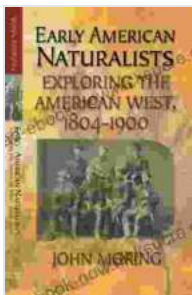


# Early American Naturalists Exploring the American West, 1804-1900

The American West was a vast and mysterious land in the early 19th century. European explorers had mapped the coastline and some of the major rivers, but the interior was largely unknown. This vast and largely unexplored wilderness held a deep fascination for scientists and naturalists. What plants and animals lived there? What were the geological formations? How had the land changed over time?



## Early American Naturalists: Exploring the American West, 1804-1900 by John Moring

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2105 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 260 pages



In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase, which had recently been acquired from France. The expedition, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, was the first to cross the Rocky Mountains and reach the Pacific Ocean. Along the way, Lewis and Clark collected and recorded information on hundreds of plants and animals. They also made detailed observations of the geology and geography of the land.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was just the beginning of a long line of scientific expeditions that would explore the American West. In the decades that followed, naturalists such as John James Audubon, John Muir, and Clarence King would all make significant contributions to our understanding of the West's natural history.

**John James Audubon** (1785-1851) was a French-American ornithologist and naturalist who is best known for his book *The Birds of America*, which contains detailed illustrations and descriptions of over 1,000 bird species. Audubon was a keen observer of nature, and his work helped to popularize the study of ornithology in the United States.

**John Muir** (1838-1914) was a Scottish-American naturalist and conservationist who is known for his explorations of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Muir was a passionate advocate for the protection of wilderness areas, and his writings helped to inspire the creation of Yosemite National Park and other protected areas.

**Clarence King** (1842-1901) was an American geologist and explorer who is best known for his work in the American West. King was a member of the Hayden Survey, which explored the Yellowstone area in the 1870s. King was also a strong advocate for the protection of natural resources, and he helped to establish Yellowstone National Park.

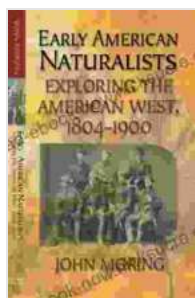
The work of these early American naturalists helped to shape our understanding of the American West. Their observations and collections provided valuable information about the plants, animals, and geology of the region. Their work also helped to inspire a love for the wilderness and a desire to protect it for future generations.

## Timeline of Early American Naturalists

- 1804-1806: Lewis and Clark Expedition
- 1819-1820: Stephen Harriman Long Expedition
- 1823-1825: Major John C. Fremont Expedition
- 1842-1844: John Charles Fremont Expedition
- 1853-1854: Isaac I. Stevens Expedition
- 1867-1869: Clarence King Survey
- 1871-1872: Ferdinand V. Hayden Survey
- 1874-1875: George M. Wheeler Survey

## References

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<https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/audubon>
- Sierra Club. *John Muir*. <https://www.sierraclub.org/john-muir>
- National Geographic. *Clarence King*.  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/clarence-king/>



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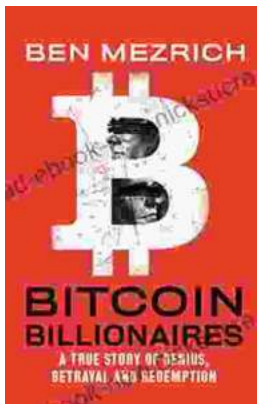
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