Read

Genre: Biography

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **expedition**
- **fellow**
- **gap**

SACAGAWEA'S JOURNEY INTO HISTORY

by Jeanette Cannon



1 You may have seen this gold-colored dollar coin. It shows the face of a young Native American woman carrying a baby on her back. She is one of the only women on a U.S. legal coin. So who was she?

2 Sacagawea was a Shoshone Indian born at the end of the 1700s in an area now called Idaho. Her early life was difficult. Sometime between 1799 and 1801, she was captured by a group of Hidatsa Indians and taken away from her people. She was only 12 years old. By age 16, she was married to a French fur trader named Toussaint Charbonneau, who lived with the Hidatsas. Her adventures were just beginning.

3 In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson decided to map out the newly expanded nation. He sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on an expedition to explore the land.

4 In May of 1804, the explorers began traveling on the Missouri River in canoes. One of their jobs was to take notes about what they saw. They drew pictures of plants and animals they saw. They made maps as they went along. They carried with them special tools to help them as they traveled. Everything was wrapped so water would not damage anything.

5 In November of 1804, Lewis met Charbonneau and hired him as a translator. Sacagawea joined her husband on the expedition. Their baby was born soon after the journey began.

6 Though Sacagawea was not a guide on the journey, she helped the travelers in many ways. One of Lewis and Clark's diary entries from May 14, 1805, tells how Sacagawea's calm bravery saved important objects and information from being lost forever.

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7 One day, a terrible storm caused Sacagawea's canoe to tip over. All the men were trying to get the canoe upright. Sacagawea calmly went into the water. Her baby was strapped to her back. She saved the notebooks and tools that would have floated away.

8 Later that year, the explorers came to Shoshone territory. Sacagawea helped them find a route through the mountains. She also helped them buy horses from her fellow Shoshone.

9 A few months later, the group had their first look at the Pacific Ocean. Before beginning the return journey, the explorers built a camp to stay in over the winter.

10 In May 1806, a few months after they had started their journey home, the travelers met a group of Nez Perce Indians. Sacagawea helped the two groups speak to each other. On the way back east, Sacagawea guided the group along trails she remembered from her childhood. One important trail was a gap in the mountains that led them to the Yellowstone River.

11 The journey ended for Sacagawea in August 1806. People who traveled with her wrote about her cheerfulness and helpfulness. They all said she showed great courage.

12 In 2000, two centuries after Sacagawea was born, a special U.S. dollar coin was created. It honors a brave young woman who helped explore a new nation.



Lewis and Clark's winter camp at Fort Clatsop is now a National Historic Park near Astoria, Oregon.



The U.S. Postal Service issued this stamp in honor of Sacagawea in 1994.

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Timeline of Some Events in the Life of Sacagawea

1788 Sacagawea is born.

1799–1801 Sacagawea is captured by Hidatsas.

Lewis and Clark Expedition

1804

November 1804 Sacagawea and her husband Charbonneau join the Lewis and Clark expedition.

1805

May 1805 Sacagawea saves important information during a storm.

August 1805 Sacagawea helps Lewis and Clark trade for Shoshone horses.

November 1805 The company reaches the Pacific Ocean.

December 1805 The explorers build Fort Clatsop and camp there for the winter.

1806

May 1806 The group meets up with several Nez Perce chiefs. Charbonneau and Sacagawea translate.

July 1806 Sacagawea and the group reach Yellowstone River.

1811

March 1811 Sacagawea and Charbonneau move to South Dakota.



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Think Use what you learned from reading the selection to respond to these questions.

1 Look again at the time line. Based on the sequence shown there, which **two** statements are true?

A Lewis and Clark spoke with the Nez Perce chiefs at Fort Clatsop.

B Sacagawea met Charbonneau during the expedition.

C Lewis and Clark reached the Yellowstone River near the end of their journey.

D Sacagawea helped prepare for the journey by buying horses.

E The group faced a dangerous storm early in their journey.

F Sacagawea was captured by the Hidatsa Indians after moving to South Dakota.

2 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What event happened **first** after Sacagawea helped the explorers buy horses from the Shoshone?

A The group stayed at Fort Clatsop for the winter.

B The group met with Nez Perce Indians.

C Sacagawea married Toussaint Charbonneau.

D Sacagawea remembered a gap in the mountains.

Part B

Where did you find the specific information needed to answer Part A?

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3 Look at the sequence words and phrases in the first column. They show the order of events. Write the letter of the event that belongs with each one.

Sequence	Event
____ In 1803	**A** Sacagawea and Charbonneau join the expedition.
____ In May of 1804	**B** Sacagawea remembers trails that lead to the Yellowstone River.
____ In November of 1804	**C** The explorers build a camp to stay in over the winter.
____ In May of 1805	**D** Sacagawea saves important information from being lost.
____ Later that year	**E** The explorers begin their journey to the American West.
____ A few months after they cross the mountains	**F** Jefferson asks Lewis and Clark to explore the new land.
____ Before beginning the journey home	**G** Sacagawea helps find a route through the mountains.
____ On their way back east	**H** The explorers reach the Pacific Ocean.

4 What important sequence information does paragraph 5 include?

- **A** It explains why the expedition was necessary.
- **B** It describes Sacagawea's husband as a brave man.
- **C** It tells when Sacagawea joined the expedition.
- **D** It shows that the baby was born in the winter.

5 Read this sentence from paragraph 8.

Sacagawea helped them find a route through the mountains.

What is the meaning of *route* in this context?

- **A** wide tunnel to travel through
- **B** train tracks in the mountains
- **C** way of getting from place to place
- **D** paved road for wagons to use

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Write

6 **Short Response** How does the sequence of events in the biography help show how Sacagawea becomes more and more valuable to the expedition? Use details from the passage to support your response.

Learning Target

You've learned that it is important to understand the relationship between events in historical writing. Explain how a clear sequence can help you understand the relationship between events.

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