

# Kansas City Young Audiences

## Teacher Program Guide

### Sacagawea and Images of the Last Frontier

Artist: Dianne Moran

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Contact KCYA for more information on this and other programs.

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### Performance Description

We are floating back in time as we feel the beating of her deer hide drum and hear her ancient song. Sacagawea leads us back in time, over 200 years ago, to share her personal story as an interpreter for the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Students will experience the journey through story and reenactment. Sacagawea calls upon students to identify cultural items from her collection, dress in period clothing and touch the live bull snake mentioned in a soldier's journals.

Sacagawea. Who was she really? Relying on scant documen-

tation, Dianne Moran speaks to us as Sacagawea, Shoshone woman, wife, mother of two children and



immortalized member of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Appearing in deer hide dress with her parfleche and other survival articles, Sacagawea will relate her life experiences as interpreter on the journey of the century to the last American frontier.

The program emphasizes Missouri's importance before, during and after the expedition. It is highly participatory and includes numerous opportunities for individual and group interaction.

### Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Hear the importance of all the expedition participants, not just Sacagawea.
- Understand how Native Americans might view the expedition as the "beginning of their end."

Standards addressed:

- Knows how the values and principles of American democracy can be promoted through participating in government.
- Knows character traits that help individuals to succeed.

#### Special Points of Interest:

Did you know: Even though it is considered an unparalleled success, the expedition failed to achieve its primary goal, the discovery of a "Northwest Passageway"?

#### Special REQUIREMENTS:

Large cleared space; long table for display items

## Artist Bio: Dianne Moran

Dianne Moran is an award-winning storyteller who has worked with audiences for 35 years as a folklorist/naturalist. She lives in the Missouri Ozarks where she owns *Earth Ways Farm*, an environmental camp. Her programs may include Mt. Dulcimer and relics, as well as her live animals which serve as metaphors for her stories.

Dianne performs *Chautauqua* programs as a Civil War and Lewis & Clark scholar throughout the Midwest. She has produced numerous CDs, tapes

and videos of her living histories.

Her programs receive funding from the Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Humanities Council, and received the *Program Award for Artistic Excellence and Educational Effectiveness* from Young Audiences of St. Louis. Dianne has performed for hundreds of school programs, workshops, and residencies, making her a curriculum regular for thousands of school children in Missouri and throughout the midwest.



Dianne Moran

## Vocabulary

**Cradle Board:** A back-pack styled carrier for an Indian baby made of a wooden willow frame and covered in soft animal skins.

**Dish-gosh:** A Hidatsa greeting meaning hello and goodbye.

**Earth Lodge:** Northern Plains Indian homes made of tree trunk frames with rounded roofs covered with earth and grass.

**Hawk:** A weapon or tool ...tomahawk. Wooden handle with sharpened iron end used for

protection or chopping wood.

**Medicine/Spirit:** In Indian culture, great medicine or spirit has a good and powerful effect.

**Parfleche:** Rawhide animal skin bag; an Indian "suitcase".

**Pipe Hawk:** A gift from the soldiers to chiefs; a combination hawk and pipe for smoking.

**Pirogue:** A French term for a canoe type boat made of a hollowed tree trunk.

## Post-Performance Activities

1. Use this performance and discussion about Sacagawea as a starting point for a study of Native Americans. Have each student research and report on a famous Native American of his/her choosing.
2. Have students follow the journey of the Corps of Discovery on a large map. See if the students today can find what the expedition could not, a "Northwest Passageway."
3. Have students research, write and perform a short piece based on a famous American of their choosing.
4. Discuss why the Louisiana Purchase was important not just to Jefferson, but Napoleon and what he planned to do with the money gained from the sale.



## List of Resources

### BOOKS

Women of the Earth Lodges  
By Virginia Bergman Peters  
University of Oklahoma Press (2000)  
ISBN: 0-8061-3243-4

Undaunted Courage  
By Stephen Ambrose  
Simon & Schuster (1996)  
ISBN: 068426976

### VIDEO

Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery  
PBS Home Video (1997)  
AISN: 0780618831

### Website

[www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org)