

THE TIME 1492–1820s

▶ PEOPLE TO KNOW

- John Jacob Astor
- Frances Barkley
- William Clark
- Captain Cook
- Marie Dorian
- Pierre Dorian
- Juan de Fuca
- Robert Gray
- Bruno de Heceta
- Thomas Jefferson
- John Ledyard
- Meriwether Lewis
- Ranald MacDonald
- Alexander Mackenzie
- Esteban Martinez
- John McLoughlin
- Juan Perez
- Sacajawea
- David Thompson
- Jonathan Thorn
- George Vancouver

▶ PLACES TO LOCATE

- Asia
- North America
- South America
- Europe
- China
- Spain
- England
- Canada
- Hawaiian Islands
(Sandwich Islands)
- Vancouver Island
(Nootka)
- Pacific Coast
- East Coast
- Strait of Juan de Fuca
- Puget Sound
- Columbia River
- Snake River
- Missouri River
- Boston, Massachusetts
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Montreal, Canada

▶ WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

- aghost
- barter
- elusive
- infirmity
- lucrative
- porcelain
- voyageur



TIMELINE

1492

1492 Christopher Columbus discovers the New World.

1592

1592 Juan de Fuca claims to have sailed the coast of the Pacific Northwest.

1607

1607 Colonists arrive at Jamestown on the East Coast.

Chapter

The Great Encounter

4

This replica of *The Lady Washington* is a reminder of Captain Robert Gray's place in our state's history.

Photo by Robert Esposito, Panorama Designs

	<p>1775 Bruno de Heceta explores the Northwest.</p> <p>Revolutionary War breaks out in the English colonies.</p>	<p>1789 Esteban Martinez builds Fort San Miguel.</p>		<p>1812 The War of 1812 is fought between Great Britain and the United States.</p>
<p>▼</p> <p>1770</p> <p>▲</p>	<p>▼</p> <p>1780</p> <p>▲</p>	<p>▼</p> <p>1790</p> <p>▲</p>	<p>▼</p> <p>1800</p> <p>▲</p>	<p>▼</p> <p>1810</p> <p>▲</p>
<p>1774 Juan Perez explores and claims the Pacific Northwest for Spain.</p>	<p>1776 Declaration of Independence is signed in the English colonies.</p> <p>Captain Cook sails to the Pacific Northwest.</p>	<p>1787 U.S. Constitution is signed in Philadelphia.</p>	<p>1803 U.S. buys the Louisiana Purchase from France.</p> <p>1804 Lewis and Clark travel to the Pacific Ocean.</p>	<p>1806 Lewis and Clark return to St. Louis.</p> <p>1811 The Pacific Fur Company builds Fort Astoria.</p> <p>1824 Hudson's Bay Company builds Fort Vancouver.</p>

The First Visitors

Different groups of Native Americans have lived in the region we now call Washington for thousands and thousands of years. Other groups of people also came from time to time. The first non-Indians probably came from China or Japan by accident when their small boats were blown off course and drifted ashore. The wind currents move in an easterly direction across the Pacific Ocean, explaining the ruins of many Asian boats that have been found on the coast. Chinese documents tell of Hui San, a Buddhist priest, who probably sailed to the Pacific Coast in the year 499.

To support this idea, archaeologists have found bits of Asian *porcelain*, or ceramic ware, along the Washington coast. Coastal

Indians also told of early visitors from across the ocean. Whoever the visitors were, and why they came, we still do not know. We do know that they did not come in large numbers and that they did not establish settlements here.

The Search for a Northwest Passage

There is a lot of written history about European explorers who tried to find a shortcut to China and the Indies. Instead of traveling over land across Europe and Asia to the markets of China, the merchants and government leaders spent money trying to find a water route that was shorter than



You can see on this early map from the 1600s why European explorers wanted a faster route across North America. They did not want to go all the way around South America to get to the West. Compare this map to our maps today. Which names and land shapes are similar and which are different?



Spanish explorers sailed in small wooden vessels called “galleons” that were powered by the wind and ocean currents. The hulls of some ships were filled with rocks to keep the ships from tipping over in violent storms. Water leaked into the ships and had to be carried up to the deck and dumped overboard.

going around Africa. In fact, that is how Christopher Columbus came upon North America. He found it accidentally when he and his crew tried sailing west to Asia.

Once the route to North America was used by the Europeans, ships from several countries kept searching for a way through North America so they wouldn’t have to sail around South America to reach Asia. This **elusive** shortcut was called the Northwest Passage, and many explorers spent years trying to discover it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If it had existed, how would a Northwest Passage across North America have affected the development and commerce of our country and our state?

Spanish Explorers

The Spanish may have been the first to sail ships along the Pacific Coast. In 1596, Juan de Fuca claimed that Spain had hired him to be the captain of an exploration ship to the Pacific Coast. He described a wide strait at the correct longitude, and he told of a pillar of rocks that stood at the entrance.

Whether or not Juan de Fuca had actually found the strait, mapmakers in Europe added his name to their maps, creating the Strait of Juan de Fuca—at least on paper.



“Your worship knows how I became poor, because Captain Candis took away from me more than sixty thousand ducats.”

