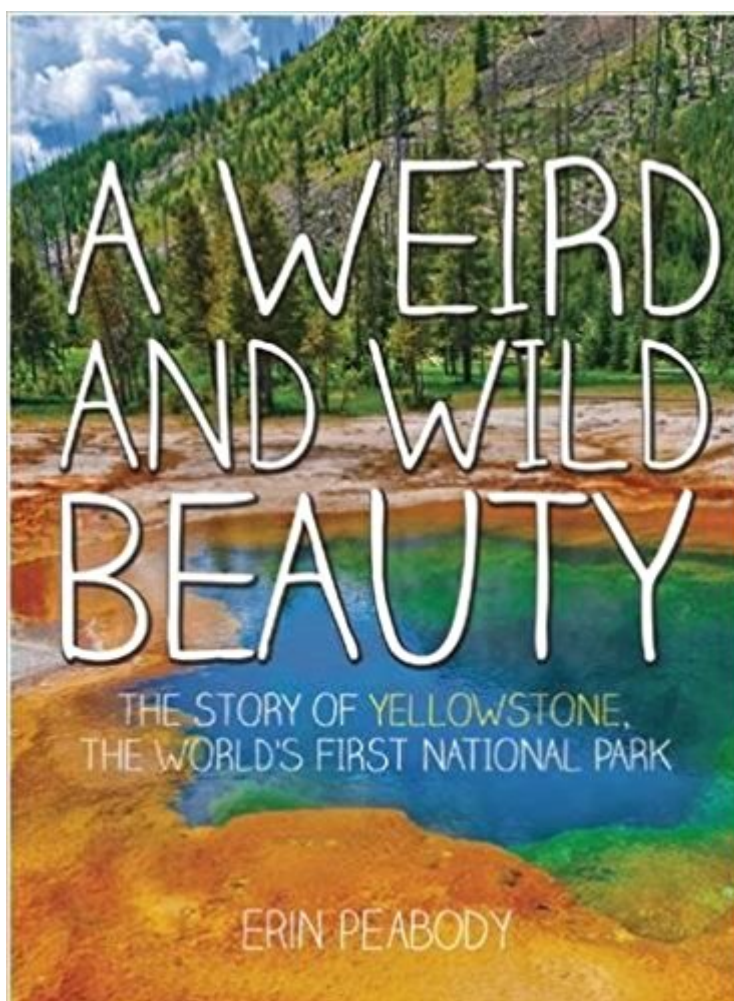


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A Weird And Wild Beauty: The Story Of Yellowstone, The World's First National Park



Synopsis

The summer of 1871, a team of thirty-two men set out on the first scientific expedition across Yellowstone. Through uncharted territory, some of the day's most renowned scientists and artists explored, sampled, sketched, and photographed the region's breathtaking wonders; from its white-capped mountain vistas and thundering falls to its burping mud pots and cauldrons of molten magma. At the end of their adventure, the survey packed up their specimens and boarded trains headed east, determined to convince Congress that the country needed to preserve the land from commercial development. They returned with stories of wonder hardly short of fairy tales, to quote the New York Times. With the support of conservationists such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Law Olmsted, and John Muir, the importance of a national park was secured. On March 1, 1872, Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone Park Bill into law. It set aside over two million acres of one-of-a-kind wilderness as a great national park for the benefit and enjoyment of people. This important and fascinating book will introduce young adults to the astonishing adventure that led to the best idea America ever had. Today over 130 countries have copied the Yellowstone model, and billions of acres of critical habitat and spectacular scenery are being preserved for all of us to enjoy. This book has a wonderful ecological and historical message for readers ages 12 and up. No book about Yellowstone's founding has been written for this age group before, yet Yellowstone National Park is a major destination for many families, so many readers will likely have heard of Yellowstone or even have visited there. This is a great book for any school library or for history or science classrooms in middle and high school, where information can be used for research projects.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Peabody tells the story of one of the first scientific expeditions into the vast Western wilderness surrounding the Yellowstone River. In 1871, Ferdinand Hayden led an expedition of geologists, naturalists, artists, photographers, soldiers, and adventurers into a remote corner of what was then the Montana Territory. The expedition's documentation of the fantastic natural wonders found there ultimately culminated in the passage of the Yellowstone Park Bill, which protected the wilderness from business interests that sought to exploit it and created America's first national park. Peabody does a fine job of conveying the awe-inspiring aspects of Yellowstone without resorting to clichéd descriptions, and her explanations of the science behind the wonders of the wilderness are easy to understand without being overly simplistic. Peabody's narrative is thin in regard to her treatment of native peoples in the Yellowstone region. However, since the purpose of her text is to relate the history and legacy of the expedition, her focus on the reports of the expedition members makes narrative sense. The carefully selected and well-organized photographs, maps, and other illustrations draw the eye and keep the copious text from becoming dry or tedious. VERDICT This excellent title is recommended for any collection in need of quality creative nonfiction in the area of natural history.-Kelly Kingrey-Edwards, Blinn Junior College, Brenham, TX (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

