

The Louisiana Purchase 8-2 Notes

The Big Idea: Under President Jefferson's leadership, the United States added the Louisiana Territory.

Main Ideas

- As American settlers moved west, control of the Mississippi River became more important to the United States.
- The Louisiana Purchase almost doubled the size of the United States.
- Expeditions led by Lewis, Clark, and Pike increased Americans' understanding of the West.

Main Idea 1: As American settlers moved West, control of the Mississippi River became more important to the United States.

- Thousands of Americans had settled between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River by 1800s.
- Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio were admitted as states.
- Settlers depended on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to move products east.
- Jefferson worried about foreign control of New Orleans and Louisiana.
 - Americans depended on the river, which could be disrupted if a foreign power shut down access to New Orleans.

Louisiana

Spanish Control

- Spain controlled both New Orleans and Louisiana—land stretching from Mississippi River to Rocky Mountains.
- Spain gave land to France in treaty.

French Control

- French leader Napoleon wanted to rebuild France's empire in North America.
- Rebellion in French colony of Haiti, in the Caribbean, ended Napoleon's dream in 1802.

Main Idea 2: The Louisiana Purchase almost doubled the size of the United States.

- Jefferson sent ambassador to France to try to buy New Orleans.
- The French offered to sell all of Louisiana.
 - Napoleon needed money to finance his war in Europe.
- Price was \$15 million.
- **Louisiana Purchase** approved by Senate on October 20, 1803.
- Nearly doubled size of United States

Main Idea 3: Expeditions led by Lewis, Clark, and Pike increased Americans' understanding of the West.

Lewis and Clark Expedition

- Expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase
- Led by **Meriwether Lewis** and **William Clark**
- Included 50 skilled frontiersmen
- Began near St. Louis on May 14, 1804
- Reached the Pacific Ocean in November, 1805

Contact with Native Americans

- Lewis used interpreters to talk to leaders of each of the peoples they met.
- He told the Native Americans that the United States now owned land on which they lived.
- Relied on goodwill of the peoples they met
 - Given food by Shoshone, Nez Perce, and others
- Sacagawea**, a Shoshone woman, served as a guide and interpreter.