

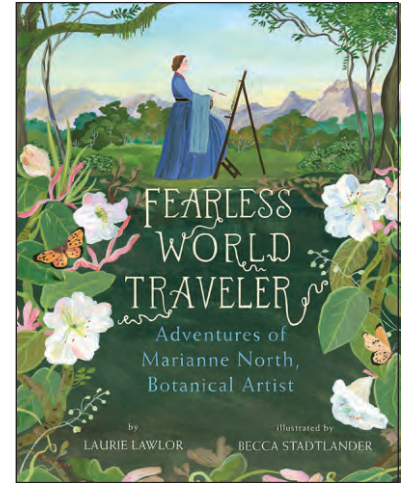
Laurie Lawlor

author ✦ educator ✦ often found in nature

Fearless World Traveler

Adventures of Marianne North, Botanical Artist: an activity and discussion guide

In 1882, Marianne North showed the citizens of gray London paintings of jaw-dropping greenery like they'd never seen before. Images of flowers, birds, and insects from around the world delighted viewers. Her technique of painting specimens in their natural environment was groundbreaking. How did this remarkable woman capture such pictures? She traipsed across swamps, deserts, fields, and jungles on foot, by horse, even a log raft. As a self-taught artist and scientist, Marianne North subverted Victorian gender roles and advanced the field of botanical illustration. Lawlor deftly chronicles North's life, from her restrictive privileged childhood to her wild world adventures to the opening of the Marianne North Gallery at the famous Kew Gardens to her death in 1890.

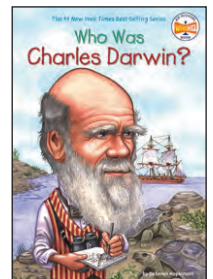
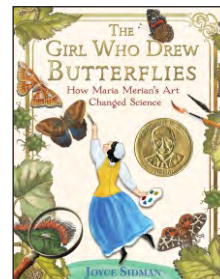
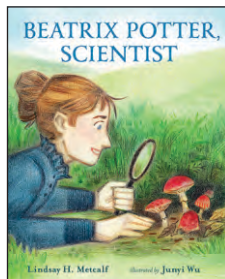
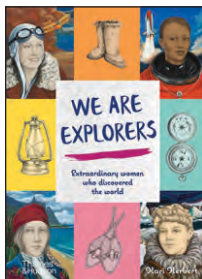
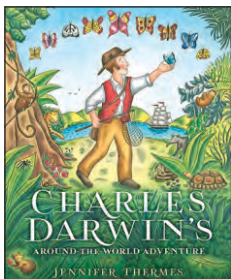


Before and while reading the book

- ❖ What could women *do* and *not do* in the mid-1800s? Could they vote? Go to college? Have a career?
- ❖ What were the differences between the expectations for men and for women?
- ❖ How did people then, and how do people today, learn about local, national, and world-wide plants?
- ❖ Is this what you think of as a typical botanical illustration? Are there other styles?



