

Source 2: Captain Lewis's Medicine Bag



(Taken from National Park Service (NPS Online). "Medical Supplies Of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," The Lewis and Clark Journey of Discovery: Corps of Discovery.

<http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/CorpsOfDiscovery/Preparing/Medicine/Medicine.htm>)

What was in it?

\$90.60 worth of medicines and medical supplies purchased at the Philadelphia apothecary of Gillasphy & Strong.

Below is a partial listing of what was included:

- 15 lbs. of powdered Peruvian Bark – Cost \$30.
Contained quinine used for the treatment of fevers and used by Native Americans for poisonous bites.
- 6 lbs. of Glauber' salt – Cost \$.60
Used as a purgative.
- 2 lbs. of powdered Cream of Tartar – Cost \$.67
Used as a purgative/diuretic.
- 1 lb. Of Gum Assafoetid – Cost \$1.00
Used as a purgative.
- _ lb. Of powdered Jalap – Cost \$.67
Flower used as a laxative/purgative.
- _ lb. of Gum Opii – Cost \$ 2.50
Used as a pain killer.
- _ lb. Of powdered Rhubarb - Cost \$1.00
Used as a laxative/purgative.
- _ lb. Of dried Columbo root – Cost \$1.00
Used for treating an unset stomach and diarrhea.
- 4 oz. Of powdered Ipecacuan – Cost \$1.25
Used as an emetic/purgative for the treatment of fevers.
- 50 Dozen Rush's Pills – Cost \$5.00
Used as a purgative/laxative.
- 3 Lancets – Cost \$2.40
Instruments used to make small and precise incisions.
- 1 Tourniquet – Cost \$3.50
Used for amputations.

Analyze the list

1. a. Which item was the most expensive?
b. What percentage of the total cost of medicine and medical supplies did this item cost?
c. What does that purchase reveal about possible medical concerns for the journey?
2. Determine the most common use of the drugs.