

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Day 1:

#### Language Arts- Reading Strategy Focus: Making Predictions

You will be reading a story, titled *The Cliffhanger*, about a few kids who decide to go rock climbing. Ask yourself what comes to mind when you hear the word "cliffhanger?" Break the compound word into its two root words, "cliff" and "hanger." A cliffhanger is a term used to describe a certain type of story. What sort of story would you expect a cliffhanger to be?

You will begin the assignment by reading part of the story and answering a few discussion questions involving the skill of making predictions. After answering the discussion questions, you will finish reading the rest of the story. Once the ending has been read, compare your predictions to the real conclusion of the story. Where your predictions correct? Where you close to figuring out the ending?

#### Science- The Water Cycle

Type in the following web address to enter the website:

<http://epa.gov/ogwdw/kids/gamesandactivities.html>

Once you have entered the site, click on the second link entitled "Interactive Water Cycle". Spend a few minutes navigating and exploring the short interactive clip that explains the water cycle. Once you have finished the water cycle clip, return to the homepage. Click on the third link entitled "Interactive Word Scramble Game". This game will allow you to test their knowledge of the water cycle and the important vocabulary that pertains to this topic.

#### Math-

Complete the "Shopping Spree" activity. Follow the directions on the process sheet. All the necessary forms that need to be filled out are attached.

Social Studies-

The Westward Movement

1. Fill out the "K" and "W" sections of the KWL chart (separate document)
2. Read "The Lewis and Clark Expedition" article (pages 18-20).
3. Complete the "L" section of your KWL chart.



# "The Cliffhanger"

Andy was clinging with his bare hands to a rock wall. One hundred feet below him, boulders were scattered on the hard ground.

"Don't worry! We'll make it to the top!" Andy's voice was confident, but his heart was beating hard with fear.

Andy was clinging with his bare hands to a rock wall. One hundred feet below him, boulders were scattered on the hard ground. Andy blinked the sweat from his eyes and looked up. The edge of the cliff was about ten feet above his head. It may as well have been a mile.

Andy stole a look down. His two friends, Tierney and Pat, were hanging by their fingertips beneath him. A single rope attached the three climbers. Andy moved his left hand a few inches. Dirt gave away under his fingers. He clawed at the cliff wall, somehow grabbing hold as pebbles and clods of earth rattled down the rock wall.

"Are you all right?" Tierney gasped.

"I'm hanging in there," Andy called back, trying to force a smile. He looked up again. Andy spied a gnarled tree root jutting from the cliff wall, about two feet beneath the top of the cliff. If he could only make it to the root, then he could pull them all to safety....

One hour earlier, danger had been the farthest thing from Andy's mind. All he could think about then was lunch.

Andy, Tierney, and Pat had been on an early morning hike through Yosemite National Park. The three friends were there on a camping trip with Andy's family. Andy's little brother, Ian, had made a pest of himself all morning long, begging to tag along with Andy and the others.

"Take your brother with you," Andy's dad had said, as the campers cleaned up after their breakfast.

"But, Dad," Andy whined, "we're going to go exploring in the canyon. We can't have a little kid tag along when we go rock-climbing."

"That's where you're wrong!" Andy's mom chimed in. "I don't want you



kids climbing any rocks that are too steep for Ian to handle.”

“And be back before one,” added Ian’s dad. “Show up later than that, and you’ll miss lunch.”

Now, lunch was the last thing on Andy’s mind. The bright sunlight glinted off the face of his watch as he inched his hand up the wall. He spied the watch’s hands. It was ten after one. So much for lunch, Andy thought.

A half hour earlier, after spending the morning trooping across the hot, sun-baked ground in the canyon, the four explorers found themselves more than halfway home. As they passed into the cool shadows under the cliff, Andy looked up.

“Isn’t that the tree that’s about a half mile from our camp?” he asked, pointing to a tall pine towering over the edge of the cliff.

“Looks like it,” Pat said, squinting at the sky.

