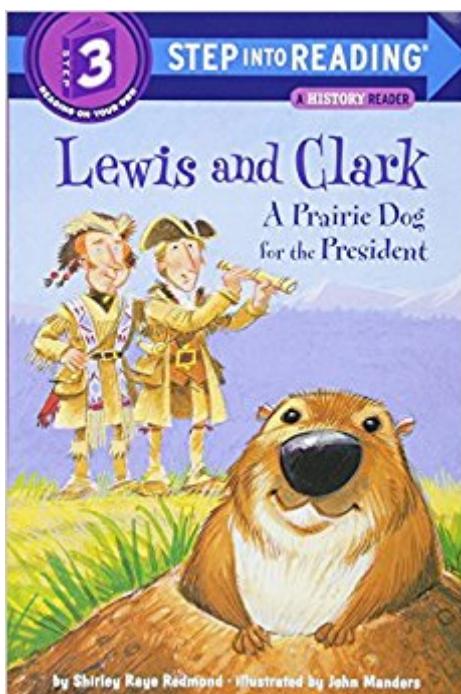


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# Lewis And Clark: A Prairie Dog For The President (Step Into Reading, Step 3)



## **Synopsis**

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson sends Lewis and Clark out west to explore. He tells them to make maps. He tells them to draw pictures and collect plants. Most importantly, he tells them to send presents! What kind of present is good enough for a president? Beginning readers will truly enjoy reading about this fun and little-known slice of American history.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0320 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #39,775 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #35 in Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #825 in Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr. 1-3. The history is handled with a light touch in this Step into Reading title about the American West, and Manders' colorful cartoon-style art is a perfect match for the storytelling. President Jefferson asks Lewis and Clark to go west, and "make maps, and explore rivers . . . collect plants and draw wild animals . . . send presents." Comic scenes show the explorers trying to catch buffalo and grizzly bears to send to the president, but they settle on the cute, little, wild dog, which scouts take back to Jefferson together with a huge load of plants, skins, and animals. Other than Sacagawea, who is a big help ("she talked and traded with the Indians they met on the way"), there's no mention of the native peoples the explorers encountered, but this lively history will make

new readers want to know more. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson sends Lewis and Clark out west to explore. He tells them to make maps. He tells them to draw pictures and collect plants. Most importantly, he tells them to send presents! What kind of present is good enough for a president? Beginning readers will truly enjoy reading about this fun and little-known slice of American history.

This is a good series for early elementary. The writing is lively and the colorful pictures are appealing to children who are used to cartoons. Each book describes an important historical event or person. This one describes the amazing Expedition and its connection with President Jefferson by describing an incident that children can relate to. Jefferson asked Lewis and Clark to send him specimens of flora and fauna that they found along the way and the story is about the prairie dog they sent him. I think it's a good idea to choose one important characteristic to catch the child's imagination. Even though it doesn't begin to describe the whole character, it might help the children remember the name and perhaps even help them begin to grasp the significance of some historical events.

I am a fourth grade teacher and bought a set of these to use in my historical fiction unit for some of my students who are reading at this level (a DRA 24 or Lexile Level 320L). My students really enjoyed this book! When we later discussed Thomas Jefferson, they were able to share facts from this story to the class. I have recommended this book to other upper elementary teachers who need a historical fiction or content-related book for struggling readers.

Since my Kindergartener (age five-and-a-half) had completed the Step 2 books in the Step Into Reading series of books, I decided to go ahead and purchase the Step 3 books. I was a bit hesitant because I noticed there is quite a big leap between the Step 2 and Step 3 books, especially in terms of vocabulary and sentence structure. The vocabulary is more advanced with higher order words, and the sentences are longer. I was also concerned that my daughter might not like the topics which seemed to be more 'academic' with history-based stories. My worries were unfounded. She loves the books and is reading them with very little help from me. These books are excellent for building children's reading skills as well as increasing their confidence. Once you've completed the Step 1 and Step 2 books (I would advise proceeding level by level), the Step 3 books are not as daunting

as they might first appear. In "Lewis and Clark", young readers are introduced to the intrepid explorers whose adventures are now part of American history. Their adventures are vividly illustrated with color illustrations that will appeal to visual learners (my daughter is certainly motivated by illustrations - she still balks at reading books that are text-heavy with few illustrations). I can't recommend these books highly enough - they are great for building reading skills, and also educational. This book is a great introduction to history, and I also came up with a series of short comprehension questions based on the story in this book so as to hone my daughter's comprehension skills (e.g. "Who were Lewis and Clark?" "What animal did they give to the President?" etc.).

I just bought about 30 children's books for my son's 7th birthday which is fast approaching. He is entering second grade, but we are told he is an "Advanced Reader." What I do know is that he'll read ANYTHING just to prove he can, but he always goes back to the books with the cute pictures. I gave him this book early because we went on a long road trip and I needed to keep my sanity. When this one arrived I read through it before hiding it in the birthday present storage facility under my bed. This book is Adorable! The illustrations will have the kids laughing, the job they did at conveying humor through the facial expressions is wonderful. The buffalo jammed into the crate is by far one of my favorite pictures other than the Prairie Dog himself. What I was most happy with was that it is a cute tale about real history. The kind of stuff they are leaving out of the schools these days. My husband was astounded that these little readers had historical information that he didn't know. They did an amazing job of taking history and making it fun. I couldn't be happier with this book. Though there are a few larger words in it, my son had no trouble reading it. He actually read it beginning to end 3 times and had to show me the pictures over and over. Since giving it to him, he's taken this specific book everywhere with him. The premise is the story of Lewis and Clark and their famous expedition. It covers the things they saw, the reason for the trip, and that they sent many items back for the president to see - including the silly little prairie dogs. My son laughed and laughed and then proceeded to tell me the stories even without the book. "Did you know Lewis and Clark saw Buffalo? And they found Prairie Dogs, and sent them to the president, and then they went across the country - look there's a picture!" I could not recommend this book enough to both parents and teachers. I will review the others after his birthday.

Cute story!

This is a great read for kids!

This went great with the prairie dog stuffed animal.

What a wonderful book! Can't wait to share with the grands. And now that I've seen this one, I want all the others in this series. Good history lesson with an interesting point of view and terrific illustrations to boot.

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