



Jordan Mantle tries his hand at writing with a quill pen in Tammy Stone's fourth-grade class in Chamois.

Kaylee Masters, 9, knew of Lewis and Clark from the scenic road signs. After reading the brief overview in the Missouri history text in the fall, she said she wanted to know more.

"It's exciting to find out they were so close," said Andrea Schollmeyer, 9.

"With the trunk, I'm happy to hear more about their adventures — how long it took to go up the river, how many times they were married, when they died."

A level-appropriate reading book, provided greater detail of the journey's mission and experiences, said Tammy Stone, their fourth-grade teacher.

"It made we wonder what will happen next," Masters said.

Schollmeyer added, "we looked forward to every lesson."

"The kids really got into it because the lessons were so detailed," with books and hands-on items, Stone said.

"This helped the kids really realize what it was like back then.

"It put a new perspective on history — since we're on the river, to realize they came by here."

Some of Stone's students said they may study the expedition more on their own. Points of interest include how the Indians lived, what life was like 200 years ago, and what happened to the Corps members after the journey.

Capt. Meriwether Lewis' tale seemed to be the most intriguing, Stone said.

"They learn more because they're drawn in by the unexpected," she said.

First Lewis was shot accidentally on the expedition by another Corps member. Then he died mysteriously before completing his report to President Thomas Jefferson.

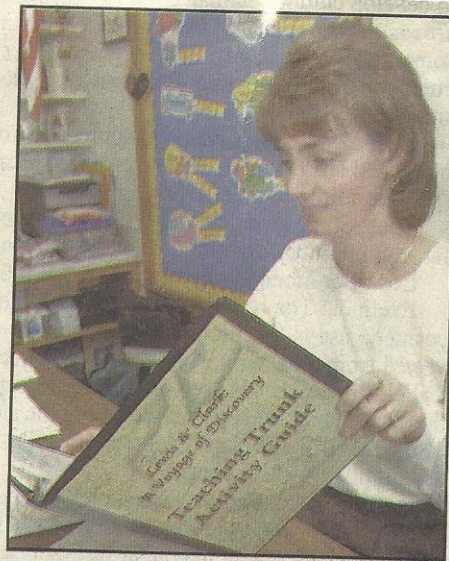
"They were surprised that he survived years in the wilderness and then died when he came home," Stone observed.

The class agreed they gained a greater appreciation for the technology and conveniences of today, through this lesson.

Some interesting comparisons include buying items today versus making them by hand, staying with Indians versus at a hotel, traveling by car instead of by foot, and electricity over candles.

The trunks include extensive curriculum guides that offer lesson opportunities including reading, handwriting, cooperative answering, science and spelling, Luker said.

And the trunks may adapt to any age.



Planning her next class, Chamois teacher Tammy Stone looks through the activity guide provided with the Lewis and Clark Instructional Trunk.