

## The Louisiana Purchase by Holt, 2009

About	Idea	Motivation	Significance
	Highlight the ideas in the text.		

### American Settlers Move West

By the early 1800s, thousands of Americans settled in the area between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River. As the region's population grew, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio were admitted to the Union. Settlers in these states depended upon the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to move their products to eastern markets.

New Orleans, located at the mouth of the Mississippi, was a very important port. Its busy docks were filled with settlers' farm products and valuable furs bought from American Indians. Many of these cargoes were then sent to Europe. At the same time, manufactured goods passed through the port on their way upriver. As American dependence on the river grew, Jefferson began to worry that a foreign power might shut down access to New Orleans.

Spain controlled both New Orleans and Louisiana. This region stretched west from the mighty Mississippi River to the great Rocky Mountains. Although Spain owned Louisiana, Spanish officials found it impossible to keep Americans out of the territory. "You can't put doors on open country," the foreign minister said in despair.

Years of effort failed to improve Spain's position. Under a secret treaty, Spain agreed to trade Louisiana to France, passing the problem to someone else. One Spanish officer expressed his relief, "I can hardly wait to leave the Americans behind me."

### Louisiana

In 1802, just before handing over Louisiana to France, Spain closed New Orleans to American shipping. Angry farmers worried about what this would do to the economy. President Jefferson asked the U.S. ambassador to France, Robert R. Livingston, to try to buy New Orleans. Jefferson sent James Monroe to help Livingston.

### Jefferson Buys Louisiana

The American ambassador got a surprising offer during his negotiations with French foreign minister Charles Talleyrand. When the Americans tried to buy New Orleans, Talleyrand offered to sell all of Louisiana.

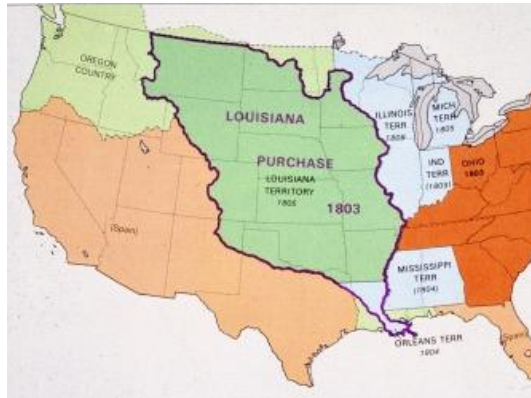
During this time, France was at war with Great Britain (England) and their leader Napoleon needed money for military supplies. He also hoped that a larger United States would challenge British power. The Americans knew a bargain when they saw one and quickly accepted the French offer to sell Louisiana for \$15 million.

The news pleased Jefferson, but as a strict constructionist he was troubled. The Constitution did not mention the purchase of foreign lands. He also did not like spending large amounts of public money. Nevertheless, Jefferson agreed to the purchase in the belief that doing so was best for the country.

Name:

Period:

On October 20, 1803, the Senate approved the agreement of the Louisiana Purchase which roughly doubled the size of the United States.



### **Explorers Head West**

Americans knew little about western Native Americans or the land they lived on. President Jefferson wanted to learn more about the people and land of the West. He also wanted to see if there was a river route that could be taken to the Pacific Ocean.

In 1803, the president asked Congress to fund an expedition to explore the West. To lead it, he chose former army captain Meriwether Lewis. Lewis then chose his friend William Clark to be the co-leader of the expedition.

### **Contact with Native Americans**

In May of 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition began its long journey to explore the Louisiana Purchase. They led their group of 50 men, called the Corps of Discovery, for weeks without seeing any Native Americans. After traveling more than 600 miles, they spotted huge buffalo herds in the distance and guessed that Indian groups would be nearby. Many Indian groups depended on the buffalo for food, clothing, and tools.

Lewis used interpreters to talk to the leaders of each of the people they met. He told them that the United States now owned the land on which the Native Americans lived. Yet the explorers relied on the goodwill of the people they met. Sacagawea (sak-uh-juh-wee-uh), a Shoshone from the Rocky Mountains accompanied the group with her husband, a French fur trader. Sacagawea helped the expedition by naming plants and gathering edible fruits and vegetables.

At last, Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805. The explorers stayed in the Pacific Northwest through the Winter and headed home in March 1806. Lewis and Clark had not found a river route across the West to the Pacific Ocean, but they had learned much about western lands and paths across the Rockies. The explorers also established contact with many Native American groups and collected much valuable information about western plants and animals.

Name:

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**Guiding Question: What was the most significant way the Louisiana Purchase benefited the United States?**

**Claim: (1 Sentence)**

\_\_\_ Your claim fully answers the guiding question    \_\_\_ You have a complete claim with a specific reason why connected to your chosen evidence

**Evidence with Context: (2-3 Sentences)**

Background Information/Context

Evidence

\_\_\_ You have included historical context so that readers know what is happening in history before your evidence

\_\_\_ Your evidence is correctly cited from the text

**Explanation: (2 sentences)**

\_\_\_ You have explained the connection between your evidence and claim. How does this evidence benefit the United States?

**Link (Significance): (1-2 Sentences)**

\_\_\_ You have explained the historical importance/consequence/effect of this evidence

\_\_\_ You have summarized your argument.

Name:

Period:

## **Sentence Starters**

Claim: The most significant way the Louisiana Purchase benefited the United States was...because...

Context: During this time...

Evidence: According to Holt, "...” (2015)

Explanation: This shows that...

Significance: Therefore, the consequence of this is...