

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF RICHMOND  
**BOOKMARK SERIES**



## Sacagawea

### Biography

#### Meaning of her Name:

bird ("sacaga") woman ("wea")

#### Birth Date: c. 1790

Sacagawea was the daughter of a Shoshone chief.

**Kidnapped:** She was kidnapped by the Hidatsa tribe and taken back to their village at the age of 10-12 years old.

**Wed:** She was purchased from the Hidatsa tribe and wed to Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian trapper.

**Death:** Accounts vary, but she is widely believed to have died in 1812, although there is some evidence she may have lived until 1884.

### Achievements

**1804:** Lewis and Clark hired Charbonneau as an interpreter for their expedition to explore the West. They relied on Sacagawea to interpret several tribal tongues for them.

**1804 - 1806:** She was an interpreter and guide for Lewis and Clark.

**1805:** Sacagawea's son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, was born. Sacagawea carried him on her back on a cradleboard during the expedition. Clark nicknamed him "Pomp."

**August 1805:** Sacagawea was reunited with her brother, now chief of the Shoshone tribe. She helped the explorers obtain horses and food from the tribe.

**January 1806:** Sacagawea convinced Clark to let her accompany him and a group of men going to get whale oil and blubber from a beached whale. She saw the Pacific Ocean for the first time.

**Summer 1806:** Clark relied on Sacagawea's knowledge of Shoshone trails on the return trip. He called her his "pilot."

## Achievements (cont.)

**August 1806:** Expedition ends. Charbonneau was paid \$500.33 and 320 acres of land. Sacagawea received nothing.

## What is the Value of the Golden Dollar?

A golden one-dollar coin is worth one dollar. There are 100 pennies, or 20 nickels, or 10 dimes, or 4 quarters in \$1.00.

## What is on the Back of the Coin?

The Golden Dollar's back shows our nation's symbol, a soaring American bald eagle. There are 17 stars around the eagle - one representing each state in the union at the time of the 1804 Lewis and Clark Expedition.

## When was it First Issued?

The Sacagawea Golden Dollar was introduced in 2000.

## Quote

*"We pay tribute today to Indian women whose cultural and spiritual contributions have enriched our lives, and whose leadership have helped to change the course of history."*

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the unveiling of the design of the Sacagawea dollar coin at a gathering of Indian leaders on May 4, 1999.

## Web Resources

[www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/inside/saca.html](http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/inside/saca.html)

[www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/s\\_z/sacagawea.htm](http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/s_z/sacagawea.htm)

[www.thehistorynet.com](http://www.thehistorynet.com)

[www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov)

[www.moneyfactory.com](http://www.moneyfactory.com)

[www.ustreas.gov/education/index.html](http://www.ustreas.gov/education/index.html)



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