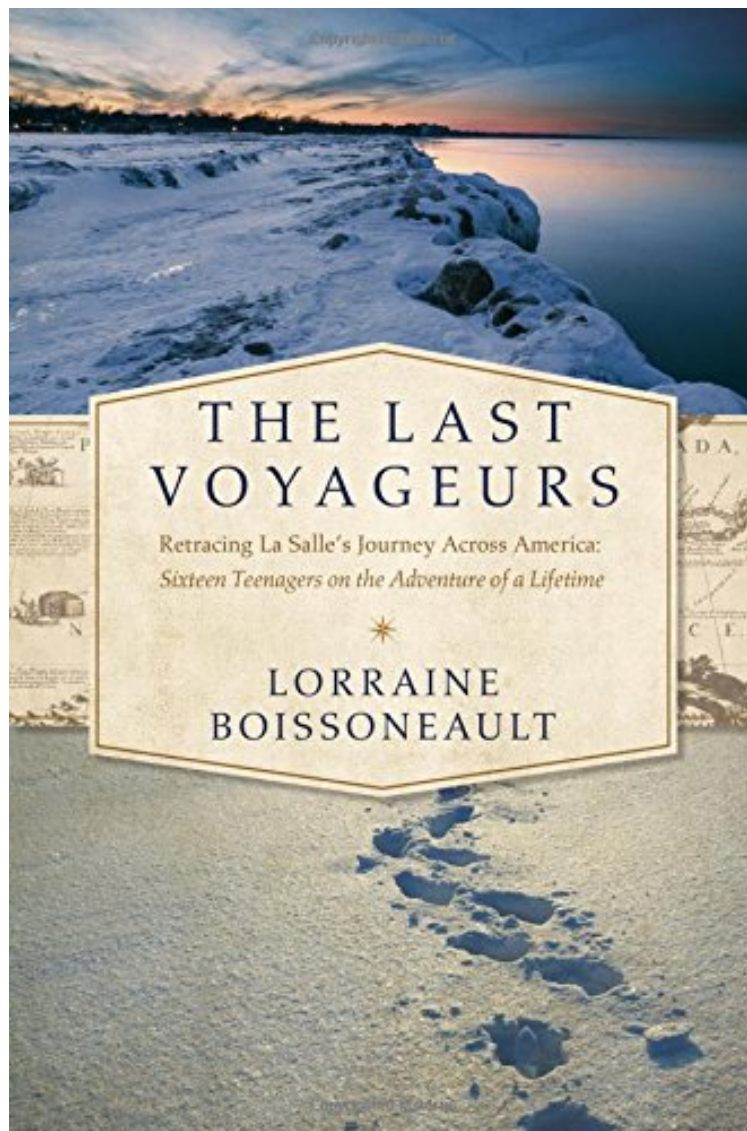


(Library ebook) The Last Voyageurs: Retracing La Salle's Journey Across America: Sixteen Teenagers on the Adventure of a Lifetime

## The Last Voyageurs: Retracing La Salle's Journey Across America: Sixteen Teenagers on the Adventure of a Lifetime

Lorraine Boissoneault  
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**Lorraine Boissoneault : The Last Voyageurs: Retracing La Salle's Journey Across America: Sixteen Teenagers on the Adventure of a Lifetime** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Voyageurs: Retracing La Salle's Journey Across America: Sixteen Teenagers on the Adventure of a Lifetime:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. What an adventure!By P. MurschWas our countrys bicentennial really 40 years ago? Of all the diverse celebrations during that year, this book by Lorraine Boissoneault is a chronicle of one of the major undertakings a re-enactment of LaSalles journey of exploration from Montreal, through the Great Lakes and the Midwest, and down the Mississippi to New Orleans, enabling him to claim a vast region for France. The author tells not only of the careful preparations made for authenticity but also the day to day routine of paddling and camping without modern equipment, including interesting details such as starting cook fires with a flint. The areas traveled as well as the hardships and dangers are clearly told, as well as the carefully researched parallel journey and historical context of the original trip. The photographs, showing the canoes, the handmade tools, muskets, clothes and moccasins were a great addition. The only thing missing was a modern map of the areas covered. It was a fascinating adventure story, a highly recommended read for any arm chair voyageur or lover of history.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A captivating account of a great adventureBy Polly B.This captivating account of a great adventure by Lorraine Boissoneault is well written and well researched. The expedition of the young men was quite an accomplishment and Ms. Boissoneault's description of their hardships and triumphs makes for an entertaining read. The parallels and comparisons with the original La Salle expedition provide insight to the life of explorers in the 1600's. As a child of the 70's, the interesting tidbits on American culture brought back some great memories. I especially liked the descriptions of the canoe trip through Georgian Bay. I recommend this book for anyone who enjoys stories of adventure, history or outdoor life.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating story of 2 voyagesBy CustomerI didn't know much about the history of La Salle or really about any kind of historic explorer voyages and by the end of the book, I felt as though I had intimate knowledge of the conditions, the struggles, the triumphs the men must have experienced. The story of the students recreating this journey in the 1970s was so relatable and yet seemed far removed from present day (I feel like not many parents would let their sons get involved in such a dangerous venture these days!) Overall, a fascinating read!

In 1976, America's bicentennial, 24 young men set out to re-create French explorer La Salle's voyage down the entire length of the Mississippi River, abandoning their modern identities in order to live like the voyageurs of the 1600s... Reid Lewis never wanted to be an ordinary French teacher. With the approach of the American Bicentennial, he decided to put his knowledge of French language and history to use in recreating the voyage of Ren Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, the first European to travel from Montreal to the end of the Mississippi River. Lewis crew of modern voyageurs was comprised of 16 high school students and 6 teachers who learned to sew their own 17th-century clothing, paddle handmade canoes, and construct black powder rifles. Together they set off on an eight-month, 3,300-mile expedition across the major waterways of North America. They fought strong currents on the St. Lawrence, paddled through storms on the Great Lakes, and walked over 500 miles across the frozen Midwest during one of the coldest winters of the 20th century, all while putting on performances about the history of French explorers for communities along their route. The crew had to overcome disagreements, a crisis of leadership, and near-death experiences before coming to the end of their journey. The Last Voyageurs tells the story of this American odyssey, where a group of young men discovered themselves by pretending to be French explorers.

An almost forgotten chapter of our history is brought to light in this chronicle that should be widely read and remembered. - Christopher Webber, author of Give Me LibertyIn The Last Voyageurs, Lorraine Boissoneault brings both 17th and 20th century history alive in her telling of a daring group of high school students, led by educators, who in 1976 retraced in period gear the 3,300-mile journey of the French explorer La Salle. She puts the reader in the canoes of the youths who traveled from Lake Ontario to New Orleans via the Mississippi River. - Dale Maharidge, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of And Their Children After ThemLorraine Boissoneault has written a contemporary classic in the literature of the vision quest part arduous odyssey, part coming-of-age saga. And this book has the added advantage of being indelibly true, lived out by a charismatic teacher and the high school students who volunteer as his crew on a 3,000-mile canoe journey from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico. Here is risk, injury, pain, contention and camaraderie, common purpose, rapture, and a life-changing achievement. - Sam Freedman, Pulitzer Prize-nominated author of The InheritanceAbout the AuthorLorraine Boissoneault is a graduate of Columbia Universitys Graduate School of Journalism and has written about travel, foreign policy, the environment and adventure for numerous national and regional publications, including Salon, Forbes Middle East, The Weather Channel and others. She lives in Chicago.