— Juan de Fuca, sixty years old, 1597

It is now known that an English pirate named Cavendish had been robbing Spanish ships around that time.

T*he entire crew is disheartened. Some . . . are affected by scurvy and in very serious condition.*

— Juan Perez, 1774

Juan Perez

Over 180 years after Juan de Fuca claimed to have explored the coast, Juan Perez, another Spanish sailor, sailed north from New Spain (now Mexico) to Alaska. He tried to claim the land for Spain. To do this, an explorer had to go on land, erect a cross representing the Catholic religion, and bury a bottle containing a written claim.

Perez and his crew traded with native people on what was later called Vancouver Island, but they were never able to go ashore on the mainland and properly claim the land. The weather was stormy, and the crew was sick with scurvy. Perez finally gave up and returned home.

The Spanish Go Ashore

In 1775, another Spanish expedition arrived on the Washington coast. This time twenty armed sailors under Bruno de Heceta went ashore, erected a cross, and claimed the Northwest for Spain.

Six men were ordered ashore to fill water barrels with fresh water and gather firewood. Before they could complete the work, 300 Indians attacked and killed them. Watching from the main ship, the captain

was *aghost* when canoes of Indians then moved towards the ship. The Spanish fired their muskets, killed several Indians, and left.

The rest of the sailors found what they described as a “great river” (the Columbia) but did not explore it because so many of the men were sick and dying from scurvy.

Why Didn't Spain Settle the Northwest?

Spain claimed the northern Pacific Coast but was not interested in exploring the interior of the region or settling it. Some possible reasons might have been:

- Spanish crews were very busy harvesting pearls off the western coast of Mexico and California.
- There was no mineral wealth, such as gold or silver, along the Pacific Coast.
- The native peoples lived in very small villages. There were no large populations to capture for slaves.
- The coastline was steep and rugged, with tall trees right to the shoreline, making development difficult.

Eventually, Spain lost out to the British in the Pacific Northwest.

T*he currents and expanse of waters have made me believe this is the mouth of a large river or passage to some other sea.*

— Bruno de Heceta, 1775

Scurvy and Vitamin C

Scurvy was a terrible curse to the Spanish sailors. Scurvy is a disease caused by a diet lacking in ascorbic acid, or vitamin C. It causes bleeding gums, swollen and weak arms and legs, and sores on the body. When a ship's crew got scurvy, they could be wiped out as quickly and complete-



ly as if they had been at war.

Scurvy developed aboard ships because crews were out at sea for such long periods and didn't have fresh fruits and vegetables. They didn't get enough vitamins from the dried meat, fish, and biscuits they ate. Their treatments for the disease, such as gargling with oil, were worthless.

It is ironic that Spanish sailors suffered so badly while Spain had many orange and lemon groves. No one realized the fruit would prevent scurvy.

British Search for the Northwest Passage

In 1776, a year after the Spanish explorers quickly left the Pacific Coast, the American colonists were fighting the Revolutionary War along the East Coast. A British sea captain arrived in the colonial port of Plymouth, Massachusetts. His name was James Cook. He was already a famous explorer who had been around the world twice, in both directions. Cook had even discovered a group of islands in the Pacific that he named the Sandwich Islands. (They were later renamed the Hawaiian Islands.)

The American colonists supplied Cook with a crew and supplies, even though the colonists were at war with the English. Captain Cook again sailed around the tip of South America with two ships, the *Resolution* and the *Discovery*. He tried to establish a hold on the Pacific Coast for Britain.

The weather was cold, the gales of wind were successive and strong, and sometimes very violent. Our ships complained. We were short of water, and had an unknown coast to explore.

—John Ledyard, on the *Resolution*, 1778

Cook kept his ships far offshore, then stopped at Nootka Sound on what is now called Vancouver Island. He discovered that the Spanish were already trading with the Indians.

Feeling the trip had been a failure, the crew traded trinkets for some furs. The sea otter furs were warm and made good bedding and clothing for sailing in such a cold climate. The ships returned to the Sandwich Islands, where Cook was killed in a fight with natives.

“Soft Gold” Changes History

After Cook’s death, his crews left the islands and headed to China, where they were delighted to learn that the Chinese paid very high prices for the sea otter pelts

they had brought from the Pacific Northwest.

While Cook’s voyage did not result in a new trade route across North America, the word about the *lucrative* fur trade was out, and the world hurried in. It was the fur trade that resulted in the first European settlements on the Washington coast.

The First English Woman in



Captain Cook’s expedition traveled far off shore, but they did stop at Vancouver Island and traded with the native people for furs. After sailing on to Alaska, the group returned to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), where Cook was killed.

Captain Cook was looking for the elusive Northwest Passage. Whoever discovered it for Britain was to receive a cash prize equal to nearly a million dollars today.

Soda Pop at Sea?

Captain Cook’s crews had a device that put carbonated air into water, creating fizzy “soda water.” People thought the soda water might prevent scurvy. The men also ate a variety of foods that would not spoil at sea, such as portable soup (dried soup broth), malt, mustard, and carrot marmalade. At first, the crew refused the soured cabbage Cook insisted on, but once the captain ate it, his crew followed. The sauerkraut contained vitamin C and prevented the dreaded scurvy.



