

LEWIS & CLARK IN COLUMBIA RIVER COUNTRY



STUDENT WORKSHEET: THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF MERIWETHER LEWIS

Read the “Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis” handout and answer the following questions.

1. Who was Meriwether Lewis?	2. What was the purpose of the Corps of Discovery?	
	3. What were the beginning and ending dates of his “great western adventure?”	
	Beginning:	Ending:
	4. What city did Lewis call home?	
5. Lewis was named Governor of what area?		
6. For one year and eight days after Lewis was appointed Governor, what questionable situation surrounded Lewis?	7. During this time, who was in charge of the office in St. Louis?	
8. President Jefferson and other friends’ letters suggest Lewis was having what problems?	9. After James Madison became president in 1809, what problem did Lewis have with the War Department?	
10. In the fall of 1809, Lewis decided he had to go back to Washington to do what two tasks?		
Task #1	Task #2	
11. What was his travel itinerary?	12. What happened by the time Lewis reached Fort Pickering (near Memphis, Tennessee)?	

13. What did crew members of the boat on which he was traveling report that Lewis had twice attempted?	14. Who traveled with Lewis after Fort Pickering?
15. What event(s) took place on October 10?	16. What event(s) took place on October 11?
17. What did Major Neelly find when he arrived?	18. Who told him had happened?
19. What little is known about the events of that night comes mainly from what sources?	20. Was there any evidence for suicide?
21. List at least three possible suspects and their motives for killing Lewis.	Suspect #1
	Suspect #2
	Suspect #3