“Great!” Andy said. “We can save at least a half hour by climbing up the side of the wall instead of going all the way on the path.”

“No way!” little Ian yelped as he stared up the cliff. “I wouldn’t climb that wall with a ladder!”

“Don’t be chicken,” Andy said as he prepared the ropes for their climb.

“I don’t know,” Tierney said, looking up the wall. “Ian may be right.”

“It’s not so bad,” Andy said. “Most of the way up, we’ll barely have to use our hands. It’s only the last twenty feet or so that it gets steep.”

“Those are the twenty feet that scare me,” Pat said.

By this time, Andy had slipped the rope through the device cinched to his belt, just as he had learned at the rock-climbing gym back home.

“Don’t be afraid,” he said. “This may be our only chance to do some real climbing. The walls in the gym are steeper, and we climb them, don’t we?”

Pat shrugged his shoulders. So did Tierney. A few minutes later the three of them were roped together. Andy scrambled up the base of the cliff, followed by his friends.

“Ian, you get on the end of the rope, just like they taught you back in the gym,” Andy said.

“I remember what they taught me,” Ian said. “They taught me never to climb without an adult.”

“I’m practically an adult,” Andy said. “And I’m in charge, and I say...”

But it was too late. Ian had already trotted up the path, leaving the three climbers behind.

“Andy, shouldn’t we follow him?” Tierney asked.

“Ah, let the baby go,” Andy said. “He’ll be the one to get in trouble for leaving the group, not us.”

Twenty minutes later, Andy had changed his mind. They were the ones in trouble. As he had predicted, most of the climb had been easy. The last few feet, though, were much steeper than they had looked from below.

"I see a root," Andy called down to his friends. "If I can reach it, I'll be able to pull us all up."

"Wait, Andy—" Pat began, as he strained to get a better grip. Andy didn't hear him. His attention was focused on the root.

Andy's hands darted up, and his feet scrambled up the side of the cliff wall. Pebbles and dirt rolled down the side of the cliff as Andy shot up the rocky surface. His fingers reached for the root.... And grabbed hold!

Suddenly, Andy heard a cry and felt a mighty tug on his rope. He wrapped both hands around the root, holding on with all of his strength.

Andy looked down. Tierney barely hung onto the wall with one hand and a foot. Dangling below her, Pat swung on the end of the rope, whimpering in fear.

"I...lost...my...grip...." Pat whimpered, his feet kicking wildly.

"Just take it easy!" Andy said, as he hung onto the root with all his might. "We'll...be...all right...."

Andy wondered how long he could hold on. He was about to cry for help at the top of his lungs, when he felt himself lurch downward. Dirt stung his eyes. Blinking, Andy looked up.

The tree root was pulling out of the cliff wall! Soon, it would give way completely, leaving nothing but air between them and the sharp rocks a hundred feet below.

**STOP**

**HERE**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Why did Andy decide to try climbing the wall?*
2. *Is Andy glad to have Ian come on their hike? Explain.*
3. *Would you call Pat and Tierney leaders or followers? Give reasons for your answer.*
4. *Predict what you think will happen next in this story. Talk about the possible endings for it.*



Now compare your predictions with the story.

Pat let out a scream as the root tore from the wall. Andy braced himself, expecting to drop through space, when his downward motion jerked to a stop.

The root was holding! But for how long?

“Just hold on!” Andy said. He knew that holding on was not enough, not if the root was going to give way. If only he had something else to grab onto, he could pull them all to safety.

Something hard clunked on Andy’s head.