Sea Otters

Between 1750 and 1790 thousands of sea otters were killed for their furs. Almost all of the otters were taken by explorers and trappers at sea before beaver trapping really got underway.

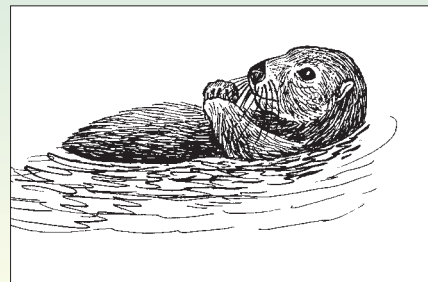
Why was there such a demand for the fur? Much of the fur was taken by ship to China, where it was traded for important things such as silk, spices, and tea. The Chinese

used the soft warm furs as coats and blankets during the bitter cold winters.

The sea otter fur trade stopped when there were no longer enough otters alive to make the sea voyage worthwhile.

In 1977 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service placed the sea otter on the Endangered Species list. Sea otters have returned to Alaskan waters and the

coasts of California and Washington, but their numbers are declining again. People think it is because of toxins in the paint on ships.



Washington

Frances Barkley, the seventeen-year-old bride of Captain Charles Barkley, sailed with her young husband to the Northwest Coast in 1787 to begin fur trading. She was the first English woman to come to the area.

Frances wrote in her diary:

To our great astonishment, we arrived at a large opening [of land] the entrance of which appeared to be about four leagues wide [about twelve miles] and remained about that width as far as the eye could see. . . . My husband immediately recognized it as the long lost strait of Juan de Fuca.



The Barkleys gave the strait that name, used on old maps, even though they were probably the first Europeans to actually discover it.

Spain Builds a Fort

With the arrival of explorers from other countries, Spain worried that Americans might cross the continent to look for seaport locations on the Pacific Coast. They also realized that more and more people would come to take advantage of the riches to be made in the fur trade.

Esteban Jose Martinez and a crew of men arrived by ship at Nootka Sound. They built a Spanish settlement they called Fort San Miguel. A bake oven, blacksmith shop, and **infirmary** (a place where the sick were cared for) were built. Gardens were planted.

Not just Spaniards did the work. Martinez had captured an English ship at sea and taken twenty-nine Chinese immi-



grants aboard, bringing them to Fort San Miguel to do the hard work.

I have already [said] that we beat the Russians in taking possession of . . . Nootka, pretending, if . . . other foreigners arrive, that we already formally occupy it, and in order to assure our permanence, a . . . respectable body of troops go about on shore, with missionaries, settlers, cattle, and others.

—Viceroy of New Spain

The Nootka Sound Controversy

Russians, Spanish, British, and American traders all wanted to profit from the Pacific fur trade. Britain and Spain both claimed Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island. It seemed they might go to war over the issue. President George Washington worried that the new United States would be dragged into a war. Eventually Spain yielded Nootka to the British. Today the region is part of Canada.

American Explorers

John Ledyard, an American, had dropped out of college to sail the Pacific with Captain Cook. When young Ledyard returned from the voyage, he went to Paris. In Paris, he met Thomas Jefferson, who was there as a United States ambassador. Ledyard and Jefferson planned a different route to the Pacific Coast—from western Asia.

John Ledyard walked part of the way

across Russia, planning to cross the Asian continent, get a ride across the Pacific on a ship, then make his way overland across North America to the states in the East.

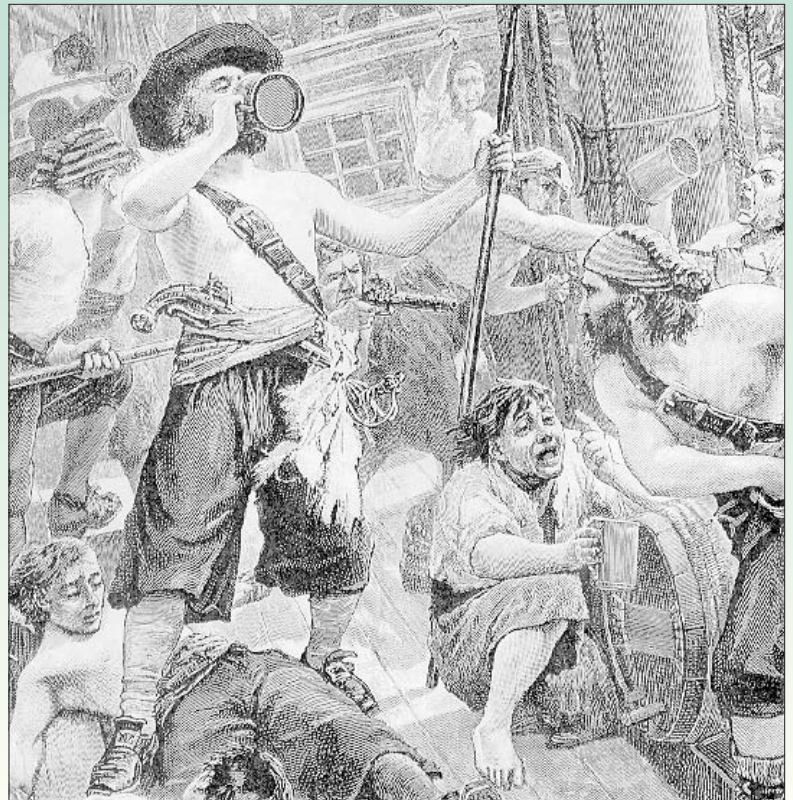
Ledyard started east across Russia with two dogs for company, but he was stopped by Russian troops in Siberia. When the Russian empress, Catherine the Great, heard about the upstart American, she ordered him deported back to Poland. That put an end to his plan to survey North America from the West.

