

DAILY DILEMMA #4



LEWIS & CLARK

May 14, 1805

Several of your men in the rear canoes discover a large brown bear [grizzly] lying in the open ground a short distance from the river bank. Six of your best hunters decide to kill the bear. They manage to get within 40 paces of the bear without being heard. Then, each of them fires at it! Instantly, the bear rises up and charges your men. Two of them make it to a canoe; the others hide in the willows. The bear continues to follow two of your men who jump into the river, even though they face a twenty foot drop into the river. The bear is so enraged that he follows the men into the river. Luckily, the two men who remain on shore are able to reload their weapons. They shoot the bear in the head. After your men drag the bear on shore, they discover the bear took eight shots before he was killed. Today's drama does not stop there!

Back on the river, the pirogues are under sail and cruising along when a sudden squall of wind strikes! Unfortunately, Charbonneau is at the helm of one of the pirogues—the white canoe. He cannot swim, and is a very timid waterman. Both co-captains are on shore opposite the pirogue, too far away to be heard even if you could yell directions to the out-of-control pirogue.

Instead of turning the rudder into the wind, which is what most good sailors would have known to do, Charbonneau began shouting for God's mercy. The pirogue fills with water and important articles such as your journals, maps, and instruments begin floating away! Sacagawea and Cruzatte (the bowsman) along with other Corps members on board this pirogue begin to take action, but this is happening very quickly.

Your instinct is to jump in the river and try to save what you can. Should you follow your instinct?