

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Sacagawea

Today we're going to talk about Sacagawea...in just a minute.

Sacagawea was born in the 1780s in the Shoshone nation of western North America. When she was young, Hidatsa people kidnapped and later sold her to French trapper Toussaint Charbonneau.

Sacagawea and Charbonneau were living with the Hidatsa in present-day North Dakota when they met Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and their Corps of Discovery in 1804. Lewis and Clark were exploring the territory the US had recently acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, and they needed an interpreter to help them communicate and trade with other Native American nations along their route.

Sacagawea and Charbonneau joined the expedition in April 1805, just two months after their son was born. Sacagawea was only 16 or 17, but she quickly impressed Lewis and Clark with her calm demeanor and knowledge of the terrain. She and her baby also helped the Corps appear friendly to the tribes they met along the way.

After months of travel, the Corps met a group of Shoshone people led by Sacagawea's brother Cameahwait, whom she hadn't seen in years. The relationship helped the explorers trade for the food and horses that they needed to cross the Rocky Mountains.

Lewis and Clark finally reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805. But they might not have survived the journey without Sacagawea's help.

If you could meet Sacagawea, what questions would you ask her?