

Lesson 2: Jefferson Looks West

Vocabulary

pioneer a person who explores and settles in an unknown area

frontier the edge of the West, where few settlers lived

Louisiana Purchase land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains that the United States bought from France in 1803

Jefferson Wins Election of 1800

Thomas Jefferson became the third President of the United States in 1801. Jefferson wanted all political parties to work together. He believed that citizens should control government. Jefferson got Congress to lower taxes. He also made the government and armed forces smaller in size.

A Nation Moving West

Americans moved west long before Jefferson was President. These people were called **pioneers**. Daniel Boone was a famous pioneer. He built the Wilderness Road. The Wilderness Road was a trail that helped thousands of pioneers move west of the Appalachian Mountains. Native Americans already lived on this land. Pioneers and Native Americans fought over the land. Pioneers continued to move west. The edge of western settlement was called the **frontier**. The pioneers worked hard to build farms and roads.

The Louisiana Purchase

In 1803 the United States bought an area of land from France. This act was known as the **Louisiana Purchase**. The area was called the Louisiana Territory. It stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. The purchase doubled the nation's size. It did not cost very much money. The United States bought this land because it wanted to control the city of New Orleans. New Orleans was an important trading port.

Lewis and Clark

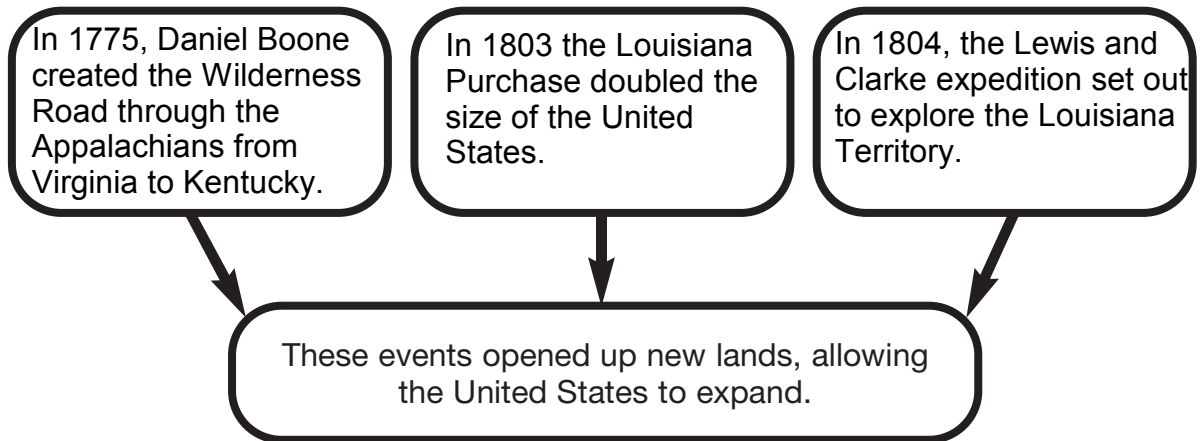
President Jefferson sent a group of people on an expedition to the West in 1804. The leaders of the expedition were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. They explored the land of the Louisiana Purchase. They also went west to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition had three goals. The first goal was to look for a water route to the Pacific Ocean. The second was to meet the Native Americans in the area. The third was to record information about the land, plants, and animals. The team was able to meet the second and third goals. They did not find a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

A Growing Nation

The United States was growing. In 1775 there were two and a half million people. In 1809 there were seven million people. Many new states were formed. Pioneers moved farther and farther west.

Lesson 2: Review

1. **Summarize** Fill in the events that are summarized.



2. In your own words, summarize Jefferson's ideas about government.

Jefferson believed in giving the government "back to the people," lowering taxes,
and reducing the size of government and the armed forces.

3. How did Daniel Boone help the pioneers move westward?

Daniel Boone blazed the Wilderness Road through the Appalachian Mountains,
making a path that pioneers could follow to settle the west.

4. **Critical Thinking: Evaluate** Was the Louisiana Purchase a good deal for the United States? Explain your answer.

The Louisiana Purchase was a good deal because it doubled the size of the United States for pennies an acre!

5. In what ways did the Lewis and Clark Expedition fulfill its mission?

The Lewis and Clarke expedition found that the Northwest Passage did not exist; it tried to foster good relations with the Indians; they kept a detailed record of the journey and the geography and nature they encountered.