



Lewis and Sacagawea, Jim Carson

SACAGAWEA'S TALENTS

More than meets the eye

The woman that is with us is a squaw of the Snake nation of Indians, and wife to our interpreter. We expect she will be of service to us, when passing through that nation.

Patrick Gass, April 08, 1805

With part of the original crew sent back with the keelboat, there were just 33 members of the party now including its three newest members, Charbonneau, Sacagawea and their new born son Jean Baptiste. Every day, he was carried on his mother's back as the expedition pressed forward. Sacagawea dug for prairie turnips, and picked wild lickerish for the Captains' dinners. She quickly won their confidence.

During one blustery day, Charbonneau lost control of the pirogue he was steering. Lewis and Clark watched helplessly from the shore as it turned in the current and began taking in water. It contained their books, scientific equipment, medicines and many of the expedition's trade goods. Almost every article indispensably necessary to further the views and ensure the success of the enterprise according to Lewis. He briefly considered diving into the river to attempt a rescue before realizing the madness of it. Fortunately, the combined efforts of Pierre Crusade and Sacagawea saved the day.

Ken Burns, The Journey of the Corps of Discovery, 1997

SACAGAWEA'S TALENTS

1. What will be Sacagawea's role in the expedition?
2. How many members were left in the expedition when they left Fort Mandan?
3. Did Sacagawea embark in the expedition with her new born child? Explain.
4. What did she do to become more and more important to the expedition?
5. Explain why Lewis or Clark did not dive into the water to save the equipment.