Americans Travel by Sea

The next exploration by an American

Pirates!

Pirates sailed the Pacific Northwest Coast, too. Between 1575 and 1742, there were at least twenty-five different pirate ships preying upon ships along the West Coast of North America. Pirates came from England, Holland, and France, looking for Spanish ships to plunder. Spanish ships on their way back to New Spain were filled with expensive goods from China and the East Indies.



As a young man, John Ledyard had a wild plan to go west to North America from Russia.

was made by Robert Gray, who had heard about the huge profits to be made by trading furs in China. In 1792, Gray and his crew sailed out of Boston with a load of trade goods bound for the Pacific Coast. It was his second voyage to the Pacific Northwest.

After a long trip around the tip of South America and up the coast, Gray and his men discovered what seemed to be a river, but

the water was so rough the ships could not sail into it. They sailed on to a wide inlet “which had the very good appearance of a harbor.”

A few days later, the crew again tried to sail into the Columbia River. Sandbars filled the passageway between the sea and the river. Gray waited until the ocean tides were high, then carefully guided a small boat, and then his ship, over the foamy white waves. This time he made it, named the river, and claimed all of the land on both sides of the river for the United States.

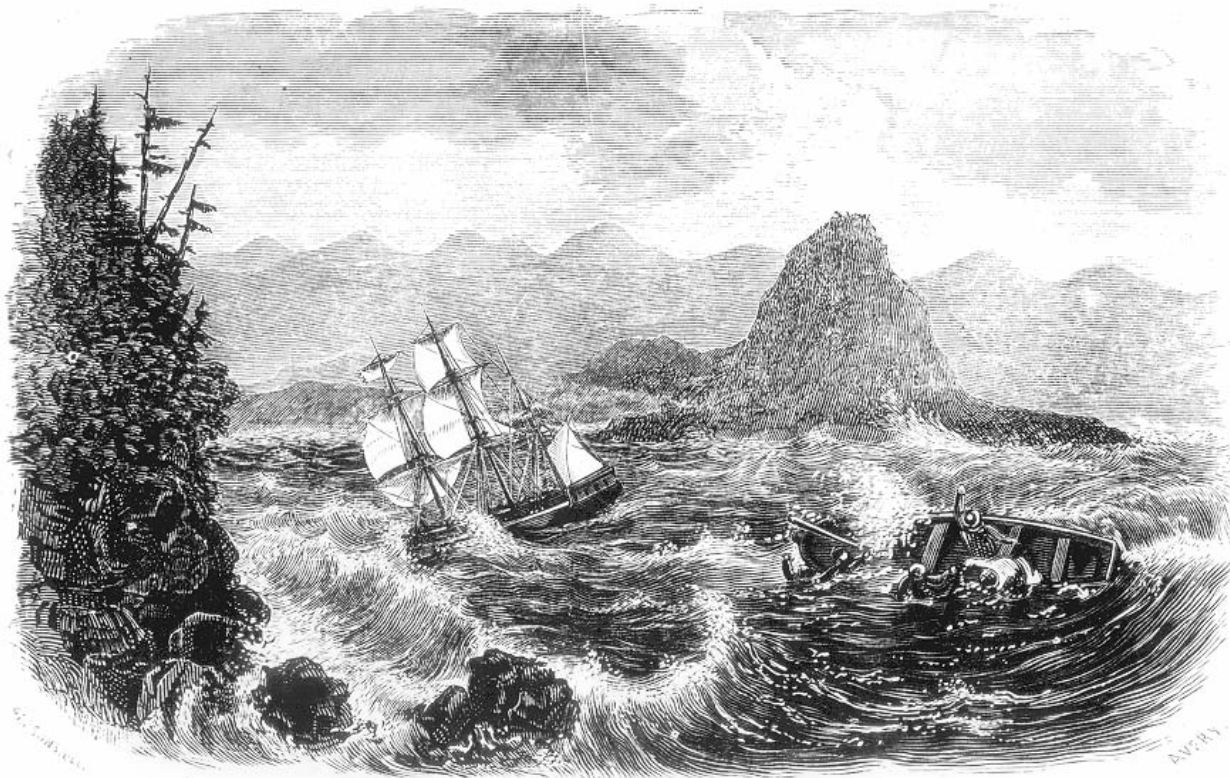
The crew spent nine days on the river, trading with the Chinook Indians for furs. Realizing that the Indians captured the valuable sea otters in the ocean and not on the river, the group did no further exploring of the great Columbia.



