

Fact or Fiction?

Name: _____

Below is a passage on William Clark. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

Early Life

William Clark was born on August 1, 1770, on his family's Virginia plantation. At age 14, Clark moved from Virginia to Louisville, Kentucky. Five years later, in 1789, Clark joined the militia to help fight the Native Americans in the Ohio Valley. After becoming an officer in the US Army, Clark retired from service and went back to Virginia to manage his family's estate.

Exploring the West with Meriwether Lewis

In 1803, Clark's life would change. After Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase, in which America acquired thousands of miles of land west of the Mississippi River, Meriwether Lewis, one of Clark's army comrades, invited him to collaborate on an expedition across the new land. Their mission was not only to explore the new land, establish friendly relations with Indians, and to discover new animals and plants, but to find the elusive Northwest Passage. Clark agreed and was made responsible for the expedition's records and mapmaking.

Roles Following the Adventure

Along with Meriwether Lewis, William Clark spent over two years exploring the new frontier. After successfully establishing Fort Clatsop, Oregon, and after discovering over 300 new species of animals and plants, the pair returned. Clark was appointed principal Indian agent and brigadier general of the Louisiana Militia by Thomas Jefferson. After the deaths of Meriwether Lewis and Sacagawea, Clark adopted her children and became governor of the Missouri Territory in 1813. After an unsuccessful bid for governor of Missouri, Clark was made superintendent of Indian Affairs in 1822. He held that position until his death on September 1, 1838.

	FACT	FICTION
As a child and young man, William Clark lived in both Virginia and Kentucky.		
William Clark was never actually an officer in the United States military.		
Clark joined Meriwether Lewis on an expedition to the lands east of the Mississippi River acquired in the Louisiana Territory.		
William Clark was in charge of making maps and keeping records in the Lewis and Clark expedition.		
One of the main goals of the Lewis and Clark expedition was to find the Northwest Passage.		
William Clark died before Meriwether Lewis.		
Clark would eventually become the Governor of the Missouri Territory.		
Clark would become Governor of Missouri when it became a state.		
William Clark adopted Sacagawea's children after she died.		
Lewis and Clark discovered over 300 new species of plants and animals.		

Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
As a child and young man, William Clark lived in both Virginia and Kentucky.	X	
William Clark was never actually an officer in the United States military.		X
Clark joined Meriwether Lewis on an expedition to the lands east of the Mississippi River acquired in the Louisiana Territory.		X
William Clark was in charge of making maps and keeping records in the Lewis and Clark expedition.	X	
One of the main goals of the Lewis and Clark expedition was to find the Northwest Passage.	X	
William Clark died before Meriwether Lewis.		X
Clark would eventually become the Governor of the Missouri Territory.	X	
Clark would become Governor of Missouri when it became a state.		X
William Clark adopted Sacagawea's children after she died.	X	
Lewis and Clark discovered over 300 new species of plants and animals.	X	