

# Teachers' Guide for Cobblestone

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## Louisiana Purchase

By Debbie Vilardi

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Goal: To learn the history of the Louisiana Purchase and how it changed the United States.

\*Always have a parent or trusted adult help with web research.

### Before Beginning:

What do you know about the Louisiana Purchase? Look at the images on the front cover. How are they related to the purchase? Read the Editor's Note on the Features page.

### "The Louisiana Purchase at a Glance" (Pages 2-3)

Vocabulary: decimated

Comprehension:

1. Who explored the territory first?
2. Who was the first person to claim the territory?
3. What portions did the United States want to purchase?
4. Why did Napoleon Bonaparte offer to sell even more territory?
5. What was the final purchase price?
6. How many states or parts of states were carved from the Louisiana Purchase?
7. What was the cost per state?
8. Why was the name changed to the Mississippi Territory?

Research: Napoleon Bonaparte; President Thomas Jefferson; Louisiana Purchase; Louisiana Territory; Mississippi Territory; Rene-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle

### "France's Footprint" by Ann Stalcup (Pages 4-7)

Vocabulary: pelts, inexhaustible, Sieur

Comprehension:

1. Why did Cartier sail to North America?
2. Where did he land?
3. What did he do on his second trip?
4. What are the origins of the word Canada?
5. Who established the first permanent settlement in Canada?
6. What happened to that settlement?
7. What was its legacy?
8. What is Samuel de Champlain known for?
9. Why did New France become a royal colony?

10. What regions did the French explore?
11. What was a primary economic activity in New France?
12. What caused the French and Indian War?
13. What were the outcomes of the war?

Research: Jacques Cartier; St. Lawrence River; Huron-Iroquois; Pierre du Gua, Sieur de Monts; Samuel de Champlain; Company of One Hundred Associates; King Louis XIV; Jacques Marquette; Louis Jolliet; French and Indian War; Seven Years' War; Treaty of Paris

### **"From Territory to States" Illustrated by Eve Steccati (Pages 8-9)**

Comprehension:

1. How many countries claimed territory in North America?
2. How many states were eventually carved from each country's territory?
3. Which country appeared to own the largest area?
4. How might the country of origin have influenced an area's culture?
5. Do you think these influences still exist?

### **"La Salle Sets Sail" by Craig E. Blohm (Pages 10-12)**

Comprehension:

1. What was Rene-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle like?
2. Why did he want to explore the Mississippi River?
3. What steps did he take to prepare for his expedition?
4. Why did he take priests with him?
5. Why did he separate from the priests?
6. What happened to La Salle after the priests left?
7. What was La Salle's relationship with the new governor, Comte de Frontenac?
8. What was the plan for La Salle's second expedition?
9. What were the outcomes of this journey?
10. What happened to the men La Salle left behind when he returned to Montreal for supplies?
11. Why did La Salle continue his mission?
12. What was the final outcome?

Map Skills: Using information in the article and other sources, trace La Salle's routes on a map of North America. Locate the sites of forts Crevecoer and Prudhomme.

Writing Activity: Things did not always go well for La Salle, but he never gave up. Write an autobiographical account of a time that you refused to give up. What made you keep going? What was the final outcome?

Research: Quebec, Montreal, Marquis Remy de Courcelles, Comte de Frontenac, Henri de Tonti

### **"What If?" by Ruth Tenzer Feldman (Pages 13)**

Comprehension:

1. Why was there controversy over France's colony in Canada?
2. What were La Salle's beliefs about the controversy?
3. What did La Salle want King Louis XIV to approve?

4. What was the outcome of their meeting?
5. What happened when La Salle sailed into present-day Texas?
6. How did the existence of the French fort encourage Spanish exploration?
7. What caused La Salle's death?

Writing Activity: The article poses a question. What do you think would have happened if France had fortified the entire Mississippi? Keep in mind that La Salle had befriended many of the Native American tribes along the route and that the English colonies were spreading in the East while the Spanish held the Southwest.

### **"A War for Empire" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 14-16)**

#### Comprehension:

1. Why might Native Americans in the Great Lakes region have been more suspicious of the British than the French?
2. Why was the French government concerned about the British colonists moving west?
3. Why were British colonists moving west?
4. How did the British and French differ in defining their claims to the land?
5. Why was France's territory harder to defend?
6. What were the outcomes of the war?
7. How long had the fighting in North America lasted?
8. How many more years did it take to finalize the treaty?
9. Why did Spain end up with much of the territory that had belonged to France?
10. How were other lands divided?
11. How did the French and Indian War play a role in causing the American Revolution?