Naming the Islands

When Robert Gray's ship arrived at Nootka, the Spaniards at the small fort gave the American sailors gifts of fresh vegetables. “Considering the part of the world we were in, I thought it a very handsome present.”

— Joseph Ingraham, second mate



This art, titled *Entrance of the Columbia River*, shows the rough water dumping out the passengers of a small boat while the larger sailing ship is more stable. Gray's crew reported seeing entire trees being swept downstream in the huge river.

In that same year a British sailor, George Vancouver, also sailed up the coast, passing the mouth of the Columbia River. Later, hearing of Gray's entrance into the Columbia, Vancouver returned and sent a small ship to cross the dangerous sandbar and explore farther up the river. "I never felt more alarmed and frightened in my life," wrote one of the sailors in his journal.

Vancouver spent the summer of 1792

exploring and mapping the Puget Sound region. He claimed all the land on both sides of the river for Great Britain and named Vancouver Island for himself. Among Vancouver's friends were men with last names of Baker, Rainier, Whidbey, and Puget. Can you find the locations named for them?

In 1803, France had sold the Louisiana Purchase to the United States. It was an immense piece of new territory that need-

Columbia

Do you know what the word "Columbia" means? Columbia was a female symbol that represented the United States. Columbia was a popular illustration in newspapers and magazines of the time.

Who created Columbia? Phyllis Wheatley, a brilliant young African slave in Boston, wrote poetry. She came up with the word and the idea of Columbia the goddess. She included Columbia in a poem she wrote to encourage General George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

The District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.), as well as many other places, were named after the goddess. When statehood was being planned for Washington, the people asked for the name Columbia, but were turned down and given the name Washington instead. Congress thought there would be confusion between a Columbia state and the District of Columbia.



LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

Do you ever hear confusion between our state's name—Washington—and the nation's capital? Naming our state Washington didn't solve the problem, did it?



Columbia looked like a Roman goddess. She was a symbol of our young country. She may have been named for Columbus.

LEWIS AND CLARK

ed to be explored and mapped. President Thomas Jefferson sent explorers to see if river travel all the way to the Pacific Ocean was possible, and to learn about the land, plants, animals, and native Indian people.

Jefferson chose his secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, to lead the expedition. Lewis, age twenty-nine, was a quiet man, a lover of solitude and nature. He chose an old friend from his army days, Lieutenant William Clark, as a partner. Clark, an outgoing redhead, was eager to take part in the adventure.

The rest of the party consisted of twenty-eight “good hunters, stout, healthy, unmarried men . . . capable of bearing bodily fatigue.” York, Clark’s black slave, was part of the group.

The men traveled north from St. Louis and spent their first winter in the

Dakotas—land of the Mandan Indians. There they met a sixteen-year-old Indian woman named Sacajawea and her French Canadian husband, Charbonneau, who joined the expedition as guides and interpreters. (Years before in what is now Idaho, Sacajawea had been stolen from her people by another tribe.) Sacajawea carried her baby son Pomp on her back the entire trip.

The group traveled by boat on the Missouri River and then trekked across the Rockies of northern Idaho. There Sacajawea met her long-lost brother, who had become a chief. His horses helped the group across the mountains.

Worn out but still hopeful, the group came to the winter camp of the Nez Perce Indians along the Clearwater River. The Nez Perce gave Lewis advice about the best route to the Pacific and provided vital food and assistance with building boats. The explorers then moved



