

Shoshoni

By **Katie**

My Indian tribe is the Shoshoni. They were also known as the Snake Nation. They lived in Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Montana. They lived in small groups called bands. They had to move around a lot so they couldn't set up villages because they were always searching for food. They used bow and arrows to hunt buffalo, antelope, squirrels, rabbits, and birds. They also ate fish, berries, and plant roots. The Shoshoni wore little clothing. The men wore loin cloths and the women wore aprons. In the winter they made warm robes out of rabbit fur and other animal fur. Shoshoni people believed in one father or creator called Duma Apoah. Each morning they would face the east and sing a prayer song to Apoah. They thought that the rays of the sun would carry their words to him. The Shoshoni people loved to sing, dance and tell stories that had religious meanings. They also enjoyed running races, juggling mud balls and shooting arrows at targets.

In 1804 president Thomas Jefferson sent two men to explore the northwestern United States. They were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. They asked a woman named Sacagawea to join them. Sacagawea was kidnapped from the Shoshoni during a raid in 1800. She lived with other Indians and a French fur trader she had been forced to marry. Lewis and Clark wanted Sacagawea to guide them through the land and act as an interpreter in case they met other Indians on the way.

Sacagawea was the most helpful when they met a large force of Shoshoni warriors near the border of Montana. The Shoshoni were ready to attack. This was an important moment in history. If the American expedition had been wiped out, England might have tried to claim what is now the northwestern United States. Sacagawea recognized the Shoshoni chief as her brother, Cameahwait. Instead of fighting, the Indians traded Lewis and Clark the horses they needed to reach the Pacific Ocean. Today the Shoshoni live in Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and California. That is my report on the Shoshoni tribe.