

**Routing Explorers**  
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**Grades K-4**

**Introduction**

In this lesson, students become investigators and navigators. They will read excerpts from an explorer's journal and follow given prompts.

**Content Areas and Grade Levels**

This lesson utilizes language arts and social studies skills. It is primarily intended for grades 3 and 4, but can be adapted for lower grades.

**Curriculum Standards**

Curriculum Standards to be addressed in this lesson are:

**Social Studies**

- G-1A-E2 Locating and interpreting geographic features and places on maps and globes
- G-1A-E3 Constructing maps, graphs, charts, and diagrams to describe geographical information and to solve problems
- H-1A-E1 Demonstrating an understanding of the concepts of time and chronology

**Language Arts**

(among others:)

- ELA-2-E1 Dictating or writing a composition that clearly states or implies a central idea with supporting details in logical, sequential order
- ELA-2-E3 Creating written text using the writing process
- ELA-2-E6 Writing as a response to tests and life experiences
- ELA-5-E1 Recognizing and using organizational features of printed text, other media, and electronic information
- ELA-5-E2 Locating and evaluating information sources

**Implementation Overview**

This lesson is to implemented within a unit of study celebrating the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. This particular lesson can take 1-2 class periods of 25-45 minutes each.

**Resources Needed**

The following materials will be necessary for the implementation of this lesson.

- *Medical Repository*, 1805. Articles include: Expedition to explore that part of Louisiana which lies near the Ouachita River -- Route from Washington

- to Orleans – A description of the hot springs and volcanic appearances in the country adjoining the River Ouachita, in Louisiana: Communicated in a letter from Joseph Macrery, M.D. of Natchez to Dr. Miller -- The greatest lead mines in the world existing in Upper Louisiana. Available through the LSU Digital Library at <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/u/?lapur,25289>.
- Pike, Zebulon. *An account of expeditions to the sources of the Mississippi and through the western parts of Louisiana to the sources of the Arkansaw, Kans, LaPlatte, and Pierre Jaun Rivers. Performed by order of the government of the United States during the years 1805, 1806, and 1807. And a tour through the interior parts of New Spain, when conducted through these provinces by order of the captain-general, in the year 1807.* (Philadelphia: C. & A. Conrad,1810). Available through the LSU Digital Library at <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/u/?lapur,11880>.
  - Perrin du Lac, Francois Marie. *Travels through the two Louisianas and among the savage nations of the Missouri;|balso, in the United States, along the Ohio, and the adjacent provinces, in 1801, 1802, & 1803...* (London,|bPrinted for R. Phillips, by J.G. Barnard,1807). Available through the LSU Digital Library at <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/u/?lapur,7019>.
  - Maps of U.S. (Southeast) today
  - Map of U.S. in 1803?

### **Entry Level Skills and Knowledge**

For this lesson, the students need basic geography skills. They must be able to read an excerpt and answer basic questions.

### **Evaluation**

The students will be evaluated by the teacher's observation. A point value may be applied to the written projects and responses to the prompts (as described in the Possible Variations section).

### **Procedure:**

- Have students read excerpt from the link
- Students will respond to the following prompts:
- Trace the explorer's route from Washington to New Orleans. (Use map, create a map, use computer program)
- What were some of the difficulties the explorers encountered?
- How long did it take to reach the final destination? How long would it take today?
- Compare methods of travel (Venn Diagram, organizer)
- Use Timeliner to create a timeline of the explorers' travels.

## **Possible Variations**

For grades 2-4, a written paragraph may accompany the photos. Students may also use a computer program, such as Kid Pix, to draw a map and write answers to the prompts. This could be formatted into a slideshow in order to make a presentation of the class' work.