

# AMERICANS MOVE WESTWARD



# Saddleback's *Graphic American History*



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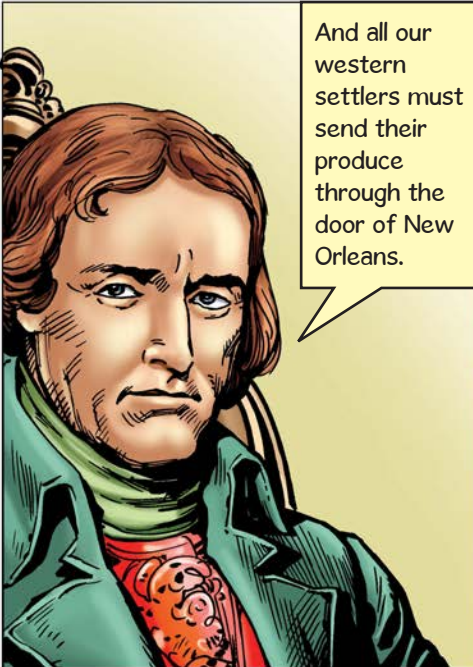
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Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States in 1802, received important news.


France has taken over New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory from Spain!



There is no doubt about it, Mr. President. The rumor has been confirmed.

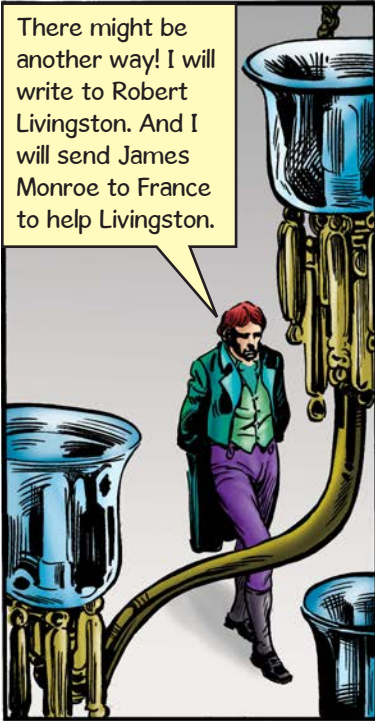


And all our western settlers must send their produce through the door of New Orleans.

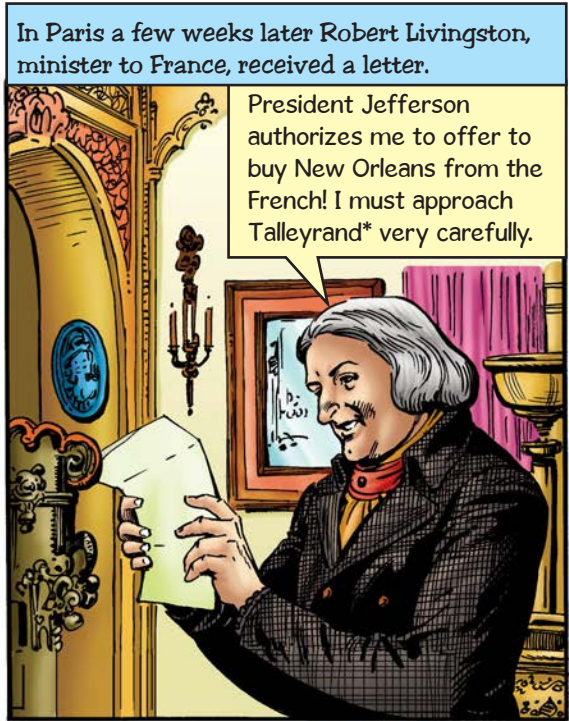


Whoever owns that door is our natural enemy.

We can hardly fight France if she decides to close that door.