Add to your knowledge



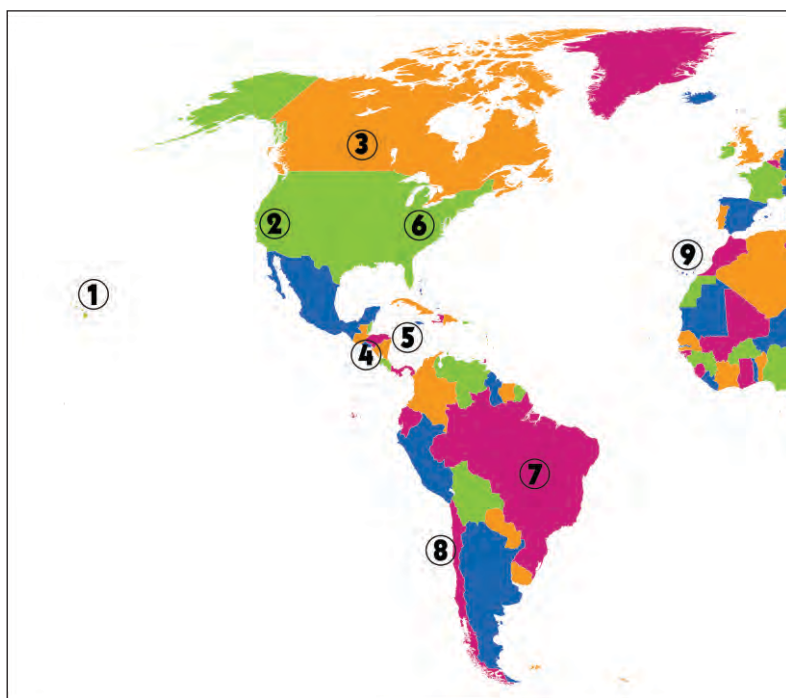
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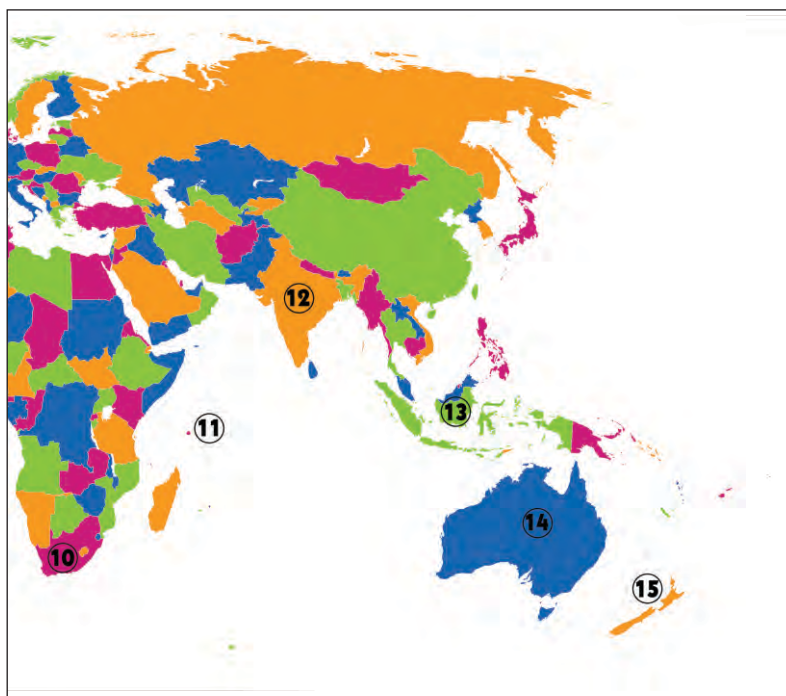
Countries Marianne North Visited

This world map shows the countries mentioned in *Fearless World Traveler* to which Marianne traveled. Put the number representing each country in the circle next to the country's name.

Some of the countries have different names than they did in 1860. Can you guess (or research) which country was once called New Holland? Brasil? British Bechuanaland? Fortunate Islands?



- ☐ Australia and Tasmania
- ☐ Borneo
- ☐ Brazil
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ Canary Islands
- ☐ Central America
- ☐ Chile
- ☐ Hawaii
- ☐ India
- ☐ Jamaica
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ Seychelles
- ☐ South Africa
- ☐ United States, East Coast
- ☐ United States, West Coast



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Can you find these flowers in Becca Stadtlander's illustrations?



Passion flower, pg. _____ (Photo: Lee Ann Landstrom)



Orchid, pg. _____ (Photo: Lee Ann Landstrom)

Look closely at the illustrations in *Fearless World Traveler*. Can you find these flowers?

Write the page number in the blank provided.



Ginger, pg. _____ (Photo: LAL)



Peony, pg. _____ (Photo: Lee Ann Landstrom)



Hibiscus, pg. _____ (Photo: Lee Ann Landstrom)



Guava fruit, pg. _____ (Photo: Hungda, Creative Commons)

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How did Marianne Travel?

In Marianne's time, there were no airplanes or automobiles and few paved roads. Imagine trying to get halfway around the world! How did she do it? Draw a line to match the photo to the mode of transportation. Then check the boxes of the transportation methods that Marianne would have used in the 1870s-1880s.



