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Exploring the West

In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory (lu-ee-zee-AN-uh TAIR-uh-tor-ee) from France. America suddenly had thousands of new miles in the West.

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an **expedition** (eks-puh-DISH-uhn) to explore this area. They drew maps of the land and the rivers. They wrote about the plants and animals. The expedition taught Americans about the wonderful new lands.

