

**To Meriwether Lewis from President Thomas Jefferson
January 22, 1804**

Unit: Politics & Diplomacy (Elementary and Middle School)

Being now become sovereigns of the country.... It will now be proper you should inform those through whose country you will pass, or whom you may meet, that their late fathers the Spaniards have agreed to withdraw all their troops from all waters & country of the Mississippi & Missouri...that henceforward we become their fathers and friends, and that we shall endeavor that they shall have no cause to lament the change:

That we have sent you to enquire...to know at what places and time we must establish stores of goods among them, to exchange for their peltries: that as soon as you return with the necessary information we shall prepare supplies of goods and persons to carry them and make the proper establishments.... and that they will find us faithful friends and protectors.

Although you will pass through no settlements of Sioux (except seceders) you will probably meet with parties of them. On that nation we wish most particularly to make a friendly impression, because of their immense power, and because we learn they are very desirous of being on most friendly terms with us.