Research: Revolutionary War

### **"Deal of the Century" by Will Prout (Pages 17-19)**

#### Comprehension:

1. How did France change in the late 1700s?
2. What was Napoleon Bonaparte's plan for the land France had given to Spain?
3. Why did Spain agree to give the land back?
4. What had soured the relationship between the United States and Spain?
5. What was Jefferson's plan for avoiding war with Spain?
6. Why did the French offer to sell all of the territory even though it broke their agreement with Spain to do so?
7. Why might the United States have had to pay individual citizens as well?

Writing Activity: Write a persuasive essay detailing why Napoleon should or should not break his treaty with Spain.

Research: King Charles IV of Spain, Third Treaty of San Ildefonso, Treaty of San Lorenzo, Robert R. Livingston, James Monroe, Saint-Domingue

### **"A Tale of Two Leaders" by Vicki Hambleton (Pages 20-21)**

#### Comprehension:

1. Why was Saint-Domingue important to France?
2. What inspired the rebellion in Saint-Domingue?
3. What was the result of the first ten years of fighting?
4. How did Napoleon respond to the constitution L'Ouverture sent to France?
5. Assuming each of Leclerc's ships contained the same number of troops, how many troops were aboard each ship?
6. How did L'Ouverture respond to the arrival of so many French troops?
7. What happened to him as a result?
8. What happened to Saint-Domingue?
9. How did this impact Napoleon's legacy?

Research: The French Revolution, Francois-Dominique L'Ouverture, General Charles Leclerc, Haiti

### **"Did You Know?" Illustrated by Chris Ware (Page 24-25)**

Vocabulary: plenipotentiary

Research: Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, Francois Barbe-Marbois

### **"Jefferson's Vision" by Gaye Wilson (Page 26-28)**

Vocabulary: ascertained, arduous, fossilized

#### Comprehension:

1. Why was Thomas Jefferson interested in the lands west of the Mississippi?
2. Why were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark put in charge of the expedition to explore the Missouri River?
3. What evidence that there might be a water route to the Pacific existed?
4. What was Lewis and Clark's primary mission?
5. How were they trained?
6. What were their instructions in regard to the natural world and native peoples?

Research: Meriwether Lewis, William Clark

### **"A Journey of Discovery" by Jerry Miller (Pages 29-31)**

#### Comprehension:

1. Why was there some familiarity with the geography of the western portion of North America before the Lewis and Clark expedition left?
2. How had Lewis and Clark met?
3. What were their personalities like?
4. Who made up the group?
5. How long was the journey?
6. What hardships did the group face?
7. What were some of their discoveries?
8. What was the outcome of the primary mission?

Math Activity: According to the Fast Fact on page 30, President Jefferson underestimated the cost of the expedition. How much was he off by? What was his percentage of error?

Writing Activity: Imagine you are heading out with Lewis and Clark. Decide your role, soldier, blacksmith, etc., as part of the group and write a list of what you would pack for the journey. Remember that the year is 1804.

Research: Shawnee, Shoshone, Sacagawea, Corps of Volunteers of North Western Discovery, Mandan Indians

### **“Pleased to Meet You” by Will Bremen (Pages 32-33)**

Research Activity: Learn about one of the species discovered on the expedition. Were live samples sent back to Washington, D.C.? How common is the species today? What are its habitat and range as well as its nesting, breeding, and feeding habits? Present your findings to you class.

### **“New Orleans Yesterday and Today” by Ellen Hardsog (Pages 34-36)**

Comprehension:

1. Who explored the New Orleans area first?
2. Who settled it first?
3. Why was the location of the French capital ideal?
4. What role did religion play in settling the city?
5. What was the city like under French rule?
6. Why is much of the architecture in Spanish styles?
7. How much time passed between the Louisiana Purchase and Louisiana’s statehood?
8. What helped New Orleans become a major city in the United States?
9. What groups settled in the city?
10. What’s the difference between a Cajun and a Creole?
11. What is Mardi Gras?
12. What characterizes the city today?

Art Activity: Select a time period and create a travel poster advertising New Orleans.

Authentic Experiences:

1. Visit Louisiana.
2. Visit a restaurant serving Cajun or Creole cuisine.
3. Participate in a Mardi Gras celebration, even if you have to create it yourselves. Parade videos and historical information can be found at <http://www.mardigrasneworleans.com/videos.html> (Teachers, preview videos to ensure content is age appropriate.)

Research: Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville; New Orleans; Acadian; Creole

### **Activity for the Entire Issue**

Discuss how the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition change the United States. Consider the discoveries that were made and the cultures that came together. Also consider the westward expansion that followed.