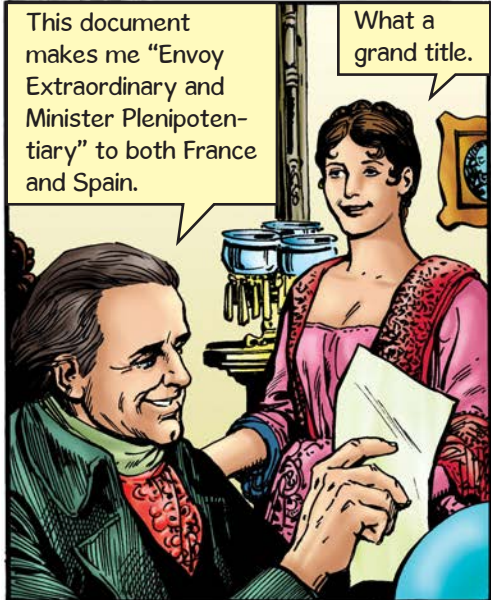
There might be another way! I will write to Robert Livingston. And I will send James Monroe to France to help Livingston.



In Paris a few weeks later Robert Livingston, minister to France, received a letter.

President Jefferson authorizes me to offer to buy New Orleans from the French! I must approach Talleyrand\* very carefully.

A special messenger brought a unique commission to James Monroe.



This document makes me "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary" to both France and Spain.

What a grand title.



That is to flatter the French, and to impress them with my authority.

\* Famous French diplomat and foreign minister

After long discussions with Jefferson and Madison, and hours of research, Monroe sailed for Paris.



Meanwhile Livingston, as instructed, opened negotiations with Talleyrand.

I am authorized to make an offer for the island of New Orleans.

Why not buy the whole of the Louisiana Territory?

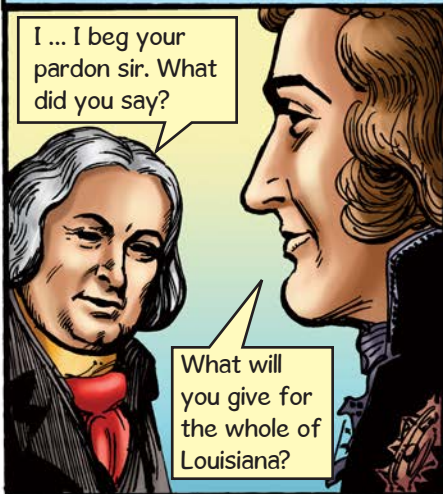


Talleyrand usually spoke softly, and Livingston was a little deaf. Had he heard correctly?

This was a tremendous development. Livingston pulled himself together. He must bargain!

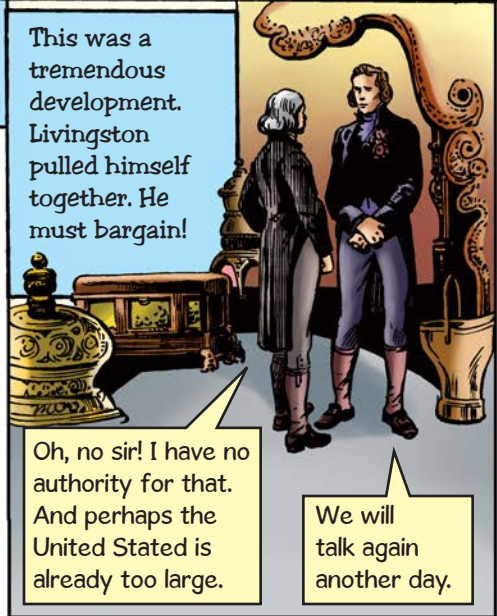
I ... I beg your pardon sir. What did you say?

What will you give for the whole of Louisiana?



Oh, no sir! I have no authority for that. And perhaps the United States is already too large.

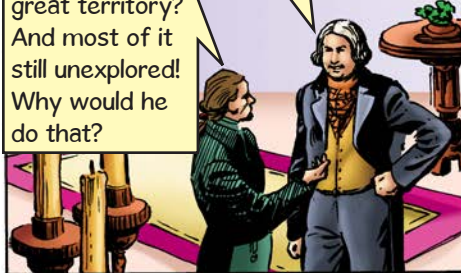
We will talk again another day.



This was the amazing news that greeted Monroe when he arrived in Paris two days later.