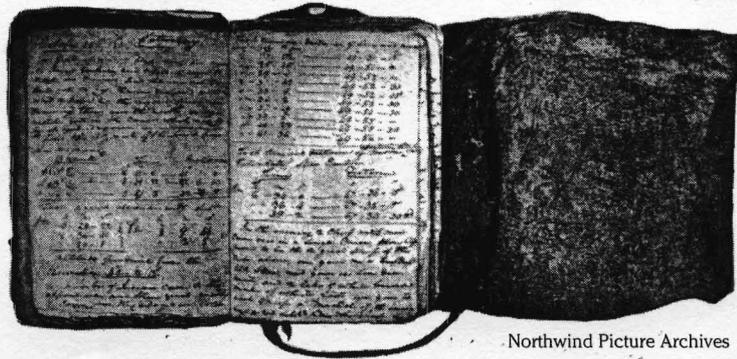
“Grab on!” commanded a voice. Andy looked up. His father’s face peered out from above the edge of the cliff. A thick rope hung from the cliff past Andy’s side. He reached out and grabbed it, a split second before the root ripped from the wall and tumbled onto the rocks far below.

Two minutes later, Andy, Pat, and Tierney were flopped on the ground atop the cliff, panting with exhaustion and relief. Andy’s mom and dad glared at their son, while Ian stood by with a smug smile on his face.

“It’s a good thing Ian hurried back to camp,” Andy’s dad said. “If he hadn’t told me where you were, you’d all be lying in that canyon with broken bones—or worse!”



## The Lewis and Clark Expedition



Northwind Picture Archives

1804-1806

August 12, 1805

We fell in with a large and plain Indian road, which came into the cove from the northeast and led along the foot of the mountains to the southwest, obliquely approaching the main stream, which we had left yesterday. This road we now pursued to the southwest. At 5 miles it passed a stout stream which is a principal fork of the main stream and falls into it just above the narrow pass between the two cliffs before mentioned, which we now saw below us. Here we halted and breakfasted on the last of our venison, having yet a small piece of pork in reserve. After eating, we continued our route through the low bottom of the main stream along the foot of the mountains on our right. The valley for 5 miles farther in a southwest direction was from 2 to 3 miles wide.

At the distance of 4 miles further, the road took us to the most distant fountain of the waters of the mighty Missouri in search of which we have spent so many toilsome days and restless nights. Thus far I had accomplished one of those great objects on which my mind has been unalterably fixed for many years. Judge, then, of the pleasure I felt in allaying my thirst with this pure and ice-cold water which issues from the base of a low mountain or hill of a gentle ascent for 1/2 a mile. . . . Two miles below, McNeal had exultingly stood with a foot on each side of this little rivulet and thanked his God that he had lived to bestride the mighty, and heretofore deemed endless, Missouri.

After refreshing ourselves, we proceeded on to the top of the dividing ridge, from which I discovered immense ranges of high mountains still to the west of us, with their tops partially covered with snow. I now descended the mountain about 3/4 of a mile, which I found much steeper than on the opposite side, to a handsome bold running creek of cold, clear water. Here I first tasted the water of the great Columbia River.

Excerpt from *The Journals of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark*



# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Invoice of articles from Fort Mandan to President Thomas Jefferson

First box: skins of the male and female antelope, with their skeletons; . . . horns and ears of the black tail, or mule deer; . . . skeletons of this small, or burrowing wolf of the prairies, the skin having been lost by accident.

Second box: four buffalo robes and an ear of Mandan corn.

Third box: skins of the male and female antelope, with their skeletons.

Fourth box: specimens of earths, salts and minerals; specimens of plants; . . . one tin box containing insects.

