots, three dogs, and 2 otter skins for which we gave fishhooks principally, of which they were very fond. . . .

After delaying at this village one hour and a half we set out piloted by an Indian. . . . [T]he tide being in we should have found much difficulty in passing into the main channel from behind those islands, [if] without a pilot. . . . [W]e with difficulty found a place clear of the tide and sufficiently large to lie on and the only place we could get was on round stones on which we lay our mats. Rain continued moderately all day. . . .

Great joy in camp we are in view of the Ocean, . . . this great Pacific Ocean which we [have] been so long anxious to see. And the roaring or noise made by the waves breaking

on the rocky shores (as I suppose) may be heard distinctly.

January 9, 1806 [Lewis]

The Clatsops, Chinooks, etc., bury their dead in their canoes. . . . [A] small canoe is placed [in the ground] in which the body is laid after being carefully rolled in a robe or some dressed skins; a paddle is also deposited with them. . . . [O]n the cross bars which support the canoes is frequently hung or laid various articles of clothing, culinary utensils, etc. I cannot understand them sufficiently . . . but presume from their depositing various articles with their dead, that they believe in a state of future existence. . . .

January 17, 1806 [Lewis]

The culinary articles of the Indians in our neighborhood consist of wooden bowls or troughs, baskets, wooden spoons and wooden skewers or spits. . . . [T]heir baskets are formed of cedar bark and beargrass so closely interwoven with the fingers that they are watertight without the aid of gum or rosin. . . .

Source: *The Lewis and Clark Journals*; the abridgment of the definitive Nebraska Edition, ed. Gary E. Moulton (University of Nebraska Press, 2003).

Questions to Think About

1. Why does Clark say there was “great joy in the camp”?
2. What are some of the burial customs of the Native Americans that Lewis describes? What conclusion does he draw?
3. **Make Comparisons** Compare the journal entries of Lewis and Clark. How are they the same? How are they different?
4. **Activity** Observe someplace familiar. Write three short journal entries based on your observations of what is around you.