

The Louisiana Purchase and Early Expansion

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will analyze the size and cost of the Louisiana Purchase using map and math skills.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a printed or drawn outline map of the United States in 1803 (or draw a simple approximation)
- colored pencils
- ruler
- calculator
- paper

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. On your map, shade in the approximate area of the Louisiana Purchase territory (roughly the land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains) in one color, and shade the original 13 states plus existing U.S. territory in a different color.
2. Using the ruler, measure the approximate width and height (in inches) of the shaded Louisiana Purchase area on your map to estimate its relative size compared to the rest of the country.
3. Look up (or use the given fact) that the Louisiana Purchase covered about 828,000 square miles and cost the U.S. approximately \$15 million in 1803 — calculate the approximate cost per square mile by dividing 15,000,000 by 828,000.
4. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing why President Jefferson wanted to purchase this land and one way it changed the size or future of the United States.
5. Label 2 explorers or expeditions (such as Lewis and Clark) on your map with a small icon or route line showing their approximate path through the new territory.

QUESTIONS

1. **About how much did the Louisiana Purchase cost per square mile? Show your calculation.**
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2. **Roughly how did the size of the United States change after the Louisiana Purchase (in general terms)?**
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3. Why did President Jefferson want to acquire the Louisiana Territory?

4. What was the purpose of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (or another expedition you labeled)?