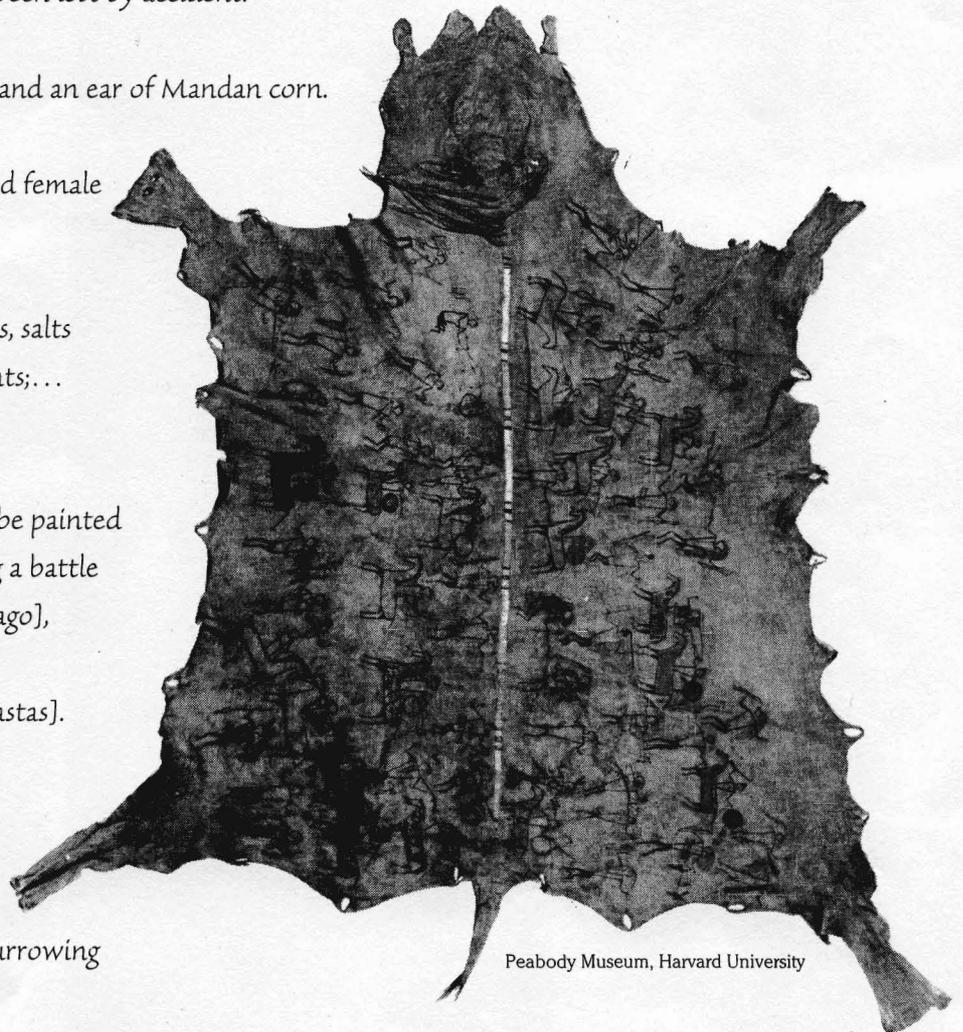
In a large trunk: one buffalo robe painted by a Mandan man representing a battle which was fought eight years [ago], by the Sioux and [Arikaras] against the Mandans and [Hidastas].

One cage, containing four living magpies.

One cage, containing a living burrowing squirrel of the prairies.

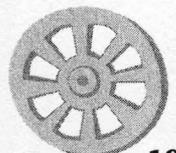
One cage, containing one living hen of the prairies.

One large pair of elk's horns, connected by the frontal bone.

