

**Letter to Meriwether Lewis from President Thomas Jefferson
June 20, 1803**

Unit: Politics & Diplomacy (Elementary and Middle School)

In all your (meetings) with the natives, treat them in the most friendly & conciliatory manner which their own conduct will admit. Satisfy them of your journey's innocence, but simultaneously tell them of the size and strength of the United States. You will endeavor to make yourself acquainted...with the names of the nations and their numbers; the extent & limits of their possessions; their relations with other tribes of nations; their language, traditions, and monuments....