Napoleon offers to sell us the whole of that great territory? And most of it still unexplored! Why would he do that?

He is on the edge of another war with England.



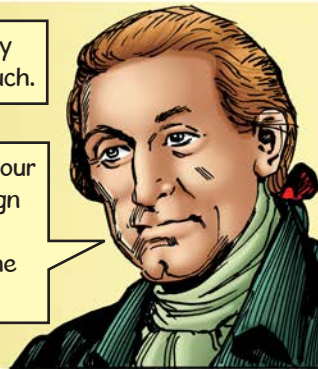
I see, I see! With the strong English navy between France and Louisiana, he stands to lose it any way.

So he might as well sell it and get something out of it! Exactly!



We are not authorized to buy so much—or to spend so much.

But to more than double our size—to remove all foreign interference from the Mississippi Valley—it is the opportunity of a lifetime!



Talks took place with Talleyrand. A price was agreed upon of \$15 million—about four cents an acre. This was the biggest real estate deal in history!

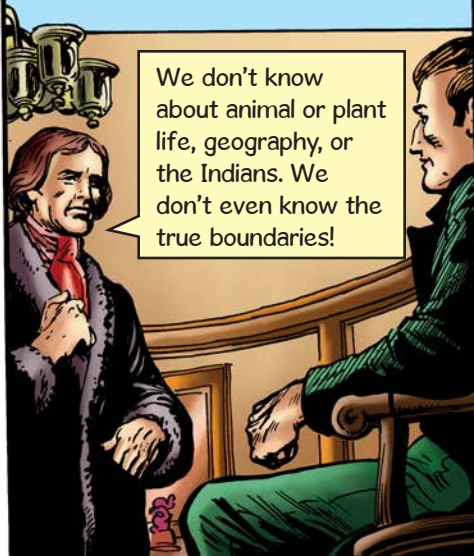


In New Orleans on December 20, 1803, the French flag was lowered, the American flag was raised and the United States took possession of the Louisiana Territory!



Thomas Jefferson had great scientific curiosity. He had always wanted to know more about the western lands. Now they were part of the United States and still almost nothing was known about them.

Jefferson talked to young Meriwether Lewis, army captain.

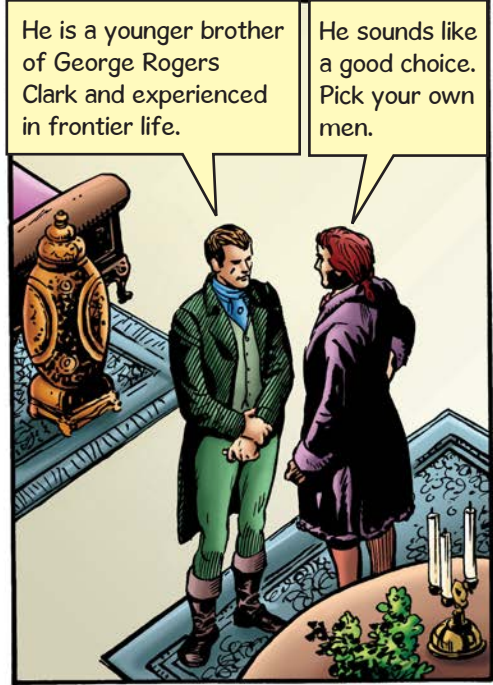
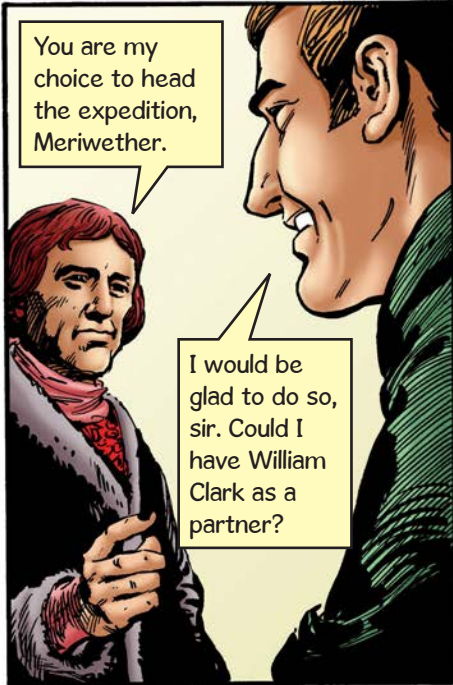


We don't know about animal or plant life, geography, or the Indians. We don't even know the true boundaries!