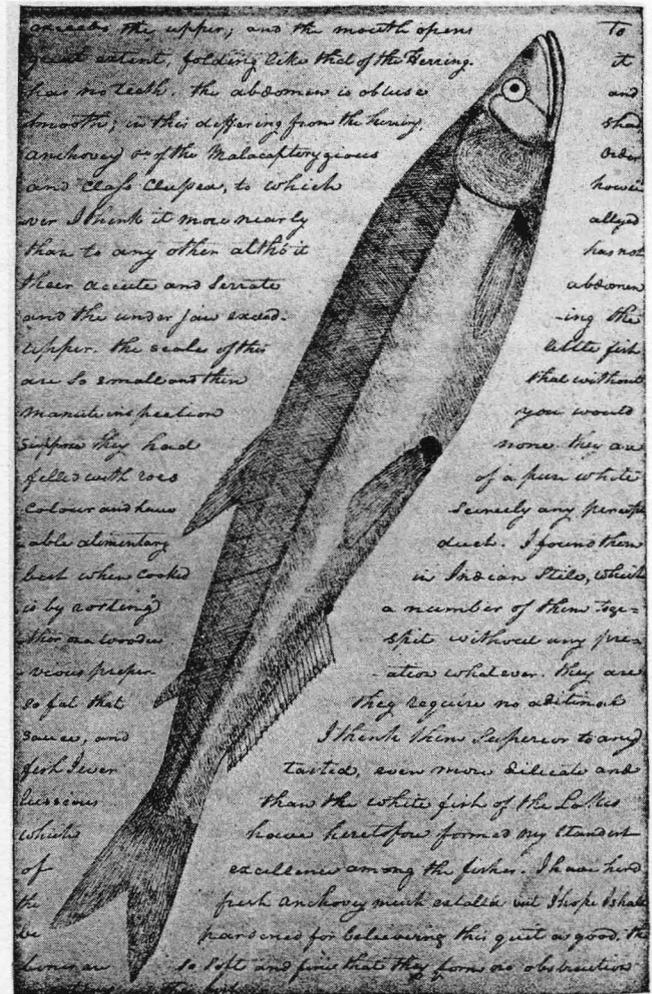
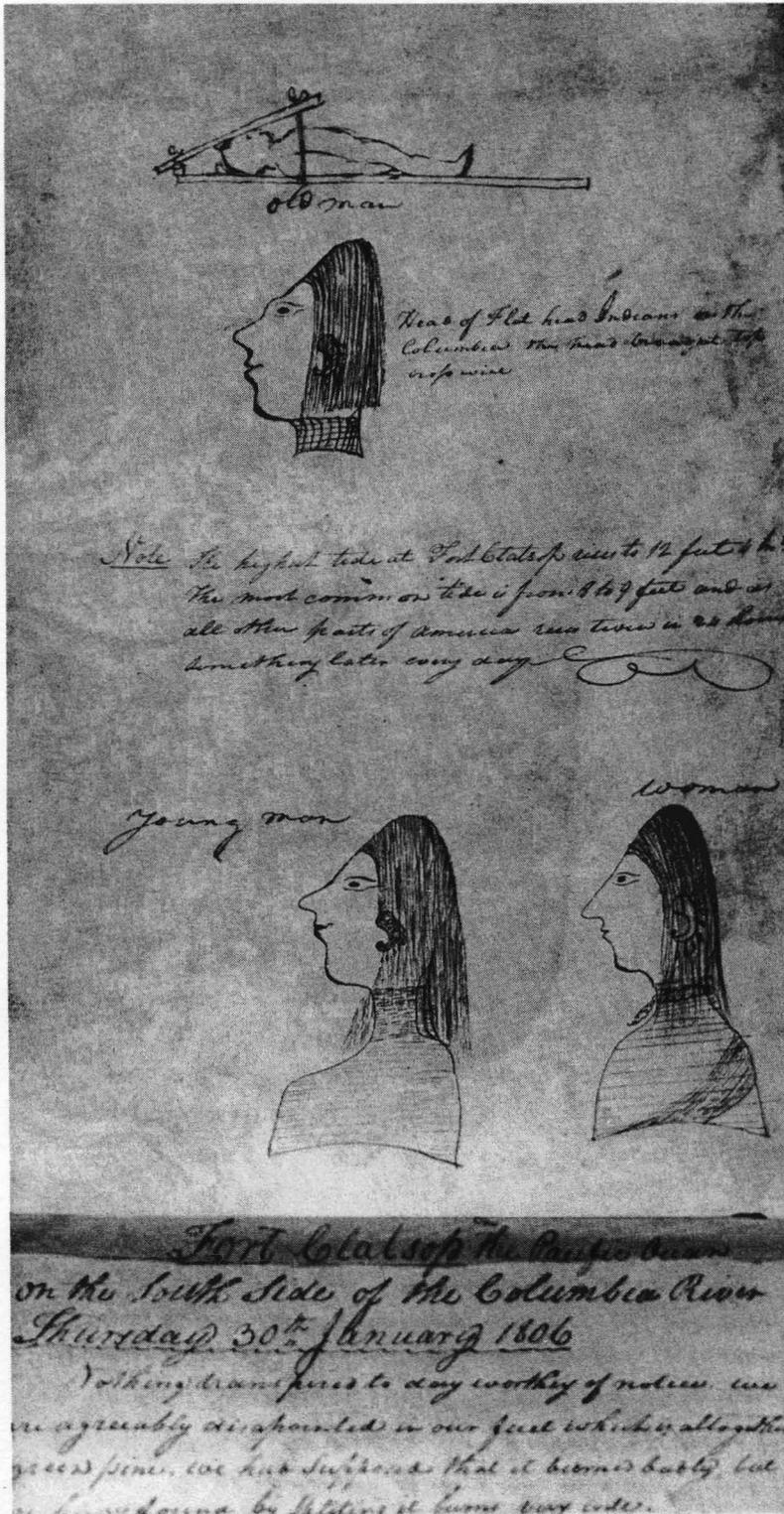


