

Lewis and Clark were the leaders of the first expedition to cross the American continent.

Napoleon needed money for his wars in Europe. So in 1803 the US government could buy from France a large piece of land in North America called „Louisiana“. The Americans didn't know what they had just bought and not even the French knew how much land they had sold. **President Thomas Jefferson decided to send an expedition to explore it and to cross the Rocky Mountains to reach the Pacific Ocean.**



acquire: erwerben
to explore: erforschen
native: einheimisch, eingeboren
eventually: schließlich
encounter: Begegnung

Jefferson chose Captain Meriwether Lewis to lead the expedition, and he then chose William Clark, an expert on Native American Indians, to go with him. With about 40 soldiers they started in 1804 from St Louis They went up the Missouri river in boats and canoes.



Eventually, they left the river and climbed a pass through the Rocky Mountains. They had many adventures, including close encounters with grizzly bears. No white man had ever seen a grizzly in America before. In November 1805 they reached the Pacific Ocean. After the winter they returned by the same route.

The expedition brought back a lot of information about the land, the Native American Indian population, and the plants and animals. Lewis and Clark had written many journals and maps.

Make the sentences negative:

- He was the leader of the expedition. ...*He wasn't the leader of the expedition.*
- He sold the land for a good price.
- They knew the land very well.
- Have they sent an expedition?
- Has he explored the land?
- They crossed the Rockies in summer.
- They left the river.
- He climbed the pass.
- He had written a journal.
- He had seen a grizzly bear before.
- Did they reach the Pacific Ocean?
- Are we ready for the expedition?
- Can you see the mountains?
- We start soon.