Exploration

The Corps of Discovery traveled up the Missouri River, over the Rocky Mountains, and down the Snake and Columbia Rivers. Despite great physical challenges, isolation, and near starvation at times, the expedition mapped vast territories of the West. In November 1805, they reached their ultimate destination, the Pacific Ocean. The words of their journals provide exciting glimpses of their remarkable adventures.

Indian Country

The Corps of Discovery encountered the diversity and generosity of many Indian Nations as they traveled across the land and waters. The expedition survived and succeeded

Nez Perce-Lolo Trail
National Historic Landmark
Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail
Interpretive Center
at the Great Falls
WASHINGTON
OREGON
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NEVADA
UTAH
CALIFORNIA

Discovering th

he Legacy of Lewis an

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMO

d Clark

RATION 2003-2006

Preparation

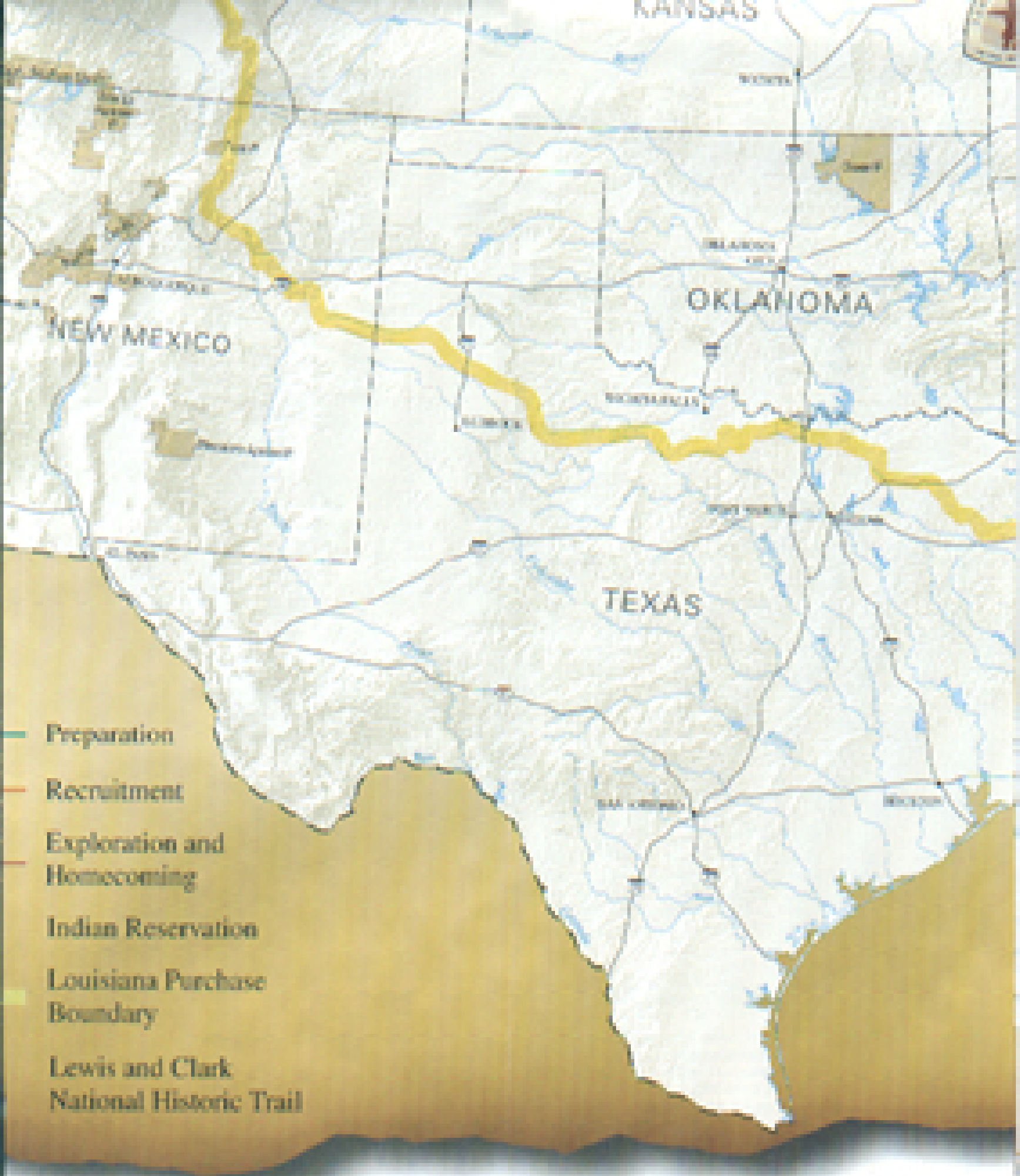
On January 18, 1803, President Jefferson asked Congress for $2,500 for a small U.S. Army unit to explore the Missouri and Columbia Rivers. Jefferson chose Captain Meriwether Lewis to lead this expedition. To prepare for this monumental trek, Lewis studied a wide range of scientific topics in Philadelphia. Lewis also assembled supplies and armaments from Harpers Ferry and recruited boatmen from Pittsburgh.

good will, and cooperation of Native American people they met. Now, as then, the people, cultures, and land have much to share.

Homecoming

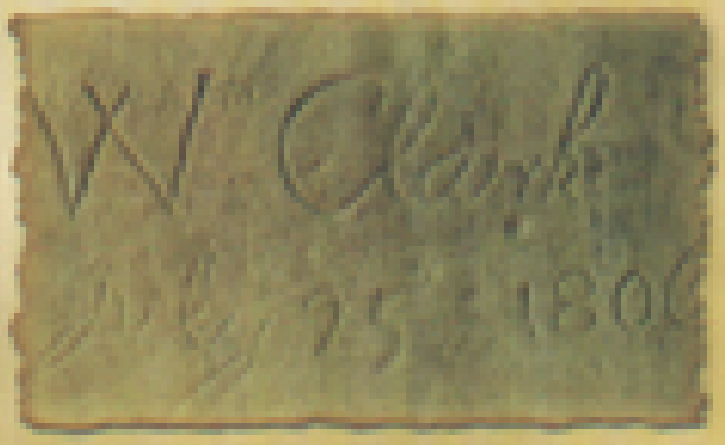
With the Missouri R
current, the Corps o
covered up to 70 mi
and returned to St.
September 23, 180
expedition had cove
5,000 miles of terr
over 2 years. Their
journals contribut
vast information a
land, its geograph
its natural econo
native peoples.

LOS ANGELES
ARIZONA
PACIFIC OCEAN


KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
Preparation
Recruitment
Exploration and Homecoming
Indian Reservation
Louisiana Purchase Boundary
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Tribal Reservations are not public lands and are excluded by boundaries established in treaties and proclamations. In most cases these boundaries contain more acreage than is held in trust. It is impractical to separate trust lands from other interspersed lands at this scale. Tribal Reservations smaller than a township (36 square miles, or roughly 23,000 acres) generally are omitted. Scale does not permit nearly each of the Indian lands in California.

Journeying down the Ohio River, Lewis, and co-commander Captain William Clark, recruited civilians and military personnel of "hardy stock" from along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The members of the expedition were as diverse in backgrounds as the lands they were to explore. Each member provided critical skills and expertise for the success of the mission.



On July 25, 1806, Captain Clark inscribed his own name and date in the rock of "Pompeys Tower," named for Sacagawea's son whose he nicknamed "Pomp." Today, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, near Billings, Montana, is the only site along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail where the public can view physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.