

## Source 3: TEACHER ANSWER KEY/INFORMATION GUIDE

### Captain Lewis's Medicine Bag

### You Be The Doctor!

#### **Captain Lewis's Medicine Bag**

- Peruvian Bark.
- Large quantities purchased because of fears about fevers. 1/3 of the entire \$90.60 worth of medical supplies was spent on the bark. The prediction about the fevers was correct because of the constant problem of mosquitoes which carried malarial diseases. While there was nothing in the medical bag to prevent mosquitoes bites, mosquitoes netting was listed on the general supply list of items purchased. Mosquito problems are listed in journal entries throughout the entire expedition.  
At this time play PBS *Living History Real Audio: What about Mosquitoes?*
- Answers include fevers and various types of purges.

#### **You Be The Doctor**

July 4, 1804 - Treatment: Peruvian Bark was applied.  
It was commonly used for poisonous bites.

July 26, 1804 – Treatment: Tumor was lanced/drained by bleeding.  
Today's diagnosis is that the tumors so often experienced by the men were actually swollen lymph nodes actually caused by the constant wetness of river life.

October 22, 1804 – Treatment: Opium could have been used for the pain.  
Opium would not be used today because of its known addictive qualities.  
Rheumatism was a constant problem because of the wet cold working conditions. Swollen and painful joints were ailment frequently mentioned throughout the journals.

June 3 & 4, 1805 -- Treatment: They put a double sole on their moccasins and washed their feet in cold water.

July 27, 1805 – Treatment: 1 dozen Rush's Pills were given to Clark!  
Lewis also had Clark bathe his feet in warm water and rest.

October 5, 1805 - Treatment: Large doses of Rush's Pills.  
At that point on the expedition, the men had nothing to eat except dried fish and roots. Their poor diet throughout the expedition cause severe intestinal cramping, gas and diarrhea. Intestinal problems were a constant ailment. Muddy river waters used for drinking caused dysentery and many of the critters they ate had intestinal parasites.