

Name _____

Sacagawea: The Guide of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Sacagawea made vital contributions to the Lewis and Clark Expedition by serving as an interpreter, guide, and diplomat. Her knowledge of native languages and customs enabled communication with indigenous tribes, facilitating peaceful encounters and alliances. She played a key role in securing horses and supplies, and her familiarity with the land helped the expedition navigate challenging terrain. Sacagawea's resourcefulness and courage were indispensable to the success of the mission.
2. Sacagawea faced numerous challenges during the expedition, including the role of being the only woman and a mother. She had to care for her infant son, Jean Baptiste, while enduring the physical hardships of the journey, such as harsh weather and rugged terrain. Additionally, she faced the constant threat of encountering unfriendly tribes and the uncertainty of the wilderness. Despite these challenges, her determination and adaptability allowed her to persevere and make valuable contributions to the expedition.
3. Sacagawea's significance in American history is rooted in her critical role as an interpreter and guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Her contributions were instrumental in the expedition's successful exploration and mapping of the western United States, which played a crucial part in the expansion of the nation. Her legacy endures as a symbol of strength, resilience, and the important role of indigenous people in shaping the history of the United States.
4. Sacagawea has been honored and remembered in modern times through various means. Her image appears on the U.S. dollar coin, known as the Sacagawea dollar, symbolizing her importance in American history. Statues and monuments dedicated to her can be found in several states. Sacagawea's story continues to inspire people as a testament to courage, adaptability, and the vital contributions of indigenous individuals to the nation's history.

