

Louisiana Purchase:

- Added to America in 1803
- Before the land was explored by Lewis and Clark and more people started moving west, this area was mostly occupied by Native American tribes.
 - Other than Native Americans, there were also fur trappers (French and American)
 - Jim Bridger was a fur trapper alive during this time, somewhat later though (1820's)
- Jefferson originally only wanted New Orleans because of the port, and continued free access to the Mississippi River.
- “Deal of the Century” - Doubled the size of the United States
 - Napoleon Bonaparte threw in the rest of the land for only \$5million more.
 - France needed money to fight Great Britain, also was consolidating power.
 - Added 828,000 square miles of land to the United States
- Was this Constitutional?
 - Jefferson acted without the approval of the Federalists and there was some controversy about whether or not this was something acceptable for a president to do.
 - Jefferson argued that the purchase was legal and constitutional under the “Treaty making powers of the president.”
 - Senate ultimately approved the purchase in 1803