

Sacagawea

You may have heard of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. These explorers traveled across the American West beginning in 1804, blazing the trail for others to follow. But have you heard of Sacagawea?

Sacagawea was an American Indian who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their journey. She was very helpful to the explorers. One time their boat tipped over on the Missouri River. Books, medicine, and important papers started to float away. But Sacagawea rescued the supplies.

Sacagawea was also helpful as an interpreter. To cross the Rocky Mountains, Lewis and Clark needed horses. They wanted to trade with a Shoshone tribe for horses. But they didn't speak the tribe's language. Sacagawea's knowledge of the Shoshone language helped the explorers get the horses they needed.

Sacagawea traveled with Lewis and Clark for over a year. It was a long, hard trip. It was especially hard for Sacagawea, because she was a mother. She cared for her baby the whole time. But she still helped the explorers reach the Pacific Ocean.

Today, there are mountains, lakes, and rivers named after Sacagawea in the places where she traveled with Lewis and Clark. She is remembered for her part in the great achievement of exploring the West.



Quiz Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?

- a. Sacagawea helped Lewis and Clark talk to a Shoshone tribe.
- b. Sacagawea helped Lewis and Clark explore the West.
- c. Sacagawea rescued some supplies for Lewis and Clark.

2. What may have made the trip especially hard for Sacagawea?

- a. The boat tipped over in the river.
- b. Sacagawea had her baby with her.
- c. They had to cross the Rocky Mountains.

3. What does the word **trail** mean in this story?

- a. path
- b. to follow

___ c. scent

4. Why are mountains, lakes, and rivers named after Sacagawea?

___ a. Sacagawea knew how to cross the Rocky Mountains.

___ b. Sacagawea rescued supplies that would have been lost in the Missouri River.

___ c. Sacagawea helped blaze the trail to the American West.

5. Why was exploring the West difficult for Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea?

6. Select the synonym for each word.

achievement

success

rescued

saved

knowledge

particularly

especially

understanding

7. Move the events into the correct order.

Lewis and Clark's boat tipped over.

Places were named after Sacagawea.

Sacagawea helped Lewis and Clark trade for horses.

Sacagawea joined Lewis and Clark on their journey.

Sacagawea rescued Lewis and Clark's supplies.