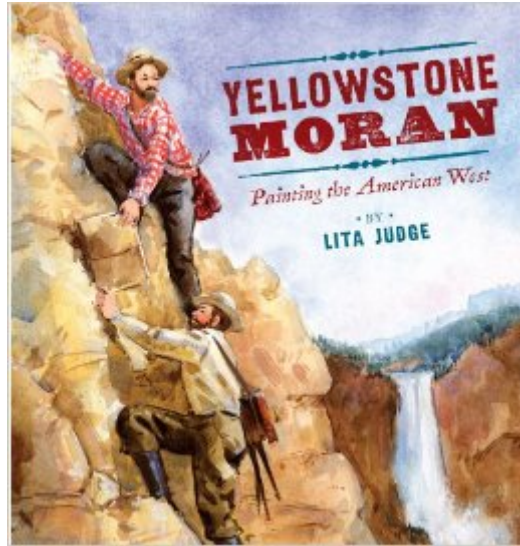


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# Yellowstone Moran: Painting The American West



## Synopsis

Follow Tom Moran on an unbelievable real-life adventure! In the summer of 1871, a young painter named Thomas Moran joined a team of scientists heading for the untamed land called "the Yellowstone." He couldn't believe what he found there—steaming cauldrons of sulfur, belching geysers, even a thousand-foot-deep canyon. Tom had never ridden a horse or slept under the stars before, but the paintings he created on his journey from city boy to seasoned explorer would lead to the founding of America's first national park. Trained as a fine artist, Lita Judge captures the wild and rugged beauty of Yellowstone in this stunning book she's wanted to write her whole life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD900L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (September 3, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670011320

ISBN-13: 978-0670011322

Product Dimensions: 10 x 9.6 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #217,024 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting](#) #71 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Forests & Trees](#) #114 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art](#)

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

This lovely picture book shares a part of history and beauty of our great country. Thomas Moran adventures and his painting of Yellowstone helped convince congress to make Yellowstone American's first National Park.

Lita Judge's "Yellowstone Moran: Painting the American West" brings excitement to the brave adventures of Thomas Moran and the stunning beauty of Yellowstone National Park, the park he painted and helped create. Early fur trappers brought back unbelievable tales of a strange land high

in the Rocky Mountains. At last, in 1871, the Hayden expedition headed into this wild, rugged country to see if it really was full of boiling geysers, sulfur pools, and steep, yellow cliffs. Yellowstone Moran describes how Thomas Moran, a talented artist, rushed West and talked Dr. Hayden into allowing him to join the expedition. Thomas was well equipped as an artist, but a greenhorn when it came to the challenges of horses, mule trains and wild animals. With superb use of color and design Judge's paintings make me feel the struggle of stubborn mules, the calm of a moonlit geyser basin, and the indignity Moran felt when he needed to place a pillow on his saddle because he was so saddle sore. Her Yellowstone landscapes bring back my own warm memories of the many times I have been there. Judge's writing captures both adventure and history; her stunning paintings capture the essence of Thomas Moran's art and the grandeur of Yellowstone. This combination makes for a beautiful book, full of Yellowstone's beauty and appreciation for Thomas Moran. Its fascinating, true story shows us how the Hayden expedition and Moran's paintings helped convince Congress to create Yellowstone National Park, our first national park. I highly recommend this book, both for its story and for its exceptional art.

Thomas Moran was an artist wanted to see the West. He joined the 1871 expedition to Yellowstone led by Dr. Hayden. Upon their return, Dr. Hayden presented Moran's sketches and paintings along with the scientific findings of the expedition to Congress and President Grant, and in 1872 Grant signed the bill establishing the first U.S. National Park in Yellowstone. This lovely picture book is illustrated in a style similar to that of Moran's paintings, and it's beautiful. The text is also very good - clear and well written, with plenty of information about both the land and the people on the expedition. There are also snippets of actual letters written by Moran, shown in the illustrations as letters, which is a nice feature. Reading the book, I felt like I got a small sense of what it might have been like to be on that expedition, not knowing what to expect, sometimes tired and wet and cold, and encountering a land of breathtaking beauty like nothing I'd ever seen before. (Note: I received a free advance reading copy of this book from the publisher at an American Library Association Annual Conference. I was not required to write a positive review. Thank you, Viking!)

Yellowstone Moran: Painting the American West is another excellent book from Lita Judge. She has a great ability to capture historical events and bring them to life. This book introduces children to the art style of Thomas Moran and turns a historical fact into an exciting adventure. Great book and I highly recommend it.

When Lita Judge was growing up, her family visited Yellowstone every summer. They spent weeks at a time in the great park. Lita dreamed of being an explorer and painting a magical place few had ever seen. In *Yellowstone Moran*, Lita uses her knowledge of the park to capture the discoveries of the landscape painter Thomas Moran and the 1871 expedition to Yellowstone. The next year Moran's epic painting helped convince Congress to make Yellowstone America's first national park. Lita's lively account and vivid art lets readers share in the excitement of that expedition.

WOW-illustrated in the amazing Thomas Moran style, and a great historical story too!

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