

High School Situation Cards

Asking for Directions — Without a Roadmap!:



1. A Cautious Encounter

On September 20th, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote:

...at 12 miles descended the mountain to a level pine Country proceeded on through a beautiful Country for three miles to a Small Plain in which I found many Indian lodges, at the distance of 1 mile from the lodges I met Indian boys, when they saw me ran and hid themselves in the grass I dismounted gave my gun & horse to one of the men, searched in the grass and found 2 of the boys gave them small pieces of ribbon & sent them forward to the village soon after a man came out to meet me with great caution & conducted me to a large spacious lodge which he told me (by signs) was the lodge of his great Chief who had set out days previous with all the warriors of the nation to war on a south west direction & would return in 15 or 18 days. (Clark, from Moulton V.5, 222)

**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, as well as anything else you wish to incorporate into your message. Be creative!

2. Collecting Clues

On September 21st, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote:

A Fine morning Sent out all the hunters in different directions to hunt deer, I myself delayd with the Chief to prevent Suspission and to Collect by Signs as much information as possible about the river and Countrey in advance. The Chief drew me a kind of chart of the river, and informed me that a greater Chief than himself was fishing at the river half a days march from his village called the twisted hare, and that the river forked a little below his Camp and at a long distance below & below 2 large forks one from the left & one from the right the river passed thro'gh the mountains at which place was a great fall of the water passing through the rocks, at those falls white people lived from whome they preceured the white Beeds & Brass which the womin wore... (Clark, from Moulton V5, 226-7)

**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.

3. How Many "Sleeps" Away?

On September 22nd, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote:

The planes appeared covered with Spectators viewing the White men and the articles which we had, our party weacke and much reduced in flesh as well as Strength, The horse I left hung up they receved at a time they were in great want, and the Supply I Sent by R. Fields proved timely and gave great encouragement to the party with Captn. Lewis. he lost 33 horses one of which belonged to our guide. Those Indians Stole out of R. F. Shot pouch his knife wipers Compas & Steel, which we Could not precure from them, we attempted to have Some talk with those people but Could not for the want of an Interpreter thro' which we Could Speake, we were Compelled to converse altogether by Signs— I got the Twisted hare to draw the river from his Camp down which he did with great cherfullness on a white Elk Skin, from the 1s fork which is a few seven miles below, to the large fork on which the So So ne or Snake Indians fish, is South 2 Sleeps; to a large river which falls in on the N W. Side and into which The Clarks river empties itself is 5 Sleeps from the mouth of that river to the falls is 5 Sleeps at the falls he places Establishments of white people. and informs that great numbers of Indians reside on all those foks as well as the main river; one other Indian gave me a like account of the Countrey, Some few drops of rain this evening. I procured maps of the Country & river with the

Situation of Indians, To come from Several men of note Separately which varied very little. (Clark, from Moulton V.5, 230)

**You are the Indians 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 to the people that he may encounter.

4. Mapping the Mult-no-mâh

On April 2nd, 1806, Captain Meriwether Lewis wrote:

about this time several canoes of the natives arrived at our camp and among others one from below which had on board eight men of the Shah-ha-la nation these men informed us that 2 young men whom they pointed out were Cash-hooks and resided at the falls of a large river which discharges itself into the Columbia on it's South side some miles below us. we readily prevailed on them to give us a sketch of this river which they drew on a mat with a coal. it appeared that this river which they called Mult-no-mâh discharged itself behind the Island which we called the image canoe island and as we had left this island to the S. both in ascending and descending the river we had never seen it. they informed us that it was a large river and run a considerable distance to the South between the mountains. Capt. Clark determined to return and examine this river accordingly he took a party of seven men and one of the perogues and set out 1/2 after 11 A. M., he hired one of the Cashhooks, for a birning glass, to pilot him to the entrance of the Multnomah river and took him on board with him. (Lewis, from Moulton V.7, 54)

**You are the Indians attempting to inform the party about this river that flows into the Columbia. Include all information that you feel is important, including any details that you wish to add yourselves. Make sure that Capt. Clark and his men will be able to find this river and be prepared for what they might encounter there.

5. Tribes of the Region

On April 6th, 1806, Captain Meriwether Lewis wrote:

Capt C. now prevailed on this old man to give him a sketch of the Multnomah river it's branches and the position and names of the Indian nations residing thereon this the old man son executed with his finger in the dust. he informed that the Cush-hooks and Char-cow-ah nations who reside at the falls of that river were not numerous; but that the Cal-lâh-po-e-wah nation who inhabited both sides of this river above the falls as far as it was known to himself or his nation were very numerous. that the country they inhabited was level and wholly destitute of timber. that a high range of mountains passed the Multnomah river at the falls, on the upperside of which the country was one vast plain, the

nations who inhabit this country reside on the rivers and subsist like those of the Columbia on fish and roots principally. (Lewis, from Moulton V.7, 86)

Here is Clark's telling of this story in his journal on April 3rd:

