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## Suggested Activity

Lewis and Clark had much planning to do prior to their departure. Men had to be recruited, the boats had to be built, food and supplies purchased, and some of the basic parts of the trip had to be planned ahead of time, so the journey would run smoothly as they made their way west.

Divide your students into five groups. Each group will be responsible for planning a certain aspect of the expedition. The five topics are:

transportation  
food  
clothing  
shelter  
tribal relations

Assign each group one of the five topics above. Have the student groups discuss how they would handle their specific task while on the expedition, including making a list of necessary supplies. Then have them divide their list into items they would need to carry with them and items they would be able to obtain along the way. Bring everyone back together and discuss their findings. A list of the most common supplies can be found on the following page.

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## Extension Activities

The keelboat that the expedition used from Wood River, Illinois (Camp DuBois) to Fort Mandan in North Dakota was 55 feet long and 8 feet wide. Have students use tape to outline the dimensions of the boat.

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Lewis and Clark, and several other expedition members, kept detailed journals throughout the expedition. They made sketches and notes of the new plants, animals and people they discovered. Have students keep a journal for one week, including sketches and notes of new things they see and new people they meet.

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Co-captains, Meriweather Lewis and William Clark were responsible for assembling their own group of men to accompany them on the expedition. In the end, the captains recruited over forty men. Some of the men would travel only through the first winter (1804-1805) and return to St. Louis in the spring (1805) with the specimens that had been collected up until that point.

As a class or in small groups brainstorm the kinds of skills and qualities you think Lewis and Clark were looking for in the men they recruited. Taking the activity a step further and have students create a job posting for a member of the expedition.