

## **Clatsop/Chinook Encounter Packet**

Unit: Politics & Diplomacy (Elementary and Middle School)

### **To the Cooperative Group:**

In this packet you will find:

1. a map showing locations of four tribal encounters.
2. a short explanation of the Clatsop/Chinook.
3. excerpts from Lewis's journal concerning that encounter.
4. four questions for your group to discuss and try to answer.

In November 1805, Lewis and Clark reached the coast and viewed the Pacific Ocean for the first time. They had been traveling for 18 months and had used up almost all their supply of gifts. The Indian tribes they met along the Pacific coast (Clatsop/ Chinook and others) were not in awe of the Americans because these tribes had been trading for years with Europeans who came by ships to their coast. The Corps of Discovery set up camp near the Clatsop and Chinook tribes during the winter of 1805-6. They built a fort for the winter much like the fort they had built when they wintered the year before with the Mandan and Hidatsa in North Dakota. During this winter near the Chinook and the Clatsop, the Americans did some trading with these tribes and relied on them for some food. However, Lewis and Clark seemed more interested in organizing their notes and getting ready for the trip back home than in building long-lasting friendships with these tribes. The captains were friendly with the Chinook and Clatsop, inviting them into Fort Clatsop during the day, but never allowing them to spend the night in the fort as they had allowed other Indians to do in earlier encounters.

### **Here is what Captain Lewis wrote in his journal about this encounter:**

Meriwether Lewis, Thursday, February 20, 1806

“This forenoon we were visited by “Ta-cum”, a principal chief of the Chinnoks and 25 men of his nation...he came on a friendly visit. We gave himself and party something to eat and supplied them plentifully with smoke. We gave this chief a small medal with which he seemed much gratified. In the evening at sunset we desired them to depart as is our custom and closed our gates. We never suffer parties of such numbers to remain within the fort all night; for notwithstanding their apparent friendly disposition, their...hope of plunder might induce them to be treacherous. At all events we determined always to be on our guard.”

**Questions and activities for cooperative group to consider:**

- locate Ft. Clatsop(1805-1806 winter encampment)
- how did the location of the Chinook/Clatsop tribes affect Lewis and Clark's relationship with these Indians?
- how far had the Corps come from St. Louis to Fort Clatsop?  
(Use the scale of miles on your map)
- how do you think Lewis and Clark's needs might have changed since the earlier days of their journey?