Exploration of the Rocky Mountains, and down the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. The words of their journals provide exciting glimpses of their remarkable journey.

The Corps of Discovery met with various challenges, including isolation and near starvation at Cape Disappointment. Despite these difficulties, 80% of the expedition survived and succeeded because of the shelter, supplies, good will, and cooperation of the Indian people they met. Now, as then, the people, with their land, its geographic features, its natural resources, and its history, are still crucial to the story.

On January 18, 1803, President Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Meriwether Lewis, asked him to prepare a journey to the Louisiana Purchase. Jefferson was interested in exploring the lands of the Louisiana Purchase, which were newly acquired by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. He wanted to see what resources might be found and how the area could be used.

On July 23, 1804, Captain Clark recorded his own journal entry: "We set out with high hopes and great expectations. Our journey will be long and difficult, but we are confident that we will succeed." The Corps of Discovery embarked on a journey that would take them over 8,000 miles and last over 2 years. Their detailed observations of the lands, its geographic features, its natural resources, and its history provide a wealth of information about the region.

On July 4, 1805, Captain Lewis wrote: "We have arrived at the mouth of the Missouri River!" The Corps of Discovery had completed their journey, and they returned to St. Louis on November 1806. Three members of the expedition did not survive the journey, but the others were able to share their experiences and observations with the world.