

Name _____



Sacagawea: The Guide of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Sacagawea was a remarkable woman who played a crucial role in one of the most famous expeditions in American history. Her life was filled with significant accomplishments, challenges, and enduring significance.

Accomplishments

Sacagawea was born into the Shoshone tribe in the late 18th century. Her most famous accomplishment was her role as an interpreter and guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which took place between 1804 and 1806. She joined the expedition with her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, and their newborn son, Jean Baptiste.

Sacagawea's knowledge of the land, languages, and native plants proved invaluable to the expedition. She helped the explorers communicate with indigenous peoples they encountered, secured horses for the journey, and served as a symbol of peace and goodwill.

Challenges

Sacagawea faced numerous challenges throughout her life. At a young age, she was captured by a rival tribe, the Hidatsa, and later sold into marriage to Toussaint Charbonneau, a French fur trapper. This marriage brought its own difficulties as she traveled with her husband and the Lewis and Clark Expedition through challenging terrain and harsh conditions.

Being the only woman on the expedition and caring for her infant son in the wilderness presented additional challenges. Despite these hardships, Sacagawea's determination and resourcefulness shone through.

Significance

Sacagawea's significance lies in her critical role as a guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Her contributions helped the expedition successfully navigate uncharted territory, forge important relationships with Native American tribes, and achieve its goals of mapping the western United States.

Her legacy endures as a symbol of strength, resilience, and the important role of indigenous people in American history. Sacagawea has been honored through statues, monuments, and even the use of her image on the U.S. dollar coin.