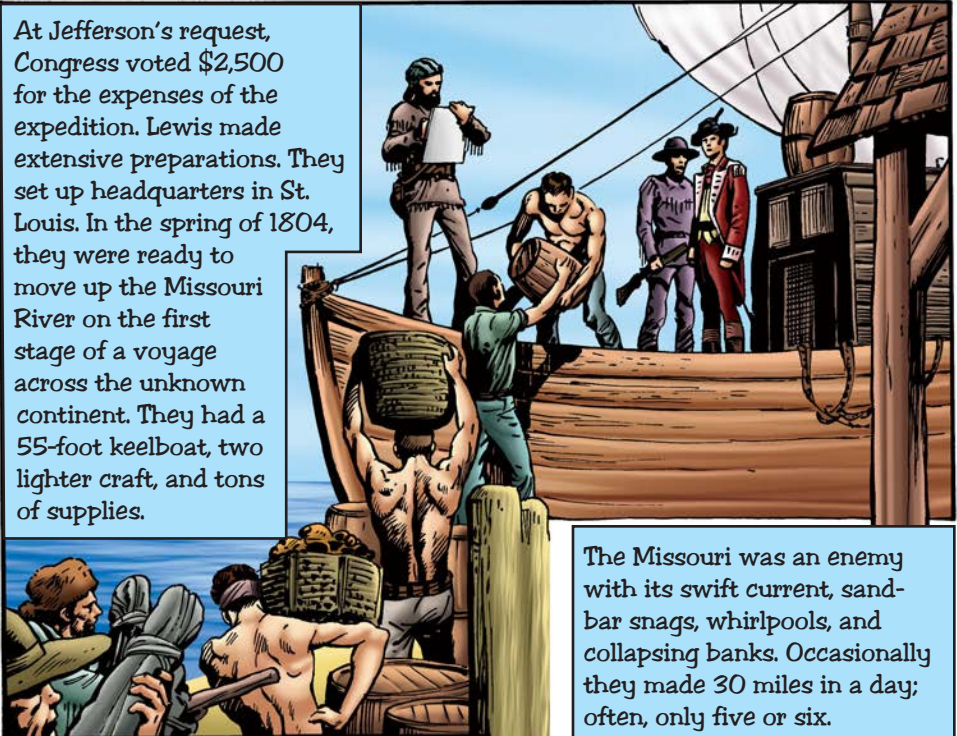
I would like to send a small expedition to explore the territory.

I would like to accompany such an expedition, sir!





At Jefferson's request, Congress voted \$2,500 for the expenses of the expedition. Lewis made extensive preparations. They set up headquarters in St. Louis. In the spring of 1804, they were ready to move up the Missouri River on the first stage of a voyage across the unknown continent. They had a 55-foot keelboat, two lighter craft, and tons of supplies.



The Missouri was an enemy with its swift current, sand-bar snags, whirlpools, and collapsing banks. Occasionally they made 30 miles in a day; often, only five or six.



In addition to 28 soldiers and several boatmen, there were Clark's African-American servant, York, and Lewis's Newfoundland dog, Scammon.



The river provided all sorts of fish, including the biggest catfish they had ever seen.

We'll only report things as true that we've seen for ourselves.

One hundred twenty-six pounds! I've heard of 200 pounders.



They made notes of everything, this being one of the purposes of the trip.



There are hundreds of whooping cranes.

