

Name _____

Reporting Back Answer Key

A strong response will:

- Correctly use formal letter structure (date, greeting, body, closing, signature)
- Accurately reference at least three findings, such as:
 - Mapping the Missouri River and regions to the west
 - Describing newly recorded wildlife: bison, grizzly bears, prairie dogs
 - Building relationships with Native nations (with mixed results)
 - Observing landforms, climate, and natural resources
- Include respectful, diplomatic language showing Lewis is reporting to the President
- Provide details showing firsthand perspective and informed reflection

Avoid:

- Incorrect historical claims (example: naming states that did not yet exist)
- Informal tone or fictional inventions not tied to actual expedition facts

Teacher's Guide

Instructional Tips

- Review letter format before writing; display an example on the board.
- Encourage students to imagine they are mid-expedition or newly returned; either is acceptable if historically consistent.
- Require specific details supported by prior lessons, notes, or primary sources.

Engagement and Extension Ideas

- Publish letters on aged-paper style templates for a historical display.
- Students compare multiple letters to examine differing priorities.
- Connect to civics: Discuss how leaders rely on reports to make informed decisions.