I prevailed on an old man to draw me a Sketch of the Multnomar River and give me the names of the nations residing on it which he readily done, and gave me the names of 4 nations who reside on this river two of them very numerous. The first is Clark a-mus nation reside on a Small river which takes its rise in Mount Jefferson and falls into the Multnomar about 40 miles up. this nation is numerous and inhabit 11 Towns. the 2d is the Gush-hooks who reside on the N E. Side below the falls, the 3rd is the Ghar-cowah who reside above the Falls on the S W. Side neither of those two are numerous. The fourth Nation is the Gal-lar-po-e-wah which is very numerous & inhabit the Country on each Side of the Multnomar from its falls as far up as the knowledge of those people extend. they inform me also that a high mountain passes the Multnomar at the falls, and above the Country is an open plain of great extent. (Clark, from Moulton V.7, 66)

**You are the old Indian man, sketching your knowledge of this river and its people onto the Earth. Compiling what is given in these two journal entries, share the information with your classmates.

6. Wapato Island

On March 29th, 1806, Captain Meriwether Lewis wrote:

after breakfast we proceeded on and at the distance of 14 miles from our encampment of the last evening we passed a large inlet 300 yds in width. this inlet or arm of the river extends itself to the South 10 or 12 M. to the hills on that side of the river and receives the waters of a small creek which heads with Killamucks river, and that of a bayau which passes out of the Columbia about 20 miles above, the large Island thus formed we call Wappetoe island. on this inlet and Island the following nations reside, Clan-nah-min-namun, Clacks-star, Cath-lah-cum-up, Clah-in-na-ta, Cath-lah-nah-qui-ah, and Cath-lah-cam-mah-tup. the two first reside on the inlet and the others on the bayau and island.— observed a species of small wild onion growing among the moss on the rocks... (Lewis, from Moulton V.7, 26)

**Pretend you are Capt. Lewis and you want to leave a message for other traders and explorers so that they too may find this village. Their success will depend on your accuracy and attention to detail!

Storytelling- Finding a Common Language:

1. Where We Live, How We Live

On January 8th, 1806, Captain William Clark wrote:

...I enquired of those people as well as I could by Signs the Situation, mode of liveing & Strength of their nation They informed me that the bulk of their nation lived in large villages Still further along the Sea coast to the S, S, W. at the enterence of 3 Creek which fell into a bay, and that other houses were Scattered about on the Coast, Bay and on a Small river which fell into the Bay in which they Cought Salmon, and from this Creek (which I call Kil a mox River) they crossed over to the Wappato I. on the Shock-ah-lil corn (which is the Indian name for the Columbia river) and purchased Wappato. that the nation was once verry large and that they had a great maney houses, In Salmon Season they Cought great numbers of that fish in the Small Creeks, when the Salmon was Scerce they found Sturgion and a variety of other fish thrown up by the waves and left by the tide which was verry fine, Elk was plenty in the mountains, but they Could not Kill maney of them with their arrows. The Kil â mox in their habits Customs manners dress & language differ but little from the Clatsops, Chinooks and others in this neighbourhood are of the Same form of those of the Clatsops with a Dore at each end & two fire places i, e the house is double as long as wide and divided into 2 equal parts with a post in the middle Supporting the ridge pole, and in the middle of each of those divisions they make their fires, dores Small & houses Sunk 5 feet (Clark, from Moulton V.6, 184)

**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.

2. Conveying Good Will

On October 18th, 1805, Captain William Clark wrote:

Several canoes of Indians Came down and joined those with us, we had a council with those in which we informed of our friendly intentions towards them and all other of our red children; of our wish to make a piece between all of our red Children in this quarter. this was conveyed by Signs thro: our 2 Chiefs who accompanied us, and was understood, we made a 2d Chief and gave Strings of wompom to them all in remembrance of what we Said— four men in a Canoe came up from a large encampment on an Island in the River about 8 miles below, they delayed but a fiew minits and returned, without Speaking a word to us...The Great Chief of the Chim-â pum nation (gave) drew me a Sketch of the Columbia above and the tribes of his nation, living on the bank, and its waters, and the Tâpe tett river which falls in 18 miles above on the westerly side... (Clark, from Moulton V.5, 296)

**You are the Nez Perce Chiefs and you want to let the tribes you are visiting know that these strangers you are guiding are not to be feared. You may include any other information you think appropriate. For example: Who are these men? Why are they with you? What do they want to learn from this tribe?

3. 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.

4. 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, I hesitated a moment & view this emence mountain the top of which was obscured in the clouds, and the assent appeared. to be almost perpindecular; as the Small Indian parth along which they had brought emence loads but a flew hours before, led up this mountain and appeared to assend in a Sideling direction, I thought more than probable that the assent might be torerably easy and therefore proceeded on, 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 apneared to be almost perpendicular... (Clark, from Moulton V.6, 177-8)

**You are Capt. Clark's guide. 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.

5. Salmon Signs, A Cultural Lesson

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

I took two men in a Small Canoe and ascended 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.

6. 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 natives 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.