From 1804 to 1806, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and the other 31 members of the Corps of Discovery journeyed all the way to the Pacific Ocean and back. They wanted to see if they could travel by water across the continent, and also wanted to learn more about the people, plants, and animals who lived in the West.

It was a journey of learning....but it was also a really, really big camping trip! Here's how you can do your own at home:

1. **Set up your campsite.**

   When Lewis and Clark packed for their expedition, they made sure to bring along plenty of oiled cloth, so everyone had nice, dry shelter—as long as the enlisted men were willing to sleep five to a tent!

   However, by the end of the two-year journey, the tents were destroyed, the teepee that the captains later slept in had rotted away, and the whole expedition was forced to find shelter wherever they could.

   So you have two choices:
   - Set up a tent in your house or yard...
   - ...or build a fort with pillows, blankets, and whatever else you can find!

2. **Orient yourself.**

   The Corps of Discovery might have hiked miles, or rowed through a rainstorm—but when they got to camp each night, they had to follow strict military rules. Some men would stand guard, and others would begin digging latrines (toilets!), carrying water, and cooking food.

   Every night, they set up their campsite the same way, with the kitchens and latrines a certain distance from where they slept.

   Grab a ruler or measuring tape.

   How far is your campsite from your kitchen? From the bathroom?

3. **Cook some dinner.**

   The Corps of Discovery ate mostly food they found or shot—usually deer, elk, or bison, but they also tried hawk, gopher, muskrat, seal, horse, and more, along with lots of new plants, berries, and roots. Yum!

   They did bring some basic items with them as well, including “portable soup” (similar to stock cubes today), pork, flour, and salt.

   You’ve had a long day!
   - Have some fruit or nuts for a snack, or try making this easy trail bread called bannock.

   **Ingredients**
   - 1.5 cups of flour
   - 1/2 tsp of salt
   - 1 Tbs baking powder
   - 2 Tbs butter, melted
   - 3/4 cup of water

   - Combine flour, salt, and baking powder in a bowl.
   - Pour butter and water into the bowl, and mix with a fork until it is a ball.
   - On a lightly floured surface, knead the dough about ten times, then pat into a flat cake. You can also split it into six smaller cakes, for rolls.
   - Cook in alightly greased frying pan on medium heat (or over an open fire!) for about 15 minutes on each side.
   - Enjoy! Try it with honey or fruit for a little extra sweetness.

   Want to do a full meal? Find more easy camping recipes here: https://tinyurl.com/yx248ylp
Clean up.

The Corps of Discovery were away from their homes for over two years. They could buy or trade for some items from people that they met along the way. However, there were many items that they would not be able to replace if they got broken or lost, so they had to be extra careful about cleaning up their campsite every morning. After hiking four miles one day, John Ordway realized that he had left his axe behind...and the captains made him hike all the way back and get it! That happened to many of the men at least once.

In fact, the expedition did such a good job cleaning up and leaving no trace that it’s very tough for us to be sure where they camped each night. Of the hundreds of spots that they stayed overnight, Travelers’ Rest State Park is the only place where we are sure that they camped. And even that required archaeologists to piece together a lot of little pieces of evidence, including a journal entry, a single button, and traces of mercury in the ground.

Clean up your entire campsite. Try to leave nothing behind.

Have an archaeologist (an adult) come and see if they can find any evidence that you were there. If they cannot, you’re ready for the expedition!