

SPELLING ACTIVITY

MAIN IDEA:

At the time that Lewis and Clark wrote in their journals, dictionaries did not yet exist. This meant that they were creative with their spelling and grammar. In this activity, students will match creatively spelled words with their contemporary spellings. (After the matching activity is a sheet that lists the quotes the words came from). They will also identify creative spelling and grammar in excerpts from Lewis and Clark's journals. A list of definitions is included to show how the words included in the spelling activity relate to the expedition.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify creatively spelled words and match them with contemporary spellings
- 2) Learn how various animals and plants relate to the Lewis and Clark expedition
- 3) Use basic grammar skills

MATERIALS:

- 1) worksheets provided

LEARNING STANDARDS: materials may be appropriate for Illinois Learning Standards: 3.A.1, 3.A.2.

SPELLING ACTIVITY

Lewis and Clark both kept very thorough journals that provide a lot of information about their expedition across the West. When they kept these journals, however, no dictionaries existed. This means that they came up with creative ways to spell words. Match the misspelled words on the left with their correct spelling on the right.

Anamale	Mussels
Vigitables	Cherries
Beever	Cedar
Buffalow	Walnut
Musquitors	Shrimp
Praries	Oak
Cheres	Animal
Rasp burry	Parakeets
Hastlenuts	Mosquitoes
Flours	Vegetables
Seeder	Prairies
Tomehawk	Beaver
Canoo	Raspberry
Rifles	Buffalo
Mussquets	Hazelnuts
Srimp	Flowers
Mustles	Tomahawk
Parrotqueets	Muskets
Oake	Canoe
Walnit	Riffles

LEWIS AND CLARK QUOTES WITH CREATIVELY SPELLED WORDS

“...this Anamale Burrows in the Ground and feeds on Flesh, Bugs & vigitables his shape & size is like that of a Beaver, his head, mouth &c. is like a Dog with Short Ears. his Tail and Hair like that of a Ground Hog, and longer; andlighter...” Clark, 30 July 1804

“...they wintered and caught a great quantity of Beever...” Clark, 25 June 1804

“...those men inform that the Kansas Nation are now out in the plains hunting Buffalow, they hunted last winter on this river...” Clark, 5 June 1804

“...the night’s are Cool & a Breeze rises after generally; sometimes before night which Blows off the Musquitors cools the atmosphere” Clark, 15 August 1804

“...the Praries Contain Cheres, Apple, Grapes, Currents, Rasp burry, Hastlenuts and a great variety of Plants & Flours...” Clark, 1 August 1804

“...limestone rock covered with scattering pine & seeder, some oak, Hickory...” Lewis, 25 November 1803

“...my guns, tomehawks, & knives were of this class” Lewis, 17 September 1803

“...river fall 10 inches, the Bark Canoo set out” Clark, 6 April 1804

“...order every man to have 100 Balls for their Rifles & 2 lb. of Buck Shot for those with mussquets” Clark, 10 May 1804

“I also Caught the srimp which is Common to the Lower part of the Mississippi, in this Creek & in the Beaver Pond is...beads of mustles...” Clark, 15 August 1804

“I observed a great number of parrotqueets this evening...” Clark, 26 June 1804

“...the hills not high with a gentle assent from the river, well timbered with oake, walnit, Hickory, ash, &c.” Clark, 8 June 1804

DEFINITIONS

Animal: living creature; Lewis and Clark encountered many of these along the way

Vegetable: edible plant; an important part of the crew's diet

Beaver: animal that lives in water and builds dams by using wood it cuts with its teeth; sometimes these dams got in the way of Lewis & Clark's crew

Buffalo: large animal that roams in herds; a favorite food of the men on the expedition

Mosquitoes: a pesky insect that leaves itchy bites; this insect was dangerous for Lewis & Clark, because it carried malaria, a serious illness

Prairies: open, grassy areas with few or no trees; Lewis and Clark traveled through many prairies

Cherries: small, red fruit that grows on trees; a treat used in cream and bread pudding with cherries which was eaten by the members of the corps

Raspberry: red berry which grows in clusters; these were picked and eaten straight from the plant

Hazelnuts: yellow-brown nut; Lewis and Clark used hazelnuts to make Hazlenut-Cornmeal Pancakes

