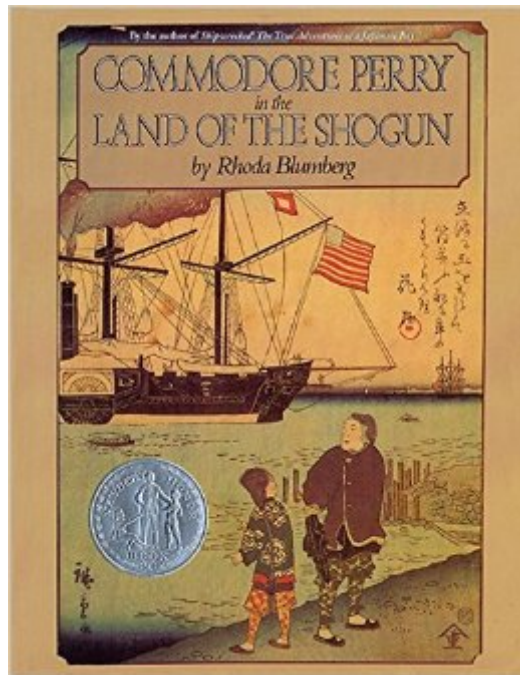


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# Commodore Perry In The Land Of The Shogun



## Synopsis

In 1853, few Japanese people knew that a country called America even existed. For centuries, Japan had isolated itself from the outside world by refusing to trade with other countries and even refusing to help shipwrecked sailors, foreign or Japanese. The country's people still lived under a feudal system like that of Europe in the Middle Ages. But everything began to change when American Commodore Perry and his troops sailed to the Land of the Rising Sun, bringing with them new science and technology, and a new way of life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1070 (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (January 21, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #339,570 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Asia #92 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Japanese #118 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Government

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

We lived in Japan and I homeschooled when I first read this book. Much more interesting way to learn about the opening of Japan than through a text. Another excellent book that is a great companion to this one is "Born in the Year of Courage."

We purchased this book because it was required reading for my rising 6th grader. He is a very good reader and could read this book. However, it is non-fiction. He loves fiction and wasn't really motivated to read this. We read this together- taking turns reading pages. We quickly got into the story. Unlike some non-fiction, this book is a story. We both learned so many things about Commodore Perry and his expedition to the Land of the Shogun, Japan. We both thoroughly

enjoyed the story. It has many pictures which added greatly to the story. The pictures are drawings by the parties involved in this expedition- the Japanese and the Americans. The drawings are a fascinating part of the story as you get to see how people are viewed by the different cultures. The story also is told from the different perspectives- from the Japanese and the American perspectives. Thus, we can understand why the Japanese were not interested in trading with foreigners. Certainly this topic is relevant to some of our problems today. Our fear of foreigners is certainly causing controversy in modern times in the US. Maybe we can learn a lesson? This book is not political though and does not give a "message". It is a very good, well balanced story that leaves it to the reader to make their own conclusions. Either way, it's an excellent book. I highly recommend it for ages 9-14. You may want to read it with your child unless they love non-fiction -especially for younger ones. My child read it with me at age 11 so any 9 year old readers would need to be gifted readers or very interested in this topic (historical non-fiction) in my judgement.

Beginning as the "giant dragons puffing smoke" descended upon the fishing village of Shimoda, this book chronologically follows Commodore Matthew Perry's expedition and subsequent opening of Japan for trade with the United States. This volume, which appears to have been extremely well-researched, fits the actions and reaction of both the Japanese and the westerners into an unbiased and even context. Japanese feudal society is explained, as well as Japan's historically isolationist position, and it is pointedly explained just how much misinformation about one another each side believed. One point that will stand out to most readers is the irony of how each side looked upon the other - as barbarians in need of civilizing; and just how much politics and personality impacts the face of world relations. Artwork is less abundant than in similar texts, but with licensing fees and the rising cost of publishing, this is understandable. A number of Japanese images of Commodore Perry are included, each less flattering than the one before it. The appendices are particularly interesting: a letter from President Millard Fillmore (you just don't see enough about old Millard) to the Emperor of Japan, and a translation of the Emperor's reply; an intriguing list of American Presents for the Japanese (nearly everyone in the Emperor's family or commission received, among other things, at least 5 gallons of whiskey and a revolver), and a similar list of presents from the Japanese for Americans; and the text of the Treaty of Kanagawa.

I considered this selection because it was recommended by . It gave me background info on my favorite book, Shogun and it told the story of Commodore Perry very well with great pictures, comics and insight from Japan, at that time.

This book is written for upper elementary or middle school students, but appeals to a much broader range. I bought this book to read for myself and also to read with my 3rd grade son. The book is interesting and has a good pace. Interesting pictures are included that help catch the attention of younger readers. I think this book is a good choice for teaching children history.

This book is exactly what I was looking for, something that would drop me right back into those early days of contact between Japan and the USA, so I could sense the cultural differences, the political environment, and something of the surprise involved in that kind of cultural exchange. I didn't expect to get all that and more, but I did. School Library Journal is quoted as saying "there is no better book for students on this historical event" -- I would say students of all ages who want this kind of concise but comprehensive introduction to the events portrayed. And it is beautifully produced. A treasure for my bookshelf, not just one fast read.

Its a very good book!!!!It has alot of detail on the Japanes life in the very old days of the world.Its the best you can get!!!!

My 11 year old was fascinated with the depictions and original art introducing the reader to Westerners' first experiences in Japan.

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