



Sacagawea

Sacagawea was born in 1787. She was born a Shoshone Indian in what is now Idaho. Her name means Bird Woman. She was the daughter of the chief. Since her tribe was nomadic she learned how to gather roots, seeds, nuts, plants, and berries.

When she was about twelve she was kidnapped by an enemy tribe. This tribe was the Minnetarees. She lived with them for three years. While living with them she learned about farming. They sold her as a slave to Toussaint Charbonneau. He was a Canadian French trader. She was supposed to work for him but eventually they were married. They had a son on February 11, 1805. His name was Jean Baptiste. He became the youngest explorer ever.

In 1804, Sacagawea met Lewis and Clark. They were sent by the president to explore the northwest. They hired Sacagawea and her husband. When Lewis and Clark asked Sacagawea to come they did not know what a big benefit she would be. She knew quite a lot about the northwest. She also knew many Indian languages. Lewis and Clark also hoped that she would show the Indians that they were peaceful people.

Along the way, they stopped to trade with the Shoshones. Sacagawea realized that the chief was her brother. He gave them horses and food. They traveled through the Bitterroot Mountains. Sacagawea was the one that led them through the mountains very quickly. While going through the mountains their food supply became very low. Sacagawea taught them all how to gather berries and plants.

Along the way, while crossing a river, they had trouble. It was May 14, 1805. The boat they were in was tipped by high winds. This caused many things to go into the river. Sacagawea saved a few of the supplies and many important papers.

The rest of Sacagawea's life is a mystery. It is uncertain how much longer she lived. Some say that she died of a serious illness at the age of 25. Others say she went back and lived with her family the Shoshones, changed her name to Porivo, and married. She had several children and lived a happy life. According to this legend, she died at the age of 96.

If it were not for Sacagawea, Lewis and Clark would probably have given up. They had many struggles that Sacagawea knew how to solve. If they had made it, it would have taken them a lot longer. Sacagawea made the journey a success and helped Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean. She paved the way for people to settle in the west.