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John E. Thwaites, public domain, University of Washington Collection, Wikimedia Commons



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- ☐ bicycle
- ☐ covered wagon
- ☐ dug-out canoe

- ☐ elephant back
- ☐ horseback
- ☐ log raft

- ☐ motorcycle
- ☐ mule wagon
- ☐ ox-cart

- ☐ sampan
- ☐ steamship
- ☐ walking

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Nature Journal



Marianne loved to be in nature and observe things small and large. You can do the same thing. Go to your backyard, school yard, or a local park. Look for small things (insects, leaves, flowers) and larger things (birds, trees, scenery). You can bring a tablet or notebook and make your own sketches of what you see, using pencil, colored pencils, or markers. Every time you go, you can make drawings. Soon you will have your own nature journal of your own journeys and observations and how nature changes over time.

Resources

Other resources are handily combined into the Exploring Marianne North website:

<https://www.mariannenorth.uk/>.

- ❖ You can download a delightful booklet PDF (green button under Home), illustrated with a packing list, modes of transport, and many of her paintings and diary quotes from each country she visited.
- ❖ Under Resources, you'll find "Download the Story So Far" green button which tells the story of multi-month events and school activities (especially pages 5-14), an "Infographics for Marianne North Week" green button which discusses and directs some art activities by world regions, and an "Afterschool Club Exercises" green button. There are also videos, books, a timeline, a world map of her travels, and sample paintings.
- ❖ There is a BBC-PBS documentary TV show called, "Kew's Forgotten Queen."

Use technology to search for these:

- ❖ Look up the people listed on Who's Who in the back matter.
- ❖ What things are specifically named in Marianne North's honor?
- ❖ Learn more about these famous biological explorers, their challenges and accomplishments: Charles Darwin, Alfred Russell Wallace, and Alexander Humboldt.
- ❖ Look up other botanical artists who were alive in the 1800s; what are similarities and differences between all their works?
- ❖ Visit the Marianne North Gallery online. <https://www.mariannenorth.uk/>. There is a PDF of a fine booklet with selections from her letters and paintings as she travels the world. Which country would you most want to visit? Why should tourists visit the Gallery?



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Discussion questions



- ❖ What was her family like? How did they influence her career, her life?
- ❖ What interests did she have as a child?
- ❖ What was a turning point in Marianne's life?
- ❖ What is her biggest legacy?
- ❖ Why were her paintings so unique, so important?
- ❖ What challenges did she face and overcome?
- ❖ What was expected of her as a woman?
- ❖ What did she do instead?
- ❖ Do women still have these societal restrictions?
- ❖ If you could go back in time, what questions would you like to ask Marianne?
- ❖ How has botanical illustration changed over the centuries to today?
- ❖ What is the difference between fine art and biological illustration?

About the author

Laurie Lawlor is a prolific and celebrated author of children's books. Her picture book biography *Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World* was named a Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year and a National Science Teachers Association Outstanding Science Trade Book, and received the John Burroughs Riverby Award. Her *Super Women: Six Scientists Who Changed the World* was named a NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book. She lives and teaches in the Chicago metropolitan area. **Visit laurielawlor.com.**



About the illustrator

Becca Stadtlander is an award-winning illustrator and fine artist. She won the Golden Kite Award for Picture Book Illustration for *Made by Hand: A Craft Sampler*. She also illustrated *On the Wing* by David Elliott, which received two starred reviews as well as a Golden Kite Award. She attended the Maryland Institute College of Art and currently lives and works in her hometown of Covington, Kentucky. **Visit beccastadtlander.com.**



A Note for Teachers: The questions and activities in this Guide support the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/ Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects for Grades 1-4; the Next Generation Science Standards; the National Science Standards Framework; and the National Core Arts Standards.

Activity and Discussion Guide, *Fearless World Traveler: Adventures of Marianne North, Botanical Artist* by Laurie Lawlor, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander (Holiday House, 2021) Prepared by Lee Ann Landstrom, copyright © 2022. This guide may be copied for educational or bookstore use but may not be reprinted or resold for commercial purposes. **www.laurielawlor.com**