

## Act I: Louisiana Purchase

**Narrator:** "Soon after President Thomas Jefferson began his first term of office in 1801, the President saw an incredible opportunity for America to expand westward, doubling the size of the United States."

**Daniel Boone:** "I cut the Wilderness Road into Kentucky. There are amazing resources waiting to be discovered in the West."

**President Thomas Jefferson:** "We really need to know what this continent looks like west of the Mississippi River. I know George Washington surveyed in the Ohio Valley, but we don't really know what's beyond that."

**Napoleon:** "Mr. President. I have a deal you can't refuse. I am busy trying to conquer all of Europe, and my armies could use some money to help aid our efforts for continental domination. Spain has turned over a large region of land from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains known as Louisiana. I'm too busy fighting in Europe, so how about giving me \$15 million for this land?"



Daniel Boone



President Thomas Jefferson

**President Thomas Jefferson:** "I can't refuse that a deal. Congress will have to approve this transaction, even if they grumble, and what a deal it is. At three cents an acre, this will probably be the bargain of the century."

**Narrator:** "Jefferson sent Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lieutenant William Clark on an expedition to explore this new land in 1804. Along the way, Lewis and Clark received help from a Native American Shoshone woman named Sacajawea. She became their guide through what is now North Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Oregon. Her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, and their baby, Jean-Baptiste, also went on this journey. Lewis and Clark's goal was to explore the Louisiana

Purchase lands, make maps of their journey, and to keep journal entries of their exploration for posterity. They walked, paddled canoes, rode horses, and even used a large flat boat. They traveled up the Missouri River through the Great Plains, eventually reaching the Rocky Mountains. They traveled through various Native American Indian lands. The following two lines come from Lewis and Clark's diaries."