

Sacajawea Learning Activities:

The following activities correspond to each section in the Sacajawea special insert published by The Idaho Statesman on Sunday November 16, 2003. These activities can be used by parents, teachers and students, and are meant to bridge the gap between Sacajawea's time, and our time.

Activities for "Her story by her people":

1. The Sacajawea special section is an "Oral History" of Sacajawea as told by her living ancestors. Do you have a story from your family that is told as an oral history? Write it out in story form and be as descriptive as possible.
2. Information, as it is passed from person to person tends to become distorted, and in some cases completely without accurate facts. Write out a sentence between 3 and 5 sentences based on the information you have read. Whisper it to another person, and have that person whisper their interpretation of what you said to another person, and so on. Continue until everyone has listened and repeated the information. Have the last person say out loud what they heard. Compare it with your original statement. Can you see how the story of Sacajawea may have been "re-written" by historians over the years?

Activities for "Her childhood":

1. Think about the skills children in American learn today by the time they are 12. Make a chart by drawing a line down the center of a piece of paper – at the top of one column, write your name and write Sacajawea at the top of the other. Make a list of her skills, and make a list of yours. Are any of them similar? Would you survive in her world? Would she survive in ours? Why or why not?
2. Sacajawea knew how to make many things. Write a list of all the things you know how to make including food items. Look in the rest of the newspaper and cut out photos and words of all the things on your list and make a collage.

Activities for "Taken from her home":

1. Sacajawea was kidnapped at age 12. This was a brutal crime but went unreported, as did many such incidents during this time in history. Write a headline and a first paragraph of a news story reporting this incident.
2. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences between Sacajawea's life with the Agaidika's and with the Hidatsa's. Which would you prefer?

Activities for "Life with Charbonneau":

1. Compare and contrast Sacajawea's marriage experience. Briefly describe our customs today, and contrast those with what happened to Sacajawea. How would you feel if you were Sacajawea?
2. At the end of this chapter, Charbonneau must make a choice between Sacajawea and his other wife to take on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Based on what you know, which wife would you choose? Why do you think he ultimately chose Sacajawea?

Activities for "Adventure of a lifetime":

1. Make a list of Sacajawea's contributions to the expedition. Which do you think is the most important? Why? If you were Sacajawea, what could you contribute if the expedition were to happen today?
2. Using the list from activity #1 look through the newspaper to find examples of the items listed as they are today. Ex: moccasins – find a photo of shoes. Create a collage of those items, but label them with the term from the expedition.

Activities for "Her final journey":

1. Later in life, Clark made a list of the expedition members and recorded whether they were alive or dead. Make a list of those mentioned in this chapter, but briefly summarize what happens to them according to the readings.
2. Read through some of the obituaries in the newspaper today. Using what you've learned about Sacajawea, write a more fitting notice than the one printed in this story.

Activity for "The Lemhis":

1. Create a timeline of events chronicling what happened to the Lemhis in the years following the death of Sacajawea.
2. Create a timeline of the major events in your life, or in your family history.