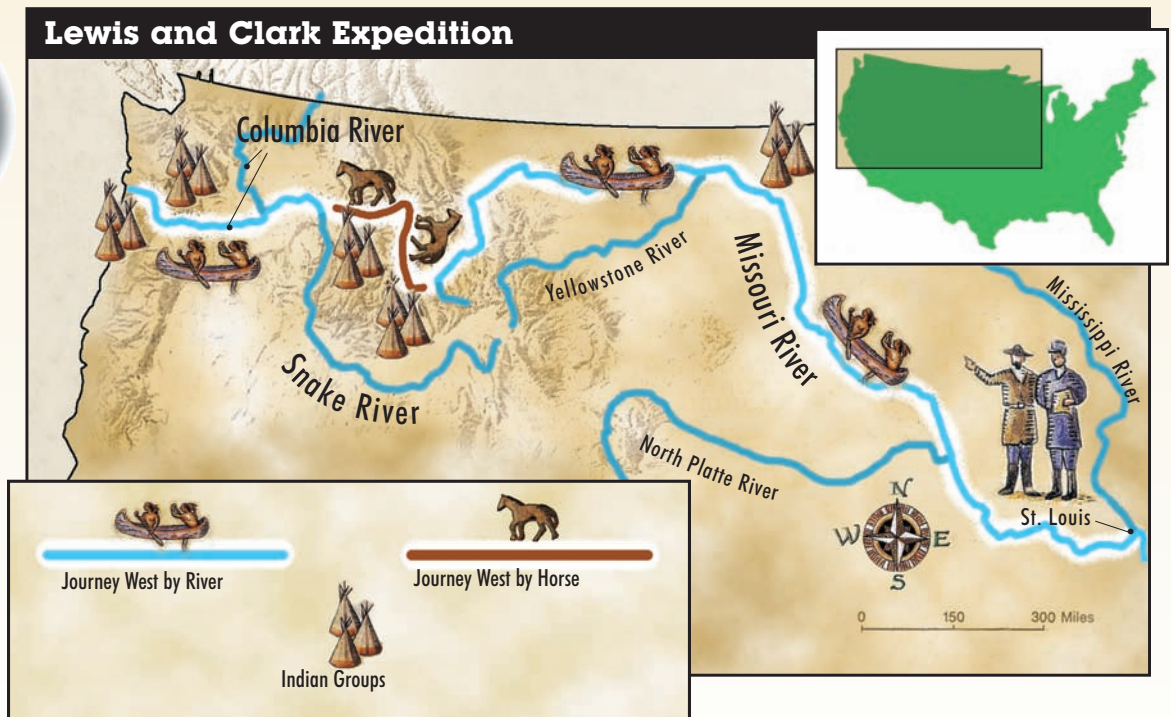
William Clark



Meriwether Lewis



This is the Sacajawea one-dollar coin, first minted in 2000. Sacajawea’s likeness was modeled from a living member of the Shoshoni tribe. No pictures or sketches were made of Sacajawea, so we don’t know what she looked like, but there are more statues of her now than of any woman in American history.





Clark's Diary November 6, 1805

A . . . rainy morning. The Indians of the two lodges we passed today came in their canoes. . . . I purchased two beaver skins for which I gave five small fish hooks. . . . Dried out our bedding and killed the fleas which collected in our blankets. . . .

November 7, 1805

A cloudy, foggy morning. Great joy in camp. We are in view of the ocean, this great Pacific Ocean which we have been so anxious to see.

downriver to the rough Columbia River and continued to the ocean.

Finally, in November of 1805, Clark spied the blue waters of the Pacific. They had reached their goal after nineteen months. The group hoped to meet a ship to take them back to the East, but none appeared, so the entire party, including York and Sacajawea, voted to build a small shelter, called it Fort Clatsop, and waited for spring.

The Journey Home

The next spring the group began the long trip home. Along the way, they drew maps, collected plants, and made notes about the native people. They even sent a live prairie dog and bones from a forty-five-foot dinosaur back to President Jefferson.

When the explorers finally arrived in St. Louis over two years after they started, local people were astonished. Many thought the explorers had died. However, it was not until their extensive journals were published—many years after their deaths—that Lewis, Clark, and Sacajawea became heroes.

American Fur Traders

Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia was painted in 1905 by Charles M. Russell.
Amon Carter Museum

Lewis and Clark first saw the ocean from Washington, then the group voted to cross the Columbia River into Oregon to wait for spring where the weather was milder.

Build Fort Astoria

The Pacific Fur Company, an American company started by John Jacob Astor, was already well-established east of the Rockies, but Astor wanted to expand to the Pacific Northwest. Captain Jonathan Thorn, a strict military man who often angered his crew, sailed from New York to open a trading post on the Pacific Coast.

After the long trip around South America, the *Tonquin*, Thorn's ship, sailed through a storm to the mouth of the wild Columbia River. Instead of waiting for better weather, Thorn ordered five men to get into a small boat and find a safe passage into the river; the boat flipped over in the white foam, and the men drowned. Three other men and a second boat were also lost in the

raging waters.

The main group finally made it through and landed the ship. Thorn left some men to build Fort Astoria, named for John Jacob Astor. They built the fort on a hill with a magnificent view of the river below.

Thorn, impatient to begin trading with the Indians for furs, took the rest of the crew and sailed on to Nootka to trade. Later in the summer, word came back that Thorn had made some local Indians so angry that they killed him and all of his men. With many of their original crew and most of their supplies lost, the group at Fort Astoria barely survived the winter.

Traders Come by Land

Meanwhile, another group of the company was coming by land. They got lost, ran out of food, and were attacked by Indians. More than half of the group died. Marie (a Native American), her husband Pierre Dorian (the expedition's translator), and their two children were among the few who made it to Fort Astoria. Marie had given birth to a third child in Oregon, but he did not live.

A supply ship arrived in the spring, and the Pacific Fur Company survived. They built trading posts where they could trade with native people and even Russian traders who had posts along the coast. They took the furs to China, bought Chinese silk, spices, and rugs, and sailed to New York to sell them.

The Oregon Country

Unfortunately, the United States and the British became involved in the War of 1812. The Astorians were forced to sell their fort to the British, who renamed it Fort George after the King of England. At the end of the war, Great Britain and the United States signed a treaty that gave both countries ownership of the Oregon Country. The land stretched from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.



British Fur Traders

Two years before Lewis and Clark, the Canadians explored British Columbia. Alexander Mackenzie made it all the way to the Pacific. His trading company, the Northwest Company, did a lot of business with Indian traders.

While the Americans were building Fort Astoria, David and Charlotte Thompson, British traders, brought their children into the Oregon Country. They founded Spokane House, the first trading post in what is now Washington State, months before Fort Astoria as built.

Thompson recorded in his journal about the land and the native peoples. He also made excellent maps, using stars as reference points for surveying land. The Indians called him “Kookoo-sint,” meaning “the man who watches stars.”

