

Situation Cards – (Middle School)

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 delayed with the Chief to prevent suspicion and to collect by signs as much information as possible about the river and country 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 day's 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 through the mountains at which place was a great fall of the water passing through the rocks, at those falls white people lived from whom they procured the white beads & brass which the women 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 in any way that you wish.

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 weak and much reduced in flesh as well as strength, the horse I left hung

up they received 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 procure 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 verey little. (Clark, from Moulton V.5, 230)

**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:

...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 verrey 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 verrey 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.

Storytelling – Finding a Common Language:

5. 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 few 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 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, I hesitated a moment & view this emence mountain the top of which was obscured in the clouds, and the assent appeared. to be almost perpindicular; as the Small Indian parth along which they had brought emence loads but a few hours before, led up this mountain and appeared to assent 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 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 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.

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.