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? _____________________________________________
   In what general direction does this river flow? _____________________________
   What challenges did the river journey pose to the group? (At least 4)
   _________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________
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 ___________ and ___________ Indians. During their 5-month stay, they spent their time preparing for the journey
   ahead. Describe 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 _________ (direction)
    on the ______________________ 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. What surprised Lewis & Clark about the mountains they encountered? ____________
    ________________________________________________________________

13. 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? ________
    ________________________________________________________________
14. 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? _________________________________________

15. Describe two major results of the expedition:
   a. ____________________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________________

16. Describe the ways (at least 3) that Sacagawea contributed to the success of the
    expedition.
   a. ____________________________________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________________________________
   c. ____________________________________________________________________
   d. ____________________________________________________________________
   e. ____________________________________________________________________