



Name _____

River Choices

Directions: Read the passage below. Then answer the inferential questions that follow by using clues from the text.

A Tough Decision at the River

Lewis, Clark, and the Corps of Discovery stood along the edge of a wide, rushing river. The spring snowmelt made the water wild and cold. Their dugout canoes were sturdy, but the strong current could sweep them far off course. William Clark studied the map and pointed to a narrow bend where the river slowed. Meriwether Lewis wondered if they should walk along the shore and carry the canoes instead. That would take much longer, but keep the men safe. The team talked quietly, listening to the roar of the river. Finally, Lewis nodded. They would try the safer route, even if it delayed their journey. The explorers lifted their canoes and began the long hike around the dangerous waters.

Questions

1. Why did the explorers hesitate before crossing the river?
2. What does the passage suggest about the season? What clues support your answer?
3. Why did Lewis choose the "safer route," even though it slowed them down?
4. What does this passage show about teamwork on the expedition?
5. Infer what might happen next as they continue their journey. Explain your reasoning.