

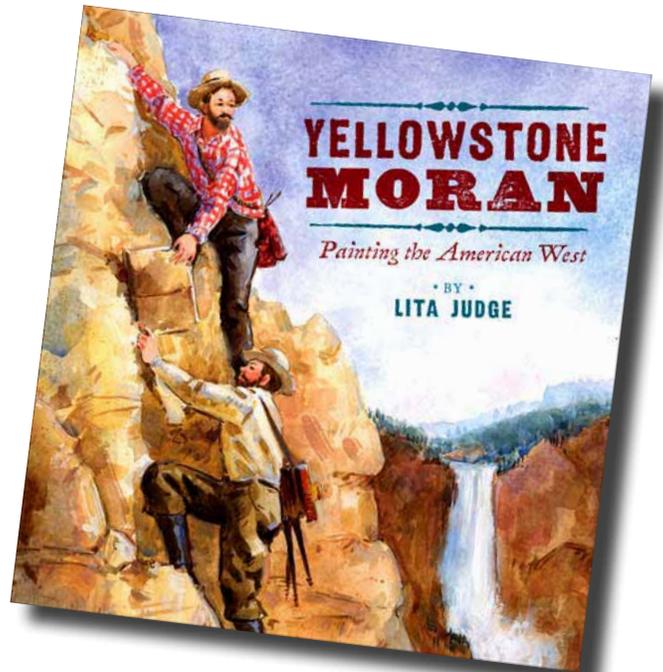
Yellowstone Moran

by Lita Judge

Journaling and Sketching

Thomas Moran was a young illustrator who joined the first official expedition into the Yellowstone region. While on the journey, Moran kept a diary and painted watercolor sketches that helped inspire Congress to create our first National Park.

When I created *Yellowstone Moran*, I followed in Moran's footsteps with my own journal and sketchbook as I explored Yellowstone National Park. I've been keeping sketchbooks and journals since I was a child and many of my current books were inspired by these!



I would like to encourage students to create their own sketchbooks and journals. These will help develop good writing and drawing habits, and will provide tools to capture creative ideas.

Tools for Your Journal

I keep a very simple set of tools that consists of:

- sketchbook
- binoculars
- pens, pencils, eraser
- watercolor paint set (mine has space for 12 colors)



Where can you go?

- You can record the happenings in one spot, like your backyard or garden.
- Travel to new places or favorite spots that you return to in different season. Record the changes you see.

Have Fun!

- Your journal is for yourself. Don't worry about the finished results. Just record what you see and feel.





What kinds of things can you include?

- I write about things I do, what I see, what the land and sky look like.
- I draw things that interest me, especially animals. I write about their behaviors, what they eat, things I watch them do, and draw quick gestures of them as they move. Or I draw the tracks they leave behind.
- Sometime I write a short poems about the things I see, or write a story about an animal I watch.
- Sometimes I just write words that capture what it is I see.
- Occasionally I press flowers or leaves in my journal to remember the day.