"This book, with lively writing, great research, and wonderful photographs, maps, and other graphics, deserves a much wider readership than its intended audience, and should find a place in libraries and classrooms everywhere." #151;San Francisco Book Review "If Peabody's impassioned, vividly written chronicle of how Yellowstone became a national park does not make readers want to visit, nothing will....The dramatic, picturesque descriptions of the expedition read very much like an adventure story.... A lively, richly detailed account of exploration, conservation, and natural history." #151;Kirkus Reviews "This thorough and insightful history of Yellowstone chronicles an 1871 scientific expedition to#151;and the eventual creation of#151;what would

become the first U.S. National Park. Peabody, a former ranger who has worked at several national parks, explores how shifting views of nature—and support from the likes of Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and John Muir—contributed to the region's preservation. Vivid descriptions, numerous sidebars, and color photographs highlight Yellowstone's dramatic geological features, including hot springs, waterfalls, and canyons; in fact, when explorers wrote about the terrain they encountered, 'Yellowstone's turquoise pools, mud puffs, and jetting geysers' helped earn it the nickname Wonderland, after Lewis Carroll's recently published book. At its core, Peabody's narrative explores how wilderness became an integral part of the American identity. Ages 12–up" —Publisher's Weekly “This excellent title is recommended for any collection in need of quality creative nonfiction in the area of natural history. —School Library Journal “Peabody uses her own experiences as a park ranger to write with authority on the landforms and geothermal features that are hallmarks of Yellowstone, and the end matter includes a guide to the most unusual attractions. By emphasizing the uniqueness of Yellowstone through the eyes of men like Hayden, who experienced it in its rawest form, this is a call for conservation neatly packaged as a high-interest historical narrative. —Booklist “Perfect for students interested in exploration, adventure, and nature. —VOYA “Yellowstone National Park is beautifully portrayed as an historical, astounding, and simply magical place filled with natural wonders that proudly display America's unique landscape. Written from an historical point of view, Peabody uses accounts from various adventurers and explorers to spin the tale of the exploration, establishment, and highlights of the awesome national park. Sidebars are snugly and smartly incorporated into the book to provide more insight on animals, sights, famous people, and fun facts. 4Q, 4P. —Shirley Yan, Teen Reviewer, VOYA

I highly recommend this book to anyone not only interested in learning about Yellowstone National Park, but also about the life and hardships of the explorers. The book tells a colorful story of adventure in words and pictures and interesting inserts give the reader an opportunity to learn more about specific subjects the author brings up in the story. All in all a well-written fun read. I hope this is just the first in a series of books on our national parks that Ms. Peabody has planned!

What a joy it would have been to have this as a text book in school, would have kept me awake in class! Love the rich details that draw you in to the characters and their adventures, you feel you're there with them. The author inspires an appreciation for Yellowstone and Nature and has a gift of

making this historical read fun for any age...can't wait for the movie!

Such an informative and interesting tribute to the history of one of our country's greatest assets. Peabody's enthusiasm and passion clearly comes across, as well as her interest in engaging and inspiring readers. I definitely gained a greater appreciation for Yellowstone after this read!

Explores one of the strangest places on earth. If you haven't all ready been, you will want to book your trip to Yellowstone. This book makes you proud that we have preserved these wonderful treasures in a national park for all to enjoy. Captures the interest of young readers and adults.

I know the author. We drink beer together a couple times a week. She's knowledgeable regarding the subject matter and isn't afraid to put pen to paper when it moves her! It's an easy read, not text-bookish. Very enjoyable! I could go on and on, but she'd likely not appreciate it -so I won't. Buy the book...

This is a wonderful book! Beautifully written, great detail! It evokes such passion for our National Parks! You should definitely get it!

I would recommend reading this if you plan on going to Yellowstone.

A great book that kept me interested the entire read!

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