

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Find the Main Idea

**Find the main idea in the paragraph below. Write the main idea in your own words in the space provided. Write a concluding sentence for this paragraph.**

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Captain Meriwether Lewis and his partner William Clark were hired by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the territory of the newly acquired area known as the Louisiana Purchase and create a map of it. As well, they were to study the land and bring back detailed descriptions of the lay of the land, the people they encountered, the plants and trees that

they found, and any animals that naturally inhabit the area. Thomas Jefferson and manufacturers of the time were hoping that the Louisiana Purchase contained a water route that would connect the rest of the country to the Pacific Ocean. They began their exploration in May of 1804 along the Missouri River. They traveled along rivers and land to reach the Pacific Ocean in December of 1805. The area they explored included all or part of the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

**Main Idea:**

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**Concluding sentence:**

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**Main Idea:** **Answers will vary.**

Lewis and Clark's expedition provided valuable information about the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase.

**Concluding sentence:** **Answers will vary.**

The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States.