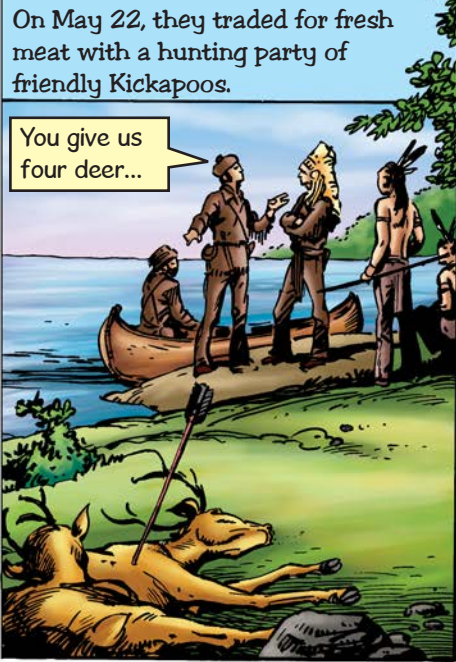
A cormorant!

The pelicans are comical!

Another important task was to observe the various kinds of Native Americans they met, and to make friends with them if possible—for these tribes were now inhabitants of the United States.

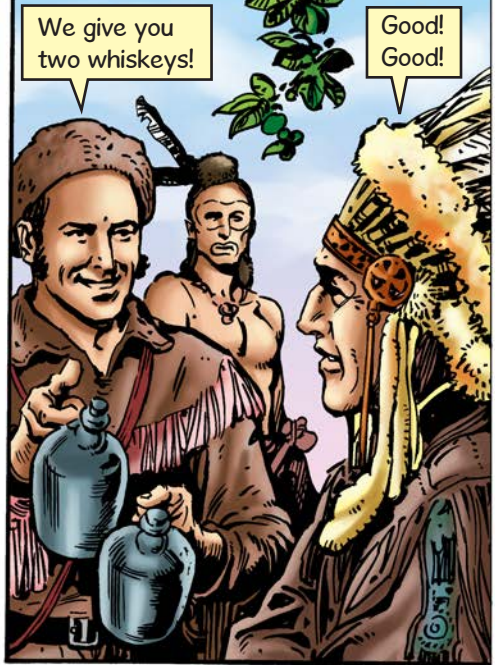
On May 22, they traded for fresh meat with a hunting party of friendly Kickapoos.

You give us four deer...

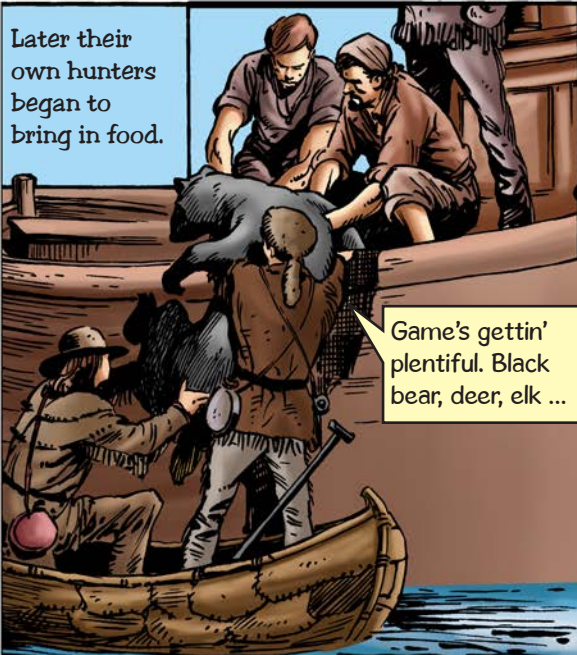


We give you two whiskeys!

Good! Good!



Later their own hunters began to bring in food.

