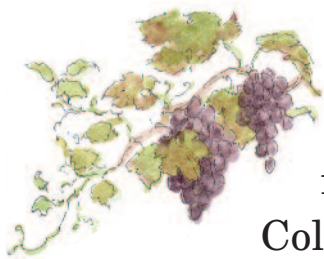




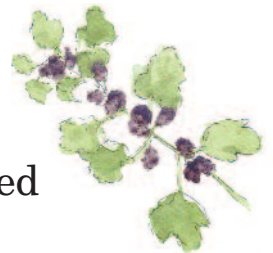
The Beginning of Adventure

On May 14, 1804, the expedition set out from St. Louis. Both of the captains kept a daily journal. They recorded the events of the day, the distance traveled, and notes of their observations. A part of the journal entry for May 14 reads, “All the preparations being completed, we left our encampment on Monday, May 14th, 1804. This spot is at the mouth of Wood river, a small stream



which empties itself into the Mississippi . . . Not being able to set sail before four o’clock P.M., we did not make more than four miles, and encamped on the first island opposite a small creek called Cold Water.”¹⁰

The journals were not written as a story-book, yet they describe many adventures and tales of great courage. The journals reflect the beauty of the American continent, as it unfolded to the explorers, for the very first time.



Each day, the men woke early, packed up their camp from the night before, and set out on the river. They



began their journey with three boats, and traveled by water as much as possible. During the first part of the trip, they were able to sail on the river or use tow-ropes and horses to draw the boats along.



Men were sent daily to hunt for meat, fruit, nuts, and other food. During the early months, while traveling in the prairies, they ate deer meat, plums, raspberries, wild apples, grapes, and mulberries. Sometimes they ate foods they had never even seen before.



Through the whole journey, they had to work very hard to provide for their meals. During the winter months, they often had very little to eat. The lack of food, especially vegetables, caused some of the men to be sick from time to time.

The men faced hard work, many dangers, and had few comforts, yet they were willing and cheerful. In their journals, Captains Lewis and Clark praised the men for their bravery in facing each new adventure.

