

Costumes

Lewis and Clark Meet the Salish

from the journals of Lewis and Clark, quoted in *First Across the Continent: The Story of the Exploring Expedition of Lewis and Clark in 1804-5-6*

by Noah Brooks (Adapted)

"September 5. We assembled the chiefs and warriors, and informed them who we were and the purpose for which we had visited their country...They are...one band of a nation called [Salish], a numerous people of four hundred and fifty tents, residing on the head-waters of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, and some of them lower down the latter river...The hair of the men is worn in braids of otter skin, falling in front over the shoulders.

A shirt of dressed skin covers the body to the knee, and over this is worn occasionally a robe. To these are added leggings and moccasins.... [The women's] chief article of covering is a long shirt of skin, reaching down to the ankles, and tied round the waist. In other respects, as also in the few ornaments which they possess, their appearance is similar to that of the Shoshonees."

Design a costume for an actor playing one of the Salish men or women in a play about Lewis and Clark.

