

Sacagawea: An Annotated Bibliography for Young Readers

This bibliography is for young readers, grades 3rd through 8th. Resource materials for young readers should meet the same critical standards as those for adults. The materials should be historically accurate, based upon primary source materials, and culturally sensitive to other cultures. Today, oral histories may be considered an acceptable resource; oral histories should be identified in the same way other reference materials are identified.

Young readers enjoy drawings, photographs, maps and other illustrative material relevant to the story. Illustrations should be historically and culturally accurate, appropriate to the text, and representative of the time period and the Native American cultures. The authors should identify the illustrations by title, source and/or artist wherever possible.

Unfortunately, many of the resource materials for young readers contain inaccuracies. Some authors of children's materials display a cavalier attitude toward sound historic writing, the accurate portrayal of facts and events, and sensitivity towards cultures other than their own. Many of these same materials perpetuate unfounded stories about Sacagawea, her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau and their son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, and/or the culture of the Agaiduka [Lemhi] Shoshoni and the Hidatsa people.

Educators should look for resource materials that include:

Maps [route of Corps of Discovery, tribal homelands/reservations]

Illustrations [cultural materials, plants/animals, representative portraits]

Bibliography [age-appropriate materials—books, movies, web sites]

Index

Glossary

Reading abilities, personal interests, and an understanding of the overall story of the Corps of Discovery will affect a young person's ability to read, understand and enjoy the story. It is helpful for young readers to understand the difference between fiction, biography, and history and between original and secondary source materials. Advanced readers may enjoy some of the resource materials listed elsewhere.

Biographies of Sacagawea

Brown, Marion Marsh. SACAGAWEA: INDIAN INTERPRETER TO LEWIS AND CLARK. Chicago: Children's Press, 1988. Numerous small errors; ethnocentric view of Native American women. Map, index; illustrations not identified.

Burt, Olive. SACAJAWEA. New York: Franklin Watts, 1978. Numerous small errors; ethnocentric attitude towards Shoshoni. Map, index, illustrations [need identification].

Frazier, Neta Lohnes. SACAJAWEA: THE GIRL NOBODY KNOWS. New York: David McKay and Company, 1967. Romantic biography in two parts—the expedition and her life after 1806. Explores various stories about her life, her marriage, and her death. Emphasizes how little we do know. Bibliography, index.

Jassem, Kate. SACAJAWEA: WILDERNESS GUIDE. Makwan, NJ: Troll Associates, 1979. Filled with errors; illustrations inaccurate.

Sanford, William R. and Carl R. Green. SACAGAWEA: NATIVE AMERICAN HERO. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 1977 [Legendary Heroes of the Wild West Series]. Curious blend of fact and fiction re: Shoshoni, Sacagawea, Corps of Discovery. Footnotes, index, bibliography, glossary; illustrations are inaccurate and unidentified.

St. George, Judith. SACAGAWEA. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1997. For the most part, this biography is accurate. Author demonstrates insight for what it may have been like for Sacagawea as a member of the Corps of Discovery. Illustrations, bibliography, index.

Skold, Betty W. SACAGAWEA: THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN INDIAN. Minneapolis: Dillon Press, 1977. Numerous small errors; ethnocentric attitude towards Shoshoni. Map contains errors; illustrations are of poor quality and often inappropriate.

White, Alana J. SACAGAWEA: WESTWARD WITH LEWIS AND CLARK. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, 1997 [Native American Biographies Series]. Numerous small errors detract from work; acknowledges the many unknowns about Sacagawea with "authors say . . ."-type phrases. Endnotes, glossary, timeline, index, bibliography; maps, illustrations identified, appropriate. Native American Resources

Dramer, Kim. THE SHOSHONE. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 1996. Fairly accurate portrayal of Shoshoni. Illustrations.

Fradin, Dennis B. THE SHOSHONI. Chicago: Children's Press, 1988. Simple, fairly accurate. Consultants included members of Shoshoni and Bannock tribes. Illustrations, glossary, index; map contains errors. Fiction

Farnsworth, Francis Joyce. WINGED MOCCASINS: THE STORY OF SACAJAWEA. New York: Julian Messner, 1954.

Ingoglia, Gina. SACAGAWEA AND THE JOURNEY TO THE PACIFIC: A HISTORICAL NOVEL. New York: Disney Press, 1992.

O'Dell, Scott. STREAMS TO THE RIVER, RIVER TO THE SEA: A NOVEL OF SACAGAWEA. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1986.

Seymour, Flora Warren. SACAJAWEA: BIRD WOMAN. New York: Howard W. Sams, 1945.