

BOOK REVIEWS

DOROTHY HINSHAW PATENT. Photographs by WILLIAM MUÑOZ. 2003. **Plants on the Trail with Lewis and Clark.** (ISBN 0-618-06776-0, hbk.). Clarion Books, a Houghton Mifflin Company imprint, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003, U.S.A. (Orders: <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/titledetail.cfm?titleNumber=111018>). \$18.00, 112 pp., color, b/w photos, 8" × 10".

This companion to *Animals on the Trail with Lewis and Clark* (Clarion 2002) by Patent and Muñoz traces Lewis' and Clark's epic journey citing useful plants along the way and many of the plants they introduced to science. Though specifically written for children in grades 4 – 8, the interesting text and beautiful photographs make this book an enjoyable read for anyone wanting to know more about the importance of plants to the success of the expedition.

The book opens with a beautiful two-page map that highlights the route of the explorers from St. Louis in the midwest to Fort Clatsop on the Pacific Ocean, showing camps and landmarks along the way. Lewis and Clark took this 2000-mile route with a crew of about 40 men with orders from President Thomas Jefferson to find a navigable river passage across North America, describe, map and explore the unknown region, discuss peaceful trade with Indian tribes and investigate and record the soils, plants and animals they encountered on the journey. Patent and Muñoz do an excellent job of helping the reader understand how plants were used by members of the Expedition and Lewis' and Clark's role in documenting these plants, many of which were new to science. The book discusses the importance of trees to the explorers' success from providing wood for the keelboat and pirogues to take the Expedition upriver, to supplying fuel for their many campfires. Patent also describes the plants used as food and medicine along the way, often citing the Indian tribe that introduced the Discovery members to various new sources of vitamins or remedies. Excerpts from Lewis' and Clark's journals throughout these chapters help the reader understand these leaders' reactions to seeing unfamiliar plants and landscapes for the first time or experiencing new plants as foods. Muñoz's striking color photographs on nearly every page spotlight examples of individual plants important to the expedition and scenic views along the trail, and they give the reader glimpses of the beautiful vistas the members of the Corps of Discovery must have witnessed on their incredible journey.

A final section discusses the fate of the specimens collected by Meriwether Lewis with color photographs of several select specimens. Patent explains Frederick Pursh's role in describing, illustrating and naming the plants collected on the expedition. Appendices include a recommended list of other books and websites regarding the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and a list of the surviving plants in the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia with information on each specimen's date and location of collection.

This book provided me with a great deal of helpful information that I use in our school program and teacher workshop "The Lewis and Clark Expedition Through the Eyes of Art and Science." The focus of this program is on the botanical explorations of Lewis and Clark, and I have sought many sources for background information on the specimens collected by Lewis and Clark and the importance of plants on the expedition. This book alone provided more helpful information than many sources combined.—*Amber Keller, Coordinator of School Services, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., akeller@brit.org.*



Keller, Amber. 2003. "Plants on the Trail with Lewis and Clark by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, William Muñoz." *SIDA, contributions to botany* 20, 1783–1783.

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