

**1/JEFFERSON:** Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, I am happy to welcome you back after your amazing journey! Tell me all about it!

**2/LEWIS:** Mr. President, we would be delighted to share our experiences, but first, may I present Chief Big White of the Mandans. His tribe offered us friendship and help. We spent the first winter with them.

**1/JEFFERSON:** Chief Big White, the United States is grateful for your hospitality. I notice that you are wearing the clothes of our city and not your usual clothes.

**4/CHIEF BIG WHITE:** Clark, the one we call the "red-headed chief," gave me these clothes. He understands our people. We also like Lewis. We call him "good medicine." He saved lives of our people with his potions.

**3/CLARK:** It was in Chief Big White's village that we found Sacagawea. Her knowledge saved our lives many times. I know many people here thought we had died, and we might have died without her help.

**1/JEFFERSON:** We were worried. You were gone for two and a half years, but we did receive the packages you sent in 1805. We received samples and pictures of animals and plants, Clark's detailed maps, even a dictionary of the Mandan language.

**4/CHIEF BIG WHITE:** Do you know my language?

**1/JEFFERSON:** With the aid of the dictionary, we could speak in your language.

**2/LEWIS:** Our trip of two and a half years was exciting, but difficult. We hoped to get a boat from the Pacific shore and spent several months waiting.

**3/CLARK:** Unfortunately, we never saw a ship, so we had to make the trip back by land.

**1/JEFFERSON:** I'm planning to give an address to Congress and I want to include some of your achievements. Give me a brief report and we'll have a longer visit later.

**2/LEWIS:** Well, I had been working as your personal secretary for about two years when we first started planning this trip.

**1/JEFFERSON:** Yes, I read Voyages from Montreal by Alexander Mackenzie who had crossed the continent in 1793. He urged the British to set up forts in the West. With our recently won freedom from the British, I thought it mandatory we move quickly!

**2/LEWIS:** Ironically, we ended up doubling the size of the United States.

**4/CHIEF BIG WHITE:** How can you make land grow?

**3/CLARK:** We didn't make land grow. We bought the land from another country.

**1/JEFFERSON:** France had received the whole Louisiana Territory in a treaty with Spain. We had been using New Orleans as a port city, even though it was in Spanish territory. We wanted to continue doing so.