

Sacagawea's Story

When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explored the American West, they led a group of about 30 men—and one teenage girl. She was a Shoshone Native American named Sacagawea. Sacagawea was the wife of a fur trader named Charbonneau. Because Charbonneau could speak a Native American language, Lewis and Clark hired him as an **interpreter** for their **expedition**. Charbonneau brought his young wife with him.

The expedition was headed for the Pacific Ocean. It was a dangerous journey. Sometimes they paddled boats up rivers, and other times they walked. It was a difficult trek for the men. Imagine how hard it must have been for Sacagawea—she was carrying a baby on her back! You might think a 17-year-old girl with a baby would be a **hindrance** to the expedition. But she was actually a big help. She showed the men where to find edible wild plants and helped them make clothing and shoes from animal hides. When one of the boats nearly overturned in rough waters, Sacagawea rescued important papers that fell overboard. She also showed that the expedition was peaceful. When native tribes saw a woman with the men, they knew the explorers were not dangerous.

When the expedition reached the Rocky Mountains, they **encountered** a group of Shoshone people. Their chief was Sacagawea's brother! He helped the explorers get horses to make the **treacherous** crossing over the mountains.

Finally, in November 1805, the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean. Thanks in part to a teenage girl, they had reached their goal!



Sacagawea was about 17 when she joined Lewis and Clark's expedition. Her son was two months old.

MONDAY

Choose the definition that matches the bold word.

- Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were part of the first **expedition** to reach the top of Mount Everest.
 - Ⓐ a show
 - Ⓑ a group making a journey of exploration
- An **interpreter** rewrote the ancient Latin text into modern English.
 - Ⓐ a person who resolves arguments
 - Ⓑ a person who translates from one language to another
- Getting too little sleep is a **hindrance** to learning new things.
 - Ⓐ something that is helpful
 - Ⓑ something that makes a situation difficult
- We **encountered** a rattlesnake in the middle of the trail.
 - Ⓐ came across or met
 - Ⓑ counted one by one
- Many ships ran into rocks in the **treacherous** waters that surrounded the reef.
 - Ⓐ very dangerous
 - Ⓑ having many deep ditches

TUESDAY

What information did you learn from the picture and caption?

WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. Why did Lewis and Clark hire Charbonneau to join the expedition?
Ⓐ He could speak a Native American language. Ⓒ He knew how to find food and make clothing.
Ⓑ They wanted his wife to come along. Ⓓ He knew how to paddle a boat.
2. How did Sacagawea's brother help the expedition?
Ⓐ He was an interpreter for the Shoshone. Ⓒ He helped them get horses.
Ⓑ He guided them over the Rocky Mountains. Ⓓ He took care of Sacagawea's son.
3. When did the expedition get to the Pacific Ocean?
Ⓐ November 1804 Ⓒ November 1805
Ⓑ April 1805 Ⓓ The passage does not say.

THURSDAY

Write M if the sentence is the main idea. Write D if it's a detail. Write X if the information is not in the passage.

- _____ Sacagawea rescued William Clark when he fell in the river.
- _____ Sacagawea was married to the expedition's interpreter.
- _____ Sacagawea helped the men find food and make clothing.
- _____ Sacagawea helped the Lewis and Clark expedition reach their goal.
- _____ Sacagawea's brother was a Shoshone chief.

FRIDAY

In what way do you think Sacagawea was most helpful to the expedition?
