



Preparing for an Expedition

What Supplies Would You Need?

We don't know what supplies Zebulon Pike took with him on his nine-month journey on the Upper Mississippi River. However, we do know what Lewis and Clark took with them on their long, two-year journey.

Take a look at Meriwether Lewis' list of supplies. What would you take with you on such a long journey?

Mathematical Instruments

- surveyor's compass
- hand compass
- quadrants
- telescope
- thermometers
- 2 sextants
- set of plotting instruments
- chronometer (needed to calculate longitude)

Clothing

- 45 flannel shirts
- coats
- frocks
- shoes
- woolen pants
- blankets
- knapsacks
- stockings

Camp Supplies

- 150 yards of cloth to be oiled and sewn into tents and sheets
- pliers
- chisels
- 30 steels for striking to make fire
- handsaws
- hatchets
- whetstones
- iron corn mill
- two dozen tablespoons
- mosquito curtains
- 10 1/2 pounds of fishing hooks and fishing lines
- 12 pounds of soap
- 193 pounds of "portable soup" (a thick paste concocted by boiling down beef, eggs, and vegetables)
- three bushels of salt
- writing paper, ink, and crayons



Arms / Ammunition

- 15 prototype Model 1803 muzzle-loading .54 caliber rifles
- knives
- 500 rifle flints
- 420 pounds of sheet lead for bullets
- 176 pounds of gunpowder packed in 52 lead canisters
- 1 long-barreled rifle that fired its bullet with compressed air, rather than by flint, spark, and powder

Presents for Indians

- 12 dozen pocket mirrors
- 4,600 sewing needles
- 144 small scissors
- 10 pounds of sewing thread
- silk ribbons
- ivory combs
- handkerchiefs
- yards of bright-colored cloth
- 130 rolls of tobacco
- tomahawks that doubled as pipes
- 288 knives
- 8 brass kettles
- vermilion face paint
- 33 pounds of tiny beads of assorted colors

Medicine / Medical Supplies

- 50 dozen Dr. Rush's patented "Rush's pills"
- lancets
- forceps
- syringes
- tourniquets
- 1,300 doses of physic
- 1,100 hundred doses of emetic
- 3,500 doses of diaphoretic (sweat inducer)
- other drugs for blistering, salivation, and increased kidney output

Traveling Library

- Barton's *Elements of Botany*
- Antoine Simon Le Page du Pratz's *History of Louisiana*
- Richard Kirwan's *Elements of Mineralogy*
- *A Practical Introduction to Spherics and Nautical Astronomy*
- *The Nautical Almanac and Astronomical Ephemeris*
- a four-volume dictionary
- a two-volume edition of Linnaeus (the founder of the Latin classification of plants)
- tables for finding longitude and latitude
- map of the Great Bend of the Missouri River