

History Lessons to Go!

CSI Meriwether Lewis

This app-based exploration is best for students in grades 7-12.

Use this activity sheet with the museum's FREE app, WA State History Museum. Each virtual gallery tour in the app provides "stops" that feature exhibition highlights. Activity sheets have associated questions or actions for various stops on the app tours.

How to get the app:

For **Android** and **Windows** devices, use the web-based application at this link:

<https://web-app.cuseum.com/?Washington-state-history-museum>
For **iPhones**, go to the Apple App Store, type in "WA State History Museum." Click "open" and you'll be prompted to download the app to your phone.

Stop #1 Lewis Takes Charge

Stop #2 In the Depths of Despair?

Stop #3 The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis

Examine the information presented at these three stops, then analyze it using these questions to build your suspect list and to establish the facts that you will need to know to make your case.

Imagine the life of Meriwether Lewis after he completed the historic and famous expedition, which still bears his name. To think that he successfully traveled all that distance west and back 200 years ago. How well was he received upon his return? How did he adjust to life after the journey?

Why was he found dead only a few short years later?

Why did he die?

How did he die?

Using the WA History Museum app and this worksheet, come up with your own theories about what happened to the naturalist and explorer Meriwether Lewis after he returned from the Corps of Discovery's famous expedition to the Pacific Ocean. Did he die by suicide...or was it murder?

Who was Meriwether Lewis?

President Jefferson and other friends' letters suggest Lewis was having what problems?

In the fall of 1809, why did Lewis decide he had to go back to Washington, D.C.?



Was there any evidence for suicide? Explain your answer.

List your top three suspects and their possible motives for killing Lewis.



Visit stops 4, 5, and 6 and read carefully. Record your thoughts about the individual's testimony in the boxes below.

Stop #4

Testimony:
Major James Neelly

Stop #5

Testimony:
Alexander Wilson

Stop #6

Testimony:
Gilbert Russell

Stop #7 Exhibits

Use the graph below to answer questions about each exhibit.

<p>Exhibit 1</p> <p>What is it?</p>	<p>Exhibit 2</p> <p>What is it?</p>	<p>Exhibit 3</p> <p>What is it?</p>	<p>Exhibit 4</p> <p>What is it?</p>
<p>What can be learned from this item?</p>			
<p>What else would you want to know about this exhibit?</p>	<p>What else would you want to know about this exhibit?</p>	<p>What else would you want to know about this exhibit?</p>	<p>What else would you want to know about this exhibit?</p>

Stop #8 Theory: Suicide

Stop #9 Theory: Murder

Look at the two stops above to see how various individuals have interpreted the death of Meriwether Lewis. Then, review the answers you have given on these worksheets. Pay particular attention to possible connections between these theories and the information you have organized from the readings, testimonies, and exhibits that you have explored.

Explain below, or on a separate sheet of paper, how Meriwether Lewis died using the theory you believe is:

- a. The cause of death for Meriwether Lewis.
- b. The suspect (who did it?)

BONUS!

See if you can convince a friend or family member that your theory is right. Make sure you also explain to them who Meriwether Lewis was and why some people think he committed suicide and other people believe he was murdered. Feel free to use drawings or create a presentation to help make your argument.

VOCABULARY

Argument: a reason given in proof or rebuttal: discourse intended to persuade

Exhibit: a document or material object produced and identified in court or before an examiner for use as evidence

Primary Source: (as in "Firsthand") obtained by, coming from, or being direct personal observation or experience

Testimony: firsthand authentication of a fact: EVIDENCE

Theory: a belief, policy, or procedure proposed or followed as the basis of action