Thompson is credited for locating the source of the Columbia River.

The Hudson’s Bay Company

In 1821, the Northwest Company merged into the Hudson’s Bay Company. The HBC controlled the fur trade in Canada and the Oregon Country. It was directed from England and Montreal, Canada.

The HBC needed a director of operations in the Oregon Country, and chose an excellent trapper, medical doctor, and ambitious leader to run the affairs of the region. Dr. John McLoughlin soon gained a reputation as a good and fair businessman.

Dr. McLoughlin traveled by canoe and horseback across Canada for four months and reached Fort George in the fall. He wrote in a letter:

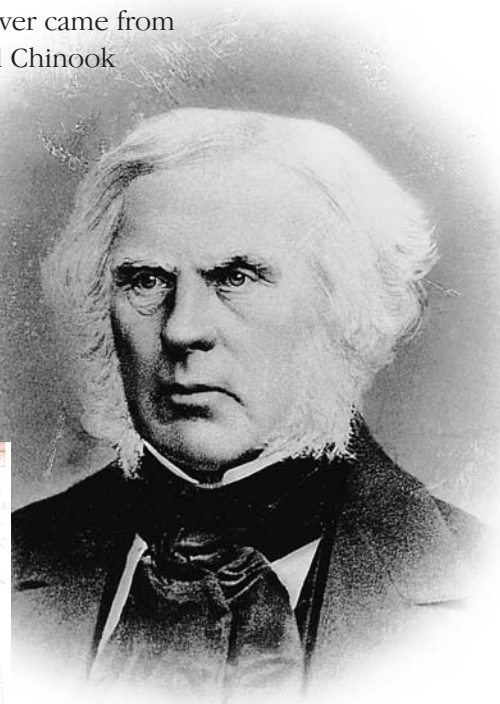
Since my arrival on the 8th of November, we have not seen one clear sun shining day and not ten days without rain. . . .

McLoughlin built a new fort near the mouth of the Willamette River and called it

Fort Vancouver. He wanted a fort nearer to other forts on the north side of the Columbia. He thought it was important to keep a British hold on the land there. The company moved all the trading goods, animals, and people to the new location. Fort Vancouver grew to contain a hospital, small houses for employees and their Indian wives, storehouses for furs, trade goods, and workshops for blacksmiths, carpenters, and other craftsmen. There was a sawmill to provide lumber and a gristmill to grind grain.

Outside the fort there were extensive orchards, farmlands, a dairy, and herds of cattle. Ships brought the latest news and supplies.

The people at Fort Vancouver came from many places. There were local Chinook Indians, Delaware and Iroquois Indian fur trappers from the East, French Canadians, Hawaiian laborers (called *Kanakas*), Indian women who had married employees of the HBC, and Scottish traders.



McLoughlin was called the “White-Headed Eagle” by the Indian people. He treated them with respect and gained their trust. Indians supplied most of the furs the HBC needed for trade to distant cities.

There were very few women at Fort Vancouver, so Eloisa McLoughlin was treated as the “princess” of the fort. Her father was in charge of all operations. Her mother was a Native American. Like many other children of the day who had white fathers and Indian mothers, Eloisa grew up as a child of two cultures.



Many of the Hudson's Bay Company fur traders were from Scotland. A tall, red-haired Scottish Highlander in plaid kilts played bagpipes for the local Indians. It awed the Indians, who had never heard anything like it.

Fort Vancouver was a trading post, not a military fort. It was the main source of supplies and information for early trappers, missionaries, and settlers.

Today you can visit Fort Vancouver in the city of Vancouver and see things almost as they were 200 years ago.

Voyageurs

Traders used canoes to move piles of furs on the rivers. French-speaking Canadians called **voyageurs** paddled the canoes. When crossing land, they carried both the furs and the canoes on their backs. The voyageurs became famous for their strength, their colorful dress, and the songs they sang while paddling canoes down the rivers.

Furs, Forts, and Farms

The main business of the forts was trading for furs. Company trappers traveled out along the many streams to kill animals and take their fur. Indians also brought furs to the fort and traded them for glass beads,

muskets, and metal objects such as knives and cooking pots.

From Fort Vancouver, British traders **bartered** for furs from French and Indian trappers up and down the Columbia River. The fur in demand was the beaver pelt, called a plew. Plews were stretched, dried, and shipped to London, where the long soft fur was made into felt. The felt was then made into hats. Beaver top hats were a very popular style for men in Europe and the United States until fashion replaced them with silk hats. By the time silk hats replaced beaver hats, the beavers in the Pacific Northwest had been nearly trapped to extinction.

The HBC set up farming companies at Fort Nisqually and at Cowlitz Farm, south of Tacoma. Crops were grown for trade. Fort Colville, up the Columbia River, was both a trading and a grain-growing center. Fort Vancouver remained an important settlement in the Oregon Country.

A few American fur trade companies tried to set up fur trading posts in the Pacific Northwest, but they were not successful. Fort Astoria faded when the War of 1812 broke out between the United States and Britain in the East. Other attempts were failures because traders had little chance of making a profit as long as the powerful Hudson's Bay Company controlled the region's trade.

