

Episode 1 - Text 4

National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration (2003-2006) Logo Description

The original logo of the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial was a wood cut image depicting the explorers facing west. After its decision to call the bicentennial a commemoration rather than a celebration, the Council's board also decided to adopt a new logo that would reflect that commitment. In 1999 ... the new image was unveiled.

The circular nature of the image represents the circle of life. The eight-pointed ring suggests both a compass and a Native American medicine wheel. The points on the left side are white to suggest illumination from the west, as from the setting sun.

The eagle feathers represent the four directions. The tips of the feathers are dipped in blood, signifying the subsequent sacrifices and blood of Native peoples as America continued to expand westward. The feathers also acknowledge Native people's many contributions to help the expedition survive and succeed.

The Stars and Stripes, of course, are a symbol of American patriotism.

The stars are shown in the heavens overlooking all of us. They represent the 17 states of the Union at the time of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Additionally, reference to the stars helped the explorers navigate.

The thirteen red and white stripes, as in the US flag, stand for the original 13 colonies. The wavy stripes suggest the motion of a flowing river or of prairie grasses in the wind. They also communicate the nautical nature of much of the expedition's travel.

The mountains illustrate the beauty and grandeur of the American landscape. Many tribal nations encountered by Lewis & Clark live in the mountains, yet passage through the high terrain caused the explorers great hardship.

The logo's colors – red, white, and blue – reflect the colors of the American flag. White and red also signify the (mostly) peaceful interactions between the expedition and the Native peoples they met, as well as hope for cross cultural understanding and collaboration during the commemoration.

From: *Enough Good People: Reflections on Tribal Involvement and Inter-Cultural Collaboration 2003-2006* (p. 134). <http://www.lc-triballegacy.org> Click on "Navigate to ...", then "Enough Good People"