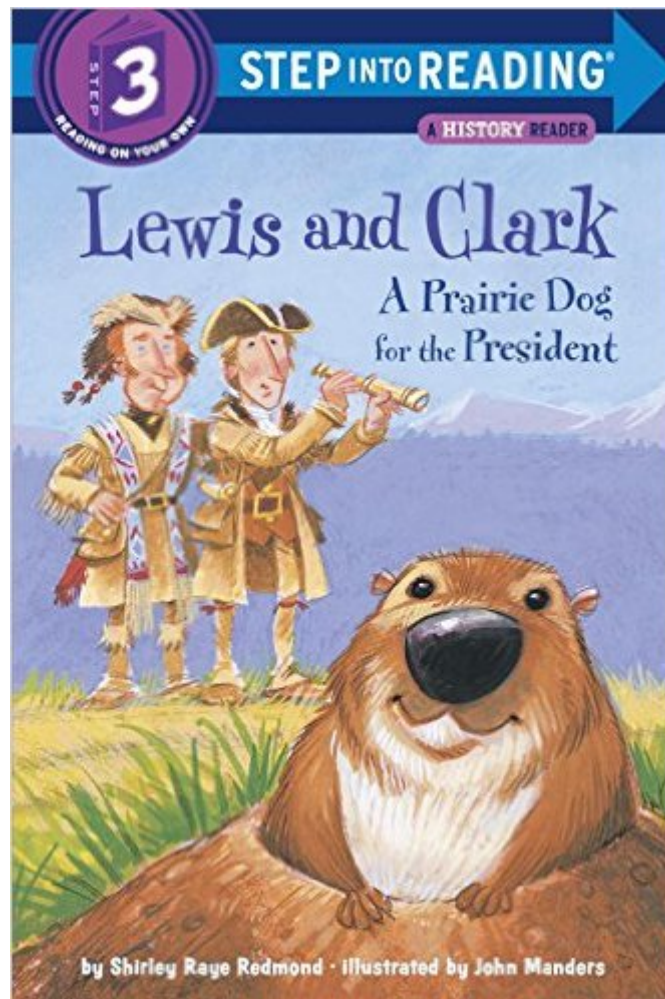


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# Lewis And Clark: A Prairie Dog For The President (Step Into Reading, Step 3)



## 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?)

Series: Step into Reading

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (May 27, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780375811203

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47,669 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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[Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#) #1006 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Lewis and Clark, A Prairie Dog for the President, is a fun read that's nicely paced. Author Shirley Raye Redmond uses whimsy and humor to tell this historic event: President Jefferson sends the eager Lewis and Clark off to explore the West. The vast young nation has never been fully explored. The president wonders how long it will take to get to the end of it and what they will find. One of my favorite parts is the banter over what to name the barking prairie creature they discover and send back to Jefferson. "You can call it a ground rat." "No, it looks like squirrel. I'll call it a barking squirrel." "Squirrels don't bark. Dogs bark. We should call it a prairie dog." "That's it!" Lewis and Clark agreed. Later it starts all over again, when the President asks, "Is it a gopher?" The illustrations by

John Manders are just as pleasing. I like the facial expressions on the people and animals, especially the mischievous smile of the prairie dog. Manders is skilled at portraying action and emotions. And like the author, his sense of humor is so much fun. A buffalo and bear pose to be sketched. A buffalo won't fit in a shipping crate. Prairie dogs pop in and out of holes, eluding capture. A poor scout is so weighed down with "presents" for the President, he must be hoisted onto a boat. Together, Shirley Raye Redmond and John Manders have created a delightful book.

LEWIS AND CLARK: A PRAIRIE DOG FOR THE PRESIDENT is a step 3 young readers book that discusses how the Lewis and Clark expedition began, what its purpose was, and some of the strange sights that the group of explorers saw. The story has some words that the youngest of readers might not be able to handle, but contains enough familiar words and phrases that somewhat older readers (1-3rd graders) won't have any problems and might pick up a few new vocabulary words. The illustration by John Manders is really what makes this book stand out as it adds a depth of humor to the text that would otherwise be lacking. For instance, the picture of the overburdened scout carrying a cage with a prairie dog and another with some magpies, traveling to Baltimore to deliver the plants, animals, and other goods and a letter to the President is quite funny. Overall, this is a really good book that children will enjoy reading and learn some history in the process.

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.

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 story 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.

My two boys love this book, my eight year old who likes history reads it to his little brother who is four. The step into reading are great for age and class level reading, also there are many other history based books on George Washington, Henry Ford Etc.. I am ordering several more, did I mention the price is unbeatable!!!

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