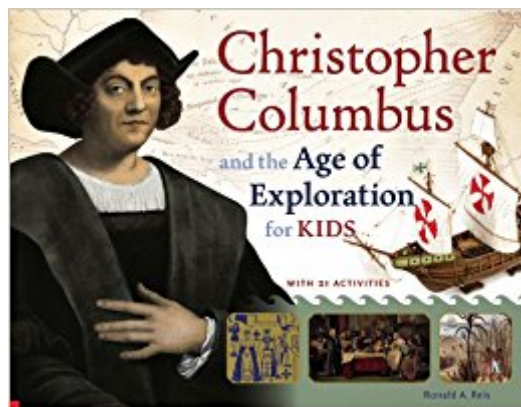




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Christopher Columbus And The Age Of Exploration For Kids: With 21 Activities (For Kids Series)



Synopsis

An NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People Christopher Columbus is one of the most famous people in world history, yet few know the full story of the amazing, resourceful, and tragic Italian explorer. Christopher Columbus and the Age of Exploration for Kids portrays the "Admiral of the Ocean Seas" neither as hero nor heel but as a flawed and complex man whose significance is undeniably monumental. Kids will gain a fuller picture of the seafarer's life, his impact, and the dangers and thrills of exploration as they learn about all four of Columbus's voyages to the New World, not just his first, as well as the year that Columbus spent stranded on the island of Jamaica without hope of rescue. Students, parents, and teachers will appreciate the in-depth discussions of the indigenous peoples of the New World and of the consequences of Columbus's voyages—the exchange of diseases, ideas, crops, and populations between the New World and the Old. Fun hands-on activities illuminate both the nautical concepts introduced and the times in which Columbus lived. Kids can: Tie nautical knots Conduct a blanket (silent) trade Make a compass Simulate a hurricane Take nautical measurements And much more

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1040 (What's this?)

Series: For Kids series

Paperback: 160 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6-10-Students who tackle this long-winded text will discover new tidbits of information about the real Christopher Columbus and will be fascinated by how much their textbooks don't tell them. For example, a portrait of the explorer was never commissioned in his lifetime. Readers also get a look at the politics involved in Columbus's discoveries and his relationships with and treatment of Native peoples he encountered on his voyages. The book is full of captioned illustrations and sidebars, and activities, such as how to simulate a hurricane, which are interesting extensions that could work in other content-area classes. This is a good title for libraries that need to update their Columbus biographies.-Esther Keller, I.S. 278, Brooklyn, NY
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Christopher Columbus's biography is not a simple story to tell. It is wrought with legend, lore, myth, and historiographical inconsistencies. Yet this book manages to offer a straightforward glimpse into the life and times of Columbus with a narrative that does not shy away from more unsettling aspects of his life, including his treatment of the Arawak people and his unflinching belief that he had reached the Indies, in spite of all evidence to the contrary. Drawing heavily on primary source material, such as Columbus's own papers and Bartolom   de las Casas's accounts of encounters with Native Americans, the text examines Columbus's career, personal life, and professional goals. Reis puts the explorer in context with a thorough look at motivations for exploration and scientific beliefs of the time. Throughout the book, 21 activities are offered as reinforcement, including projects to re-create a solar eclipse with a flashlight, and to make a quadrant and compass. Many of these activities are STEM friendly, making this a useful interdisciplinary resource. Grades 5-8. --Erin Anderson

I bought this book for my grand kids. I have projects around the house when they come over for a visit. The activities are fun and they learn about geography and history simultaneously. I recommend this book for kids between the ages of 7 and 11....my 4 year old grand daughter wasn't interested.

Loved it!

Did you know that every portrait of Columbus that was ever painted was done after the explorer's death? So no one is absolutely certain about what he looked like...Did you know that the Admiral and his men were marooned on the island of Jamaica in 1503 and stayed there for one year and

five days until they were rescued?...Or that Columbus married a woman in 1479 he hardly knew, with no dowry, named, Felipa Moniz Perestrella. Tragically she died the next year shortly after giving birth to their son, Diego from causes that remain uncertain today. Despite all of Columbus' writings, he never once mentioned his wife...In 1486 he impregnated his young mistress, Beatriz Enriquez de Herana with his second son, Ferdinand. Beatriz was too far beneath Columbus in social status, so he never married her...And did you know that there are historical experts who believe that Columbus was Jewish, despite the fact that there is no direct evidence to support that theory? These are just some of the many fascinating facts in the book. Learn many more, including those that dispel long-held myths about the Admiral. A wonderful timeline in the book lets reader know Columbus set out on four major explorations of the Americas, and I recommend that readers study this closely before getting into the chapters so they can get the proper perspective of the order in which Columbus explored. The eight chapters of the book delve into the highlights of each exploration including the discoveries, political situations, indigenous populations, weather challenges, hardships, triumphs and much more. 21 activities are included in the book, all related to Columbus and the era of his discoveries. They are not only extremely educational but also fun to do. You can Make a Compass or Ancient Globe, Pan for Gold, Make a Sundial and much more. Of the many lessons in Christopher Columbus and the Age of Exploration, what impresses me most is that author Ronald A. Reis really makes readers think about the importance of seeking the truth when researching an historical figure. He lets us know that just because a theory is known to be fact, it doesn't necessarily make it true. Readers will come to know the man that Columbus truly was and get a feel for how challenging life was for explorers, back in a time where life spans were much shorter and sanitary conditions and medical advances were nothing like they are today. The fifteenth century was a time where few people ever bathed and fatal disease was rampant. Children will also learn about the politics of Europe at the time and Columbus' important relationship with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. They will learn about geography, one of my favorite subjects, and be introduced to indigenous cultures in the Americas that Columbus encountered. Many excellent drawings and photos help make these stories come to life. One of the more important facts they will take away from the book is that Columbus, who died with great wealth, did not die with great fame. It would be many many years later before his name would be credited to his triumphant achievements. Finally,, they will get a glimpse into the achievements of many explorers who came before and after Columbus as well. I highly recommend this book.

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