FUR TRADING LOCATIONS

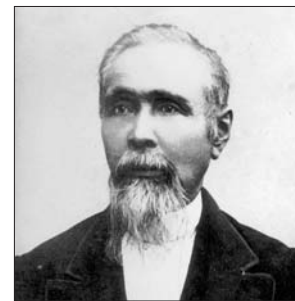


The Fur Trade Ends

By the late 1840s the fur era was over. The fur-bearing animals were nearly gone. Styles had changed. Pioneers were beginning to move into the area. They used the trading posts, trails, and information they got from traders. The fur traders had come from all over the world and reported knowledge about the area, its natural resources, and its native people to others. The Pacific Northwest would not be forgotten. Unfortunately, the everyday life of the American Indian had changed forever. You will read more about this in later chapters.



RANALD MACDONALD



Ranald MacDonal's father was a Scottish trader with the Hudson's Bay Company and his mother was a daughter of a powerful Chinook chief. He grew up at Fort Vancouver, where he met three Japanese fishermen. He heard about the exotic land of Japan and decided to go there someday, but at that time, Japan would not allow foreigners to enter the country.

Eventually, Ranald got a job on an American whaling ship. On the coast of Japan, he went ashore in a small boat. He had an English dictionary, a history book, and a world map that he thought would reassure the Japanese that he meant no harm.

Local villagers quickly discovered him and put him in jail. He was treated well, however, and spent his time teaching Japanese youths to speak English.

A year later Ranald was sent back to the United States, where he discovered his Chinook relatives had died from diseases. When Commodore Perry of the U.S. Navy later negotiated a trade treaty with Japan, he used MacDonal's former Japanese students as interpreters.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

From what you have read about the fur trade, what do you think were some positive and negative effects on the development of our state? On the native people? On the animals? In the lives of the explorers and trappers?



Washington Place Names

One advantage to being an explorer is getting to name places for yourself and your friends. Many of the early Spanish names have survived. Are you familiar with these Spanish names?

San Juan Islands — named for Saint John the Baptist

Guemes Island — named for the viceroy of Mexico

Rosario Strait — named for Our Lady of the Rosary

Port Angeles — named for Our Lady of the Angels

Cape Alava — named after the governor of Acapulco

Fort Walla Walla was another trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company. This sketch by Joseph Drayton is called *Fur Traders and Indians*.

Chinook Jargon

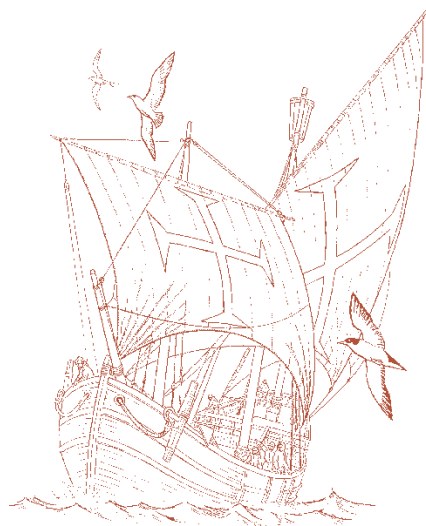
How did sailors and coastal Indians talk when neither knew the other's language? The problem was complicated by the many different languages the Indian tribes spoke and the variety of countries the traders came from. American Indians who spoke different languages were already speaking a trade language when white trappers and settlers came. Called Chinook Jargon, the language had about 300 words.

Here are a few words from Chinook Jargon:

Chinook Jargon	English
Boston	American
cultus	worthless
muckamuck	food; eating
skookum	strong
tillicum	man
tyee	chief
gleece	grease
pire	fire
gleece-pire	candle
mahkook	trade
chuck	water
tenus	small
hyas	big

CHAPTER 4 REVIEW

1. What were the early explorers looking for? Why?
2. What country sent the first explorers?
3. What disease killed sailors during long sea voyages? What was the cure?
4. What was accomplished by the voyage of Captain Cook's crew to Asia?
5. What American walked across Russia to find a new passage to the Northwest?
6. Name the American who sailed to the Northwest. What places are named after him?
7. What African slave girl created the concept of Columbia as a symbol of America?
8. Who sent Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean? What were three things the men were supposed to do?
9. Who was the young Indian woman who helped Lewis and Clark get to the Pacific Ocean?
10. What was the name of the largest fur trading company in the region? Which country started the company?
11. Why did trappers want beaver pelts?
12. What three factors ended the fur trade?
13. How did the fur trade affect settlement of the Pacific Northwest?



GEOGRAPHY TIE-IN

1. Discuss with your class how Washington's location on the Pacific Coast contributed to early exploration by the Spanish and British. How would our history have been different if Washington were not on the Pacific Coast?
2. On the map of the Lewis and Clark expedition on page 66, look at where they started and where their journey ended. What were the main rivers they followed? Why was early travel easier on water than on land?
3. Can you locate a place by its latitude and longitude? Use a globe to find the point that is 46 degrees N and 127 degrees W. What river enters the Pacific Ocean there?
4. What natural features caused early sea explorers to miss both the mouth of the Columbia River and the Strait of Juan de Fuca for 150 years?