

Journal vs. Narrative

Sacajawea in the Writings of Lewis and Clark

Sacagawea (also spelled Sacajawea, Sakakawea, etc.) was the Shoshone woman who traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase from 1804 until 1806. She acted as a translator for the expedition, known as the Corps of Discovery. During the journey, both leaders, Meriweather Lewis and William Clark, kept journals. In 1814 they would co-author a book on the history of the expedition entitled *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark*.

Below are passages from both sources concerning the same event concerning Sacajawea. The expedition has just arrived at a Shoshone camp.



From Lewis's Journal

August 17th Saturday 1805...Shortly after Capt. Clark arrived with the Interpreter Charbono, and the Indian woman, who proved to be a sister of the Chif Cameahwait. the meeting of those people was really affecting, particularly between Sah cah-gar-we-ah and an Indian woman, who had been taken prisoner at the same time with her, and who had afterwards escaped from the Minnetares and rejoined her nation. At noon the Canoes arrived, and we had the satisfaction once more to find ourselves all together, with a flattering prospect of being able to obtain as many horses shortly as would enable us to prosecute our voyage by land should that by water be deemed inadvisable.

From History of the Expedition

Saturday, August 17... We soon drew near to the camp, and just as we approached it a woman made her way through the crowd towards Sacajawea, and recognising each other, they embraced with the most tender affection. The meeting of these two young women had in it something peculiarly touching, not only in the ardent manner in which their feelings were expressed, but from the real interest of their situation. They had been companions in childhood, in the war with the Minnetarees they had both been taken prisoners in the same battle, they had shared and softened the rigours of their captivity, till one of them had escaped from the Minnetarees, with scarce a hope of ever seeing her friend relieved from the hands of her enemies...

Questions:

1. Which account of the meeting of Sacajawea and her friend has more details? Give an example.

2. Why do you think the accounts are different?

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Questions:

1. Which account of the meeting of Sacajawea and her friend has more details? Give an example.

Actual student answers will vary.

2. Why do you think the accounts are different?