Flower: colored blossom of a plant; various flowers were encountered by the crew along the way

Cedar: evergreen tree; Lewis and Clark saw many of these along the river

Tomahawk: axe tool and weapon; all of the men on the expedition carried one of these

Canoe: small boat made from dugout wood; this was an important means of travel for the corps

Rifle: type of gun; Lewis and Clark's men carried these for hunting

Musket: type of gun; some of the men on the expedition carried this type of gun

Shrimp: edible shellfish; some were caught by Clark in the Lower Mississippi

Mussel: shellfish with two shells

Parakeet: small parrot (bird)

Oak: forest tree; a common tree in the Camp Dubois area

Walnut: tree that grows large, edible nuts; the expedition team enjoyed Honey Black-Walnut Bread

LEWIS AND CLARK JOURNAL ENTRIES

At the time that Lewis and Clark wrote in their journals, dictionaries did not yet exist. This meant that they were creative with their spelling and grammar. After reading the following entries, underline the creative spelling and grammar.

Discussion questions:

How would we write these entries today?

What did sawyers do?

What is sugaring?

What does a blacksmith do?

Who are the Kickapoos and the Osages?

Can you define: fowl, badger, pirogue, detachment, memorandum, gill?

Note: Kohokia=Cahokia, settlement on the frontier

Mr. Chotieu=Mr. Chouteau, St. Louis resident

“Tuesday—on the 13th fixed on a place to build huts Set the men to Clearing land & Cutting Logs— a hard wind all day— flying Clouds, Sent to the neighbourhood, Some Indians pass.” Clark, 13 December 1803

“Monday 6th Feby a fair day Snow nearly gone, Some Ice Still running Sick take Walnut pills, Winsor killed a Badger. My P[ills]—work &c. great numbers of wild fowl flying Northerly. Swans in great number, river began to fall Thompson return from Kohokia” Clark, 6 February 1804

“The Commanding officer directs that during the absence of himself and Capt. Clark from Camp, that the party shall consider themselves under the immediate command of Sergt. Ordway, who will be held accountable for the good poliece and order of the camp during that period, and will also see the subsequent parts of this order carried into effect—

The sawyers will continue their work untill they have cut the necessary quantity of plank, the quantity wanting will be determined by Pryor; during the days they labour they shall receive each an extra gill of whiskey pr. day, and be exempt from guard duty; when the work is accomplished, they will join the party and do duty in common with the other men.—

The Blacksmiths will also continue their work untill they have completed the [articles?] contained in the memorandam with which I have furnished them, and during the time they are at work will receive each an extra gill of whiskey pr. Day and be exempt from guard duty; when the work is completed they will return to camp and do duty in common with the detachment.—

The four men who are engaged in making sugar will continue in that employment untill further orders, and will receive each a half a gill of extra whiskey pr. Day and be exempt from guard duty.—

The practicing party will in future discharge only one round each per. day, which will be done under the direction of Sergt. Ordway, all at the same target and at the distance of fifty yards off hand. The prize of a gill of extra whiskey will be received by the person who makes the best show at each time of practice.—

Floyd will take charge of our quarters and store and be exempt from guard duty until our return, the commanding Officer hopes that this proof of his confidence will be justified by the rigid performance of orders given him on that subject.—

No man shall absent himself from camp without the knowledge and permission of Sergt. Ordway, other than those who have obtained permission from me to be absent on hunting excursions, and those will not extend their absence to a term by which they may avoid a tour of guard duty, on their return they will report themselves to Sergt. Ordway and receive his instructions—

No whiskey shall in future be delivered from the Contractor's store except for the legal ration, and as appropriated by this order, unless otherwise directed by Capt. Clark or myself—

Meriwether Lewis Capt.
1st U.S. Regt. Infty.”

