

A Blackfeet Encounter Synopsis

Exploring the only deadly clash between Native Americans and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, *A Blackfeet Encounter* discovers a rich Blackfeet history and culture, traces the aftermath of the expedition's arrival and investigates the challenges and triumphs of the Blackfeet people today.

In the summer of 1806, the Lewis and Clark Expedition headed home from the Pacific Ocean. But Meriwether Lewis had not yet accomplished a mission from Thomas Jefferson, which would take him into the heart of Blackfeet country in what is now Montana and force him into the expedition's only life-or-death encounter with a party of Blackfeet Indians.

Not only did this chance confrontation put a new perspective on a peaceful expedition, it impacted the fate of the Blackfeet people forever. *A Blackfeet Encounter* uncovers the rich history and culture, traces the aftermath of the expedition's arrival and illustrates the challenges and triumphs of the Blackfeet people today.

This program skillfully tells the story of this historical encounter from Blackfeet accounts, Lewis' own journal, interviews with historians and visual re-enactments that reflect both sides of this little known story. *A Blackfeet Encounter* goes on to depict the tragedies and challenges endured by the Blackfeet People in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

Finally the program provides an enlightening, heart-warming view of contemporary Blackfeet life and culture. Viewers meet a beautiful people who are proud of and sustained by their culture and community, who have a clear, strong sense of purpose, heritage and their place on the planet.