

Lewis and Clark Program Sent to Kansas Schools

Posted by Marc Galbraith, Deputy State Librarian

Nearly 2,000 interactive DVD-ROMs have been sent to Kansas schools and public libraries to help students and others learn more about the Lewis & Clark expedition in Kansas. The DVD-ROM, *Rediscover Lewis and Clark in Kansas*, was created by the Kansas Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission for the school children (K-12) of Kansas. After years of research, writing, and planning for the bicentennial commemoration of 2004-2006, the Commission wanted to share this history with students. The interactive DVD captures the significant role Kansas played in the bicentennial commemoration and preserves the many stories of the people, places, and events related to Lewis and Clark in Kansas.

The Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas State Department of Education were involved in the development of the DVD. This high quality program was made available at no cost to every school library and public library in the state.

The DVD contains elements perfect for use with lessons on Kansas and U.S. history, geography, language arts, environmental education and science. In many ways, the program is an encyclopedia of information, beautifully illustrated by color 360-degree videos of Lewis and Clark sites; historic photographs; music; complete journal entries; and many primary source documents, historic artifacts, and contemporary photographs. The program provides information to answer these questions and many more:

- Why are Lewis and Clark important?
- What would you bring on the journey?
- What impact did the expedition have on Native Americans?
- Where can I go to retrace the Lewis and Clark expedition in Kansas?

The Commission also maintains an educational website, lewisandclarkinkansas.org. In 2003 a copy of *An American Legacy: The Lewis and Clark Expedition, Curriculum and Resource Guide for Middle and Junior High Schools* (Grades 5-9), was distributed to every unified school district. This 300-plus-page manual was published by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in Great Falls, Montana. The specific location (person, place) of the manual within every USD is available online at this website. Also available online is *A Reference Guide to An American Legacy*, created to correlate the lessons in this manual to Kansas state standards in social studies, science, environmental education, language arts, and fine arts.

For more information about Lewis and Clark in Kansas, contact the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, 1501 Arrowhead Drive, Atchison, Kansas 66002. You can also visit these websites: kslewisandclark@charter.net, www.lewisandclarkinkansas.org.