Ask and answer your own 20 questions based on these notes. Include at least five “Why does it make sense?” questions.
The Lewis and Clark expedition began in 1803.
President Thomas Jefferson had purchased all of the Louisiana Territory from France for 15 million dollars. Jefferson asked his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to lead the expedition. Lewis asked his old army friend, William Clark, to co-lead the expedition with him.
Captain Meriwether Lewis

- Meriwether Lewis was born in 1774.
- He joined the army at 20 years old.
- He was made President Jefferson’s personal secretary in 1801.
- Jefferson asked Lewis to lead the Corps of Discovery.
- Lewis was the scientist on the journey, keeping detailed records of the plants and animals they found.
William Clark was born in 1770 and at 19 joined the military. Clark met Meriwether Lewis when they were both in the army. Lewis asked Clark to help him lead the expedition across the country. Clark was the geographer on the trip, keeping a detailed diary including many drawings.
Toussaint Charbonneau

- Toussaint Charbonneau was a French Canadian fur trader. He had lived among the Indians since 1796.
- Charbonneau would serve as an interpreter during the expedition.
Sacagawea

- Charbonneau had a captive Shoshone Indian “wife”. She had been captured by a Hidatsa war party about 1800, and sold as a slave to Toussaint. She was 12 when she was kidnapped and sold into slavery.
- Her name was Sacagawea. She was approximately 16 years old in 1804.
- She would serve as interpreter on the journey.
- Sacagawea had a son during the expedition.
Sacagawea’s image was made into a dollar coin in 1997.

She was honored as a very important part of the Corps of Discovery for her skill in helping Lewis and Clark communicate with Indian tribes.
Jean Baptiste Charbonneau

- Jean Baptiste Charbonneau was the son of Toussaint Charbonneau and Sacagawea.
- He became the youngest explorer on the Corps of Discovery.
- Clark nicknamed him “Pomp.”
York was Clark’s childhood companion. He was a slave. We know he was big. We know he was very athletic. He was a great dancer. He was devoted to William Clark. He was a great help to the expedition because he was such a curiosity.
More York

- Indians who had seen white men had never seen a black man before. There is a painting in the Mandan lodges of the Mandan chief trying to rub the black off of York’s skin.
- York was finally set free ten years after the expedition ended.
Seaman was captain Lewis’s dog.
Lewis wrote often in his journal about Seaman.
“T]he squirrel appears in great abundance on either side of the river. I made my dog take as many each day as I had occasion for, they were fat and I thought them when fried a pleasant food.”
Nothing is known of what happened to Seaman after the expedition.
Clark, Sacajawea and Pomp

- At the end of the expedition, William Clark paid Charbonneau $500.33 for his services. Clark then made a request. He asked to take Pomp to his hometown of St. Louis and raise the boy as his own son. A famous and successful man, Clark could give Pomp a comfortable home and send him to the city's finest schools.

- Charbonneau refused, explaining that Pomp was still too young to leave his mother. Clark understood, but he sent Charbonneau a note three days later. In it, he asked Pomp's father to remember his proposal. Clark also promised that if Charbonneau brought the boy to St. Louis, he would give Charbonneau some land and a few horses, cows, and pigs to raise. Clark added that if Charbonneau later decided to return to fur trading, he would give the trader plenty of supplies, provided that Pomp were left with him. In signing off his letter, Clark wrote, “With anxious expectations of seeing my little dancing boy Baptiste, I shall remain your friend.”

- For the next three years, Pomp lived with his mother and father in a Mandan Indian village on the Missouri River. But in late 1809, his parents decided to take William Clark up on his offer and moved to St. Louis. True to his word, Clark gave Charbonneau a beautiful tract of land on the Mississippi River. There, the former fur trader set about trying his hand at farming.

- Charbonneau's new career, however, didn't last long. In the spring of 1811, he sold his land to Clark. Then he and Sacagawea left Pomp in their old friend's care and headed back up the Missouri. A fellow traveler later wrote that Sacagawea “had become sickly, and longed to revisit her native country; her husband, also, who had spent many years among the Indians, [had] become weary of a civilized life.” Pomp's parents settled at Fort Manuel, a trading post where Clark arranged for Charbonneau to work as an interpreter.

- Sadly, Pomp would never see his mother again. A year after leaving St. Louis, Sacagawea had a second child, a girl named Lizette. Soon, the young mother became very ill. On December 20, 1812, she died at Fort Manuel at the age of twenty-four. The post's clerk, John C. Luttig, wrote of her death in his journal. He said she was “a fine Indian girl” who was “the best woman in the fort.”