Talleyrand offered to sell them the whole Louisiana Territory, which was larger than the entire U.S.

The price of $15 million was a bargain (roughly 3 cents an acre). In October 1803, the LOUISIANA PURCHASE extended the borders of the U.S. to the Rocky Mountains (despite its questionable constitutionality).

LEWIS and CLARK
Congress chose Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lieutenant William Clark to lead an exploration of the West. Their group of about 50 men—the CORPS OF DISCOVERY—set out to map the new land. In May of 1804, the LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION left St. Louis and followed the Missouri River. By winter, they had reached modern-day North Dakota.