

Situation Cards – (Elementary)

Asking for Directions – Without a Roadmap:

1. A Cautious Encounter

On September 20th, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote about finding many Indian lodges in a small plain in a beautiful country. A man came out to meet him and tell him that the lodge was not his but that of his great Chief . His Chief had set out in a southwest direction, days earlier with all the warriors to fight. He expected them to return in 15-18 days.

**You are the Nez Perce man attempting to explain to Capt. Clark who the lodge belongs to and where the Chief has gone. You must include all detailed information including where, when and why the Chief went and when he will return. Be creative!

2. Collecting Clues

On September 21st, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote that it was a fine morning and he had sent out all the hunters in different directions to hunt deer while he stayed behind with the Chief to collect information about the river and the country ahead. The Nez Perce Chief described the river and drew a chart showing a fork a half day ahead as well as one further. He also said below two large forks the river passed through the mountain and formed a water fall. At these falls white people live and trade white beads and brass.

**You are the Nez Perce Chief attempting to convey to Capt. Clark this information. You must include all of the details about the river and the people found there. Feel free to elaborate in any way that you wish.

3. How Many “Sleeps” Away?

On September 22nd, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote that he and Twisted Hair spoke using sign language. He asked Twisted Hair to draw the river which he did using white elk skin. He showed the first fork seven miles down river and the next two sleeps away. This was the place the Shoshoni Indians fish. Next he showed a large fork on the northwest side and five sleeps further is a falls where he says white people live. He told of many Indians living on all these forks as well as along the main river.

**You are Twisted Hair attempting to tell Capt. Clark about the river as it flows from your camp. Share as many details as you can, including everything that Clark will need to know to navigate the river, the geography of the region and the people that he may encounter.

4. Where We Live, How We Live

On January 8th, 1806, Captain William Clark wrote about a meeting with the Kilamox people. He asked about their way of life and the strength of their nation. They told him that the main bulk of their nation lived in large villages still farther along the sea coast to the southwest at the entrance of three creeks which fall into a bay. They said they caught salmon from the creeks during salmon season. When salmon were scarce they caught sturgeon and a variety of other fish thrown up by the waves left by the tide. Elk was plenty in the mountains but they could not kill many with their arrows.

**You are members of the Kilamox tribe, attempting to give information about yourselves to the party. Include all information that you feel is important and feel free to elaborate where necessary.

Storytelling – Finding a Common Language:

5. Conveying Good Will

On October 18th, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote about a council which occurred between them, their Nez Perce guides and several canoes of Indians who had joined them. Through their guides they told the new arrivals that they were friendly with them. They stated that they wished to make peace between all of their red children in the area. They gave strings of wompom to help them remember what they said.

**You are the Nez Perce interpreters and you want to let the tribes you are visiting know that these white strangers you are guiding are not to be feared. You may include any other information you think appropriate. For example: Who are you? Why are you there? What do you want to learn from these people?

6. An Encouraging Message

On November 14th, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote:

rained all the last night without intermission, and this morning, wind blows verry hard but our Situation is Such that we Cannot tell from what point it comes— one of our Canoes is much broken by the waves dashing it against the rocks— 5 Indians Came up in a Canoe, thro' the waves, which is verry high and role with great fury— They made Signs to us that they Saw the 3 men we Sent down yesterday. (Clark, from Moulton V.6, 46)

**You are the group of Indians coming by canoe to meet the party. You must inform them that you have seen their men. You may decide where you saw them, what they were doing, and any other information you think important.

7. Danger Signs

On January 7th, 1806, Captain William Clark wrote:

after walking for 2½ miles on the Stones my guide made a Sudin halt, pointed to the top of the mountain and uttered the word Pe Shack which means bad, and made

Signs that we could not proceed any further on the rocks, but must pass over that mountain...(Clark, from Moulton V.6, 177-8)

At this point Clark hesitated and realized that the mountain was extremely steep with the top in the clouds. He listened to his guide and noticed a trail winding side-hill along the slope, and agreed to go because he thought it wouldn't be that hard.

...I soon found that the [blank] become much worst as I assended, and at one place we were obliged to Support and draw our Selves up by the bushes & roots for near 100 feet, and after about 2 hours labour and fatigue we reached the top of this high mountain, from the top of which I looked down with estonishment to behold the hight which we had assended, which appeared to be 10 or 12 hundred feet up a mountain which appeared to be almost perpendicular...(Clark, from Moulton V.6, 177-8)

**You are Capt. Clark's guide. You know it is too dangerous to go around the mountain. You must convince Capt. Clark to climb over the steep mountain rather than go around. You may decide what exactly the danger is and how you wish to convey this to him. Be as creative and detailed as you can.

8. Signs, A Cultural Lesson

On October 17th, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote:

I took two men in a Small Canoe and assended the Columbia river 10 miles to an Island near the Stard. Shore on which two large Mat Lodges of Indians were drying Salmon, (as they informed me by Signs for the purpose of food and fuel, & I do not think at all improbable that those people make use of Dried fish as fuel,) The number of dead Salmon on the Shores & floating in the river is incredible to Say and at this Season they have only to collect the fish Split them open and dry them on their Scaffolds on which they have great numbers, how far they have to raft their timber they make their Scaffolds of I could not lern; but there is no timber of any Sort except Small willow bushes in Sight in any direction... (Clark, from Moulton V.5, 287)

**You are the Indians drying salmon and wish to inform the members of the party how and for what purpose you do this. You may include any other information you have learned about the salmon or your own ideas about its preparation and use.

9. Ghost Town

On April 3rd, 1806, Captain William Clark wrote:

...back of this house I observe the wreck of 5 houses remaining of a very large Village, the houses of which had been built in the form of those we first Saw at the long narrows of the E-lute Nation with whome those people are connected. I indeavored to obtain from those people of the Situation of their nation, if scattered or what had become of the nativs who must have peopled this great town. An old man who appeared of Some note among them and my father to my guide brought forward a woman who was badly marked with the Small Pox and made Signs that they all

died with the disorder which marked her face, and which She was verry near dieing with when a Girl. From the age of this woman this Distructive disorder I judge must have been about 28 or 30 years past, and about the time the Clatsops inform us that this disorder raged in their towns and destroyed their nation. (Clark, from Moulton V.7, 65)

**You are the Indians who want to explain to Capt. Clark the story of small pox in your village. Give him as much information as you can and feel free to elaborate on what is given in the text.