NAME _____________________________________

Lewis and Clark Worksheet
National Geographic’s Video “Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West”

1. In 1802, President ______________________ commissioned an exploration to go through the interior of North America to the ______________________ Ocean. To begin with, they were to follow the ______________________ River to its source.

2. Describe the two leaders. In your description, include at least 2 strengths or skills that made each man valuable to the success of the expedition.
   Meriwether Lewis:
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   William Clark:
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

3. Before the expedition got under way in 1804, what important development changed the shape and size of the United States and made Lewis & Clark’s journey even more important?
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

4. What was the main mission of the expedition?
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

5. In May of 1804, the expedition departed from St. Louis.
   What river did they follow? ______________________________________________________________
   What challenges did the river journey pose to the group? (At least 2)
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

6. Match the person with his special interest.
   a. Clark  ____ Collecting and cataloging new plant and animal species
   b. Lewis  ____ Mapmaking

7. What were President Jefferson’s instructions to Lewis & Clark about how to deal with the Native Americans?
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
8. What message from President Jefferson did Lewis and Clark give each of the tribes they met?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

9. Lewis and Clark spent their first winter with the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians. During their 5-month stay, they spent their time preparing for the journey ahead. Describe the one arrangement they made during the winter that proved critical to their eventual success.

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

10. In June of 1805 they resumed their travels. They continued westward on the Missouri River until they reached a fork. How did they know which fork to take?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

11. Why was it important for the expedition to find the Shoshone Indians?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

12. Who did Sacagawea recognize when negotiating with the Shoshone?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

13. What surprised Lewis & Clark about the mountains they encountered?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

14. When they finally emerged from the mountains, they met and stayed with the Nez Perce Indians. During this stay they recuperated and built dugout canoes. Now they were traveling ______________________ (UPSTREAM or DOWNSTREAM) on the Columbia River.

15. After 1 and 1/2 years they finally reached the Pacific Ocean. They were forced to spend their 2nd winter away from home. How did they decide where to stay?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

What was unusual about the way they made this decision?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

16. What was the weather like at Fort Clatsop?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

17. After 4 months at Fort Clatsop, they started home again in March of 1806.

How long did it take them to return to St. Louis? _____________________________

How far had they traveled? (Total miles) _____________________________

How long had they been gone? _____________________________
18. On several occasions the expedition was extremely fortunate to survive an encounter with the Native Americans. Choose one occasion and describe how luck probably saved the expedition. Tell the story with details!

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

19. Describe at least 2 ways that Sacagawea contributed to the success of the expedition.
   a. __________________________________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________________________________________________
   d. __________________________________________________________________________________

20. At the opening of the film, the statement is made that this journey “was the equivalent in its day of a journey to the moon.” Brainstorm at least 2 more ways that the two journeys were similar.
   a. ________________________________________________________________________________
   b. ________________________________________________________________________________
   c. ________________________________________________________________________________
   d. ________________________________________________________________________________