# HOW ARE INDIGENOUS STUDENTS RETELLING THE STORY OF LEWIS AND CLARK?




## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark west across North America. Their expedition helped the United States map the land, find trade routes and learn about animals and plants. Many American history books once presented the journey as a great adventure into unknown territory. But the land was not unknown to the Indigenous peoples who had lived there for thousands of years. Many Native Americans remember the expedition as the beginning of greater American control, land seizures and forced removals. Now, Indigenous students from tribal colleges are retracing parts of the route. They are using motion-sensitive cameras to record wildlife and compare today's landscapes with the journals written by Lewis and Clark. The project also recognises that Indigenous people helped the original expedition with navigation, diplomacy and protection, even though their contributions were often ignored.

## WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

This story shows that the same event can look very different depending on whose viewpoint is included. Lewis and Clark's journey is often described as exploration, but Indigenous communities saw American expansion arriving on their lands. The new project is not simply repeating the old expedition. It is giving Native people a stronger role in recording, explaining and protecting their own history and environment.

## THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

**"Why might Indigenous communities tell the Lewis and Clark story differently?"**

**Source:** The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/nov/14/lewis-clark-indigenous-students