Lewis, 20 February 1804

“I returned to Camp at Wood river down the Missouri from St Charles in a Boat from the Platte river, Cap Lewis & my self Mr. Chotieu & Gratiot & went to stop 110 Kickpo from going to war against the Osarges & [perhaps words missing] good W[eather?] river rise”

Clark, 21 March 1804

“I despatched an express this morning to Capt Lewis at St. Louis, all our provisions goods and equipage on Board of a Boat of 22 oars, [NB: Party] a large Perogue of 7 oares [NB: in which 8 French] a Second Perogue of 6 oars, [NB: soldiers] Complete with Sails &c. men Compe. With Powder Cartrages and 100 Balls each, all in health and readiness to Set out. Boats and every thing Complete, with the necessary Stores of provisions & such articles of merchendize as we thought ourselves autherised to procure—tho' not as much as I think necssy for the multitude of Inds. Tho which we must pass on our road across the Continent &c. &cl.”

Clark, 13 May 1804

“Set out from Camp River a Dubois at 4 oClock P.M. and proceded up the Missouri under Sail to the first Island in the Missouri and Camped on the upper point opposite a Creek on the South Side below a ledge of limestone rock Called Colewater, made 4 1/2 miles, the Part Consisted of 2, Self one Frenchman and 22 Men in the Boat of 20 ores, 1 Serjt. & 7 french in a large Perogue, a Corp and 6 Soldiers in a large Perogue. A Cloudy rainy day. wind from the N.E. men in high Spirits”

Clark 14 May, 1804

ANSWER SHEET FOR TEACHERS

1) What did sawyers do?

“Set the men to Clearing land & Cutting Logs” Clark, 13 December 1803

Clark hired a team of horses from Cahokia, a frontier settlement, to haul logs and borrowed a whipsaw from a local farmer to cut planks. Carpenters and sawyers used whipsaws to cut planks for roofing, bunks, and tables. The Corps chose trees that were too thick to use for walls. A log was raised on a frame or suspended over a pit. One man worked from below, the other from above, using a whipsaw borrowed from a local farmer.

2) What is sugaring?

“The four men who are engaged in making sugar will continue in that employment untill further orders...” Lewis, 20 February 1804

Sugaring was conducted by men on the Lewis and Clark expedition. The process involved tapping maple trees (abundant in the camp area) and boiling the sap until it crystallized into sugar. The men made an incision into the tree bark and created a tube for the sap to run through into a bucket. The sap was then boiled over fire until it became a syrup. This syrup was then stirred until it granulated and formed sugar. The sugar that Lewis and Clark’s men made was used throughout the expedition.

3) What does a blacksmith do?

“[John] Shields renewed the main spring of my air gun we have been much indebted to the ingenuity of this man on many occasions...he makes his own tools...and works extremely well in either wood or metal” Lewis, 10 June 1805

The captains needed blacksmiths and carpenters to make and repair tools, guns and boats. Winter quarters were built at three locations. Patrick Gass served as chief carpenter. John Shields was a very skilled blacksmith, who forged iron axes at Fort Mandan to trade for food. Blacksmiths for the Lewis and Clark expedition worked with metals to create tools, guns, and other supplies.

4) Who are the Kickapoos and the Osages?

“Mr. Chouteau’s zeal to promote the public welfare, has induced him at the Instance of our Government, to visit the Osage Nation...to prevail on some of their most Important Chiefs, to accompany him to the seat of the Government, in order to form a Treaty of Alliance with the U States” Meriwether Lewis to William Preston, St. Louis, 3 May 1804

In March 1804, Lewis and Clark met with Kickapoo and Osage Native American leaders hoping to prevent bloodshed. Lewis urged Osage leaders to visit Jefferson in Washington. St. Louis merchant Pierre Chouteau agreed to guide them.. Lewis wrote to his colleagues to enlist their support for the part traveling eastward. The Osage were Native Americans who had characteristics of both Plains and Woodland Indians and were part of the Sioux language group. The Kickapoo inhabited northern and central Illinois.

5) Can you define: fowl, badger, pirogue, detachment, memorandum, gill?

Fowl: Another word for bird.

Badger: A small animal that has brown fur with black areas around the face and back. Lewis hunted a badger in Nebraska and thought it was the first badger found in North America (they were common in Europe and Canada).

Pirogue: Similar to a canoe, but larger. Pirogues were used by members of the expedition to transport passengers and cargo.

Detachment: Military group that is responsible for special duties.

Memorandum: An important document. We call these “memos” today.

Gill: Measure of liquid that is equal to 1/2 cup.