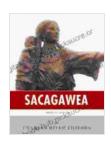
## American Legends: The Life of Sacagawea, a Shoshone Interpreter and Guide

Sacagawea (c. 1788–1812) was a Native American woman who served as a guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which explored the Louisiana Purchase from 1804 to 1806. Her knowledge of the land and her ability to communicate with the Native American tribes along the way were essential to the expedition's success.

#### **Early Life**

Sacagawea was born into the Agaidika band of the Lemhi Shoshone tribe in what is now Idaho. Little is known about her early life, but it is believed that she was orphaned at a young age and raised by her extended family.



#### **American Legends: The Life of Sacagawea**

by Charles River Editors

: English Language : 1427 KB File size Text-to-Speech : Enabled : Supported Screen Reader Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 86 pages : Enabled Lending



In 1800, at the age of about 12, Sacagawea was kidnapped by a rival tribe, the Hidatsa. She was taken to their village in North Dakota, where she was

given the name "Bird Woman" because of her small size and quick movements.

#### **Marriage to Toussaint Charbonneau**

In 1804, Sacagawea was purchased by Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur trader who was serving as a guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Charbonneau and Sacagawea were married shortly after their meeting, and she became an interpreter for the expedition.

#### The Lewis and Clark Expedition

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was a two-year expedition that explored the Louisiana Purchase, which had been acquired from France in 1803. The expedition was led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and it included a team of scientists, explorers, and interpreters.

Sacagawea played a vital role in the expedition's success. She was able to communicate with the Native American tribes along the way, and she provided valuable information about the land and its resources. She also served as a guide and helped the expedition to find its way through the unfamiliar territory.

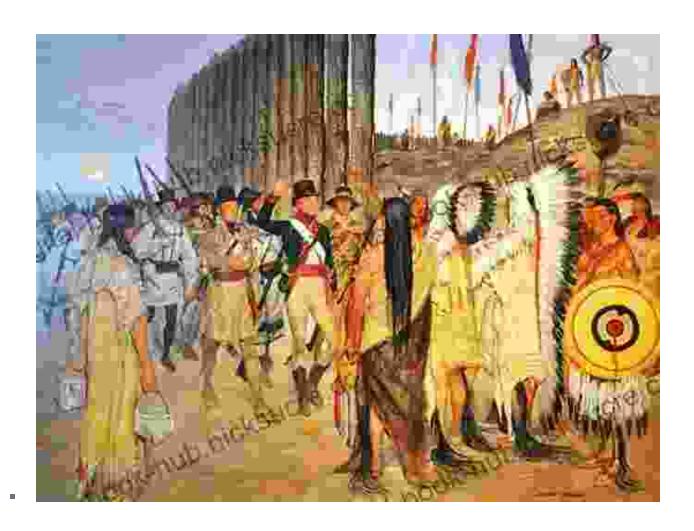
#### **Later Life and Death**

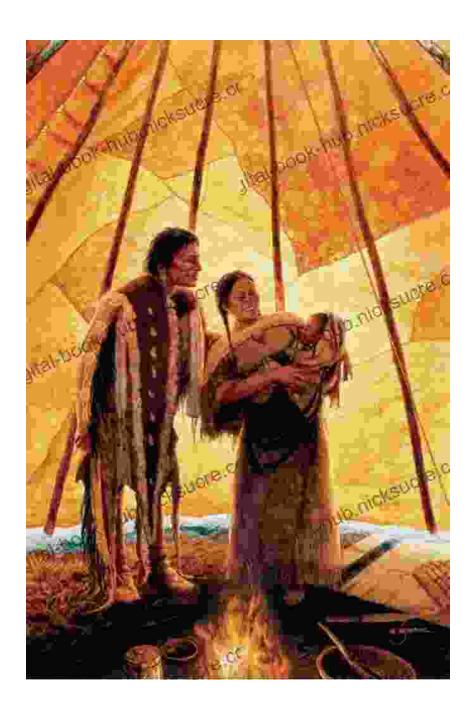
After the expedition, Sacagawea and Charbonneau settled in St. Louis, Missouri. They had two children, Jean Baptiste and Lisette. Sacagawea died in 1812, at the age of about 24. The cause of her death is unknown, but it is believed that she may have died from complications of childbirth.

#### Legacy

Sacagawea is remembered as a pioneer and a heroine. She was a strong and courageous woman who played a vital role in the exploration of the American West. Her story is a reminder of the important contributions that Native Americans have made to American history.

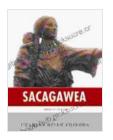
#### **Images**





#### **Further Reading**

- Sacagawea, by the Lewis and Clark Foundation
- Sacagawea, by the Encyclopedia Britannica



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