

Unit Overview: Parent Guide

Louisiana Purchase, Grade 3

What is the goal of this unit?

Your child will read fiction and nonfiction texts to learn about the Louisiana Purchase and the characteristics of pioneers during the early 1800s. Your child will also analyze primary source documents in this unit to help her understand the events leading up to the Louisiana Purchase and the results of that purchase.

What topics and skills is your third grader learning in this unit?

- Louisiana Purchase
- U.S. pioneers
- Primary source analysis
- Narrative writing
- Making connections between sentences and paragraphs
- Informational writing

What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay that responds to the prompt: *Select three events that led to the United States acquiring the Louisiana Territory. Describe each event, including explaining what led to the event and the results of the event.*
- **Extension Task:** Your child will extend her learning by writing a narrative from Seaman’s point of view based on an entry from *How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark*.

Your child will read these texts and listen to these audio clips:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
<i>The Louisiana Purchase: Would You Close the Deal? (What Would You Do?)</i>	Elaine Landau	Main text of the unit
<i>The Louisiana Purchase: From Independence to Lewis and Clark</i>	Michael Burgan	Student text
<i>Lewis and Clark and Me: A</i>	Laurie Myers	Student text

<i>Dog's Tale</i>		
<i>Mike Fink</i>	Steven Kelloff	Group text
<i>Thunder Rose</i>	Jerdine Nolen	Group text
<i>Swamp Angel</i>	Anne Issacs	Group text
<i>How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark</i>	Rosalyn Schanzer	Group text
"That Happy Wanderer"	Frank Weir	Student text
"That Happy Wanderer" (Audio)		Student text

Ideas for discussing the Louisiana Purchase, Westward Expansion, and 1800 U.S. history

- How many states were there when the U.S. was founded?
- Why do you think the U.S. wanted to buy more land?
- How did pioneers help the U.S. grow?
- What does expansion mean?
- What do you think may have happened as the U.S. states began to buy more and more land?
- Look at a map of the United States. Why do you think the U.S. wanted Louisiana in particular? (think about the environment)
- How big was the Louisiana Purchase compared to the state today?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
<i>Expanding the Nation</i>	Jill K. Mulhill
<i>Zebulon Pike: Courageous Rocky Mountain Explore</i>	William R. Sanford and Carl R. Green
<i>Who Settled the West?</i>	Bobbie Kalman
<i>Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl</i>	Marissa Moss

<i>Aunt Clara Brown: Official Pioneer</i>	Linda Lowery
<i>My Life as a Pioneer</i>	Ann H. Matzke

What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading. Before bedtime is a great time to read!
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss what you're reading. Ask questions like:
 - What was that book about?
 - What did you like about it?
 - What didn't you like about it?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have about what you read?
 - What didn't you understand about what you read?
 - What do you want to learn more about after reading the book?
 - How does this book connect to other books you've read?