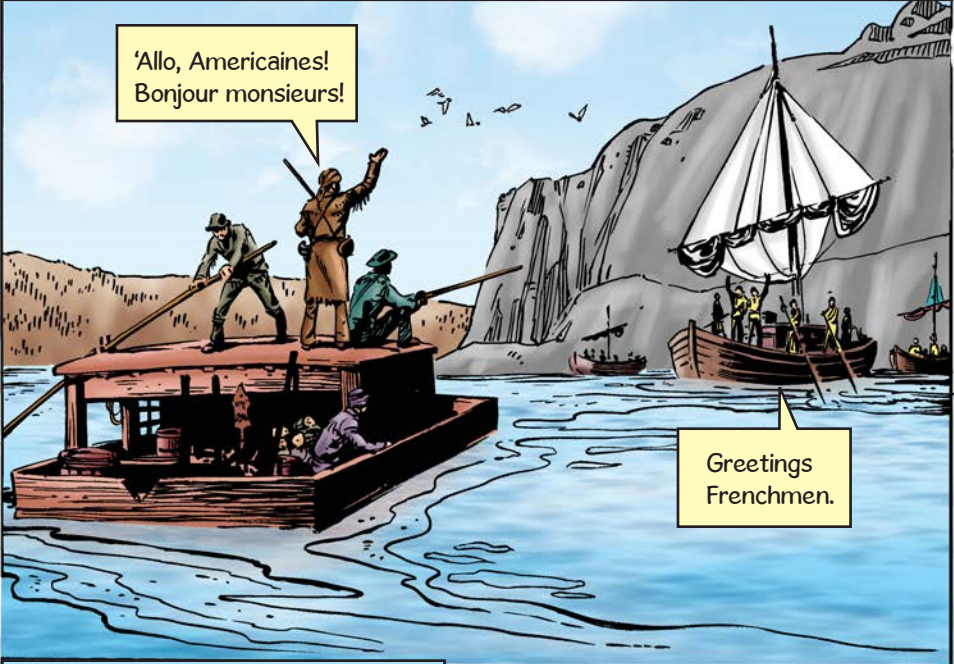


Game's gettin' plentiful. Black bear, deer, elk ...



And off to the west we could see buffalo herds—thousands of buffalo!

On June 12 they met a raft headed south, loaded with furs and Frenchmen.



'Allo, Americaines!  
Bonjour monsieurs!

Greetings  
Frenchmen.

The two boats tied up for a visit. The captains wanted to learn everything possible about the trip ahead.



What about the Indians upriver?

High up you'll find the Mandans. They are good Indians. But before the Mandans you'll be in Sioux country!



And the Sioux?

The Sioux are sly, troublesome, and they'll demand gifts.

And there are thousands of them! You won't get through Sioux country without trouble.

As the Frenchmen had predicted, upriver the Sioux lined the river banks.

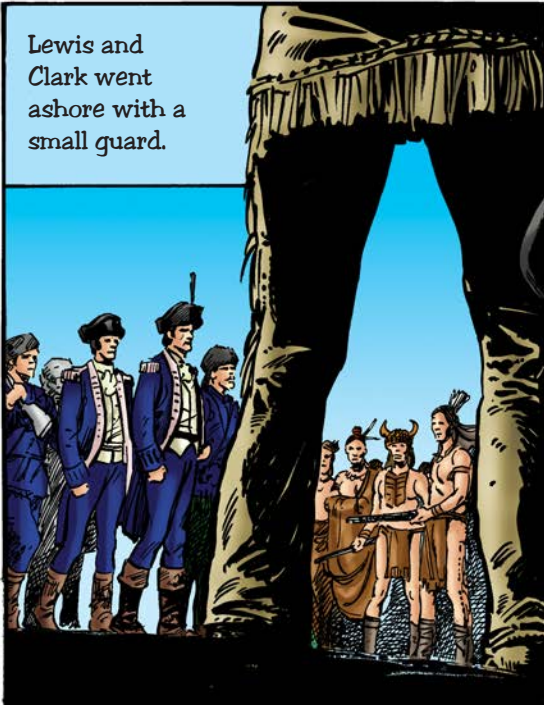


It's true. There must be thousands.

We must arrange a powwow\* with them. That's part of our job.



Lewis and Clark went ashore with a small guard.



They were taken to the Sioux encampment, and Lewis made a speech.



We have come from the president in Washington. The French and Spanish have gone.

\* A conference