

More than Moccasins



Previsit activity:

President Jefferson told the Captains to note: " *The commerce which may be carried on with the people inhabiting the line you will pursue, renders a knolege of these people important. you will therefore endeavor to make yourself acquainted, as far as a diligent pursuit of your journey shall admit,...*"

Lewis and Clark knew they would have to trade with the various Indian tribes of the west for needed supplies, horses, and information. In preparation of their expedition, they packed hundreds of pounds of trading goods. Have your students become their own captains of an expedition. Every student must make a list of ten items that they would take with them to trade with the Indian tribes. Remember, since Lewis and Clark were on a peaceful mission, they did not want to trade any rifles to the Indians. We will ask the students about some of their trading goods, during your visit.



Post-visit activity:

After your visit, your students will have new knowledge of the importance of trade and how it has impacted history. Even today, we hear how our government is dealing with international trade and making agreements affecting trade deals.

These trade routes also affect student's lives. Have each student look at one item they own that comes from another country. Then with a world map on your bulletin board have each student place a pin in the country where their item was built and connect it to Great Falls with a string. This will create a map with all the trade routes of today connecting Great Falls, MT to the world.