



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

The Journey of York: The Unsung Hero of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Teacher Guide

Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading
Trek Map

Ages: 7–10

Grades: 2–4 (read-aloud), 3–5
(independent reading)

Reading Level: 5.5

Lexile Measure: 870L

Guided Reading Level: S

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 40

Content Areas: Reading, literature, and social studies, (including history and geography).

Synopsis of Book

After portraying York as part of the National Park Service's Chautauqua Living History event for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Hasan Davis gave him a voice in print. York, an enslaved man, was the only member of the Corps of Discovery who did not volunteer, had a wife, and did not receive governmental land grants. In this text, York narrates his journey through the wilderness, poling up the Missouri River, and encountering Native Americans.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Reading: Informational Text

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Common Core State Standards for 6–12

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Reading: Informational Text

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Theme 4: INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY
- Theme 9: GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Next Generation Science Standards

- Topic 2: Structure and Properties of Matter

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, highlighting Deborah Hopkinson's site and her layer and the layer for the illustrator.



- View “[Hasan Davis–Journey of York](#)” as a preview or post-reading. (2 minutes)
- View “[No Regular Botanist](#)” to learn about Lewis’s plant press. Using manilla or construction paper and large, heavy books, students can press leaf and flower samples following Lewis’s technique. Students should journal and draw the specimens over several days to weeks to note the changes. You might try replacing paper and pen journals with Penzu ([TeachersFirst review](#))—you can add images or your own artwork as illustrations.
- Construct a virtual timeline using Preceden. ([TeachersFirst review](#))—read the full review for more ideas for using the tool. Teachers will also want to reference the [Monticello Lewis and Clark Timeline](#).
- Complete and earn the [Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail online Junior Ranger badge](#). The badges are free to all class members who submit their work through the post or email. Teachers may submit all students’ work through a single email.
- As a class or in small groups, choose a potential location to visit, tour, or camp—this is only a planning activity for a potential trip. Generate a list of shared materials needed, such as tents and cooking gear (with or without electricity), and then decide who in the group will be responsible for transporting it and how. Students will then create lists of necessary personal items, including clothing and toiletries, that will fit in a chosen size of backpack.

Extension Activities:

- Use the Reading Trek for stimulating discussion, asking questions, or for writing prompts about traveling across the United States.
- Visit Mr. Nussbaum’s [Lewis and Clark Expedition activities](#). Many of these activities are free—simply choose a grade-level-appropriate activity or quiz.
- Visit [Alleanna Harris’s illustration gallery](#) and have students write a response to a selection of illustrations or create a drawing of their own. Students can share their responses with Ms. Harris by emailing alleannacharris@gmail.com.
- Visit [Ducksters Native Americans](#) ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to learn more about Sacagawea’s life. There is a ten-question quiz available for comprehension assessment. Read the full review for more ideas for using the Ducksters site.
- Visit [Ducksters Native American Art](#) and create a paper Nez Perce shirt and decorate it. Using brown craft paper or construction paper, cut out the shape of a shirt, then adorn it with feathers, beads, and crumpled tissue paper pieces to simulate beads. Creating the shirt can also be done virtually using the app Doodle Buddy Draw for iPads, Tux Paint ([TeachersFirst review](#)), or ABCya Paint ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
- Discuss the meaning of perseverance and identify individuals throughout history that demonstrate this character trait. Create a collection of short stories of personal perseverance. You may want to record these and share them on a class website. Flipgrid ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and FlexClip ([TeachersFirst review](#)) are two options for creating video recordings.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- [Hasan Davis](#)
- [Alleanna Harris](#)
- [Filson Historical Society](#)
- [Discovering Lewis and Clark](#)
- [Westward Expansion-Lewis and Clark](#)