Peabody Museum, Harvard University

1804-1805



# The Lewis and Clark Expedition



Northwind Picture Archives

c. 1804-1805

Northwind Picture Archives

1806



# Shopping Spree



## The Process

Event	Directions												
1	Open the <a href="#">clothing worksheet</a> and print it out. You will use this worksheet to record your purchases.												
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have won \$2000 to spend on a family shopping spree. You will be shopping for four family members (mom, dad, son, &amp; daughter). You need to spend \$500 per family member.</li> <li>You must buy 3 shirts, 3 pairs of pants, and 2 pairs of shoes for each family member.</li> <li>You want to spend as close to \$2000 as possible without going over the awarded amount.</li> </ul>												
3	<p>Time to shop! Use the links below to find your clothing items and record your findings on the clothing worksheet that you printed in step 3.</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td><a href="#">The Gap</a></td> <td><a href="#">Target</a></td> <td><a href="#">Eddie Bauer</a></td> <td><a href="#">Shoes</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Children's Place</a></td> <td><a href="#">Old Navy</a></td> <td><a href="#">J.Crew</a></td> <td><a href="#">Zappos</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><a href="#">Shoes</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Remember: You want to spend \$2000 dollars-\$500 per family member.</p>	<a href="#">The Gap</a>	<a href="#">Target</a>	<a href="#">Eddie Bauer</a>	<a href="#">Shoes</a>	<a href="#">Children's Place</a>	<a href="#">Old Navy</a>	<a href="#">J.Crew</a>	<a href="#">Zappos</a>				<a href="#">Shoes</a>
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			<a href="#">Shoes</a>										
4	Now that you have completed your shopping spree, you must record what you have spent in the checkbook register. Print the <a href="#">checkbook register sheet</a> . Using the information from your clothing worksheet, you must deduct the cost of each item from your balance in your checkbook register.												

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Clothing Worksheet

As you begin shopping, record the cost of each item and the store that the item is being purchased from.

Mom			Dad		
Item	Store	Cost	Item	Store	Cost
Shirt 1			Shirt 1		
Shirt 2			Shirt 2		
Shirt 3			Shirt 3		
Pants 1			Pants 1		
Pants 2			Pants 2		
Pants 3			Pants 3		
Shoes 1			Shoes 1		
Shoes 2			Shoes 2		
Total _____			Total _____		
Son			Daughter		
Item	Store	Cost	Item	Store	Cost
Shirt 1			Shirt 1		
Shirt 2			Shirt 2		
Shirt 3			Shirt 3		
Pants 1			Pants 1		
Pants 2			Pants 2		
Pants 3			Pants 3		
Shoes 1			Shoes 1		
Shoes 2			Shoes 2		
Total _____			Total _____		



