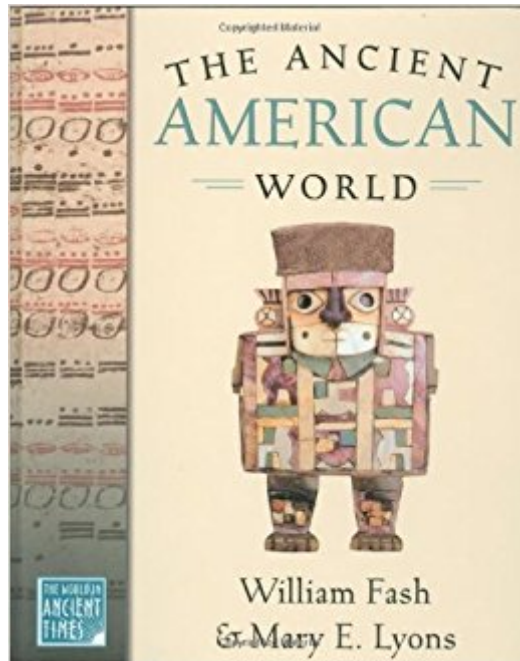




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The Ancient American World (The World In Ancient Times)



Synopsis

A Zapotec village chief named One Earthquake is murdered by his enemies, who then carve the gruesome image of his death on a huge stone slab and place it in their temple as a warning to others. An Inca official selects young village girls to be raised in the distant House of the Chosen Women, where they will spend the rest of their childhoods learning traditional arts in complete seclusion. A Spanish priest named Bernardino Sahagún recounts the development of the mighty Aztec empire in Mesoamerica and witnesses its tragic overthrow by Spanish conquistadors. These are a few of the gripping stories readers will encounter in *The Ancient American World*. Authors William Fash and Mary E. Lyons use a wide range of primary sources including sculptures, hieroglyphs, pottery, and ancient tombs to trace the captivating history of ancient America. Readers accompany archaeologists as they unearth fantastic artifacts and spectacular buildings and decode ancient manuscripts to unlock the secrets of these cultures. From farming to the building of great pyramids and from sacred sacrifices to the Spanish conquest, *The Ancient American World* uses archaeological findings and ancient texts to explore the remarkable cultures of this region.

Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 15 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

Customer Reviews

William L. Fash is professor of archaeology and ethnology and director of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. Mary E. Lyons is the author of more than fifteen children's books, including

Sorrow's Kitchen: The Life and Folklore of Zora Neale Hurston (Aladdin, 1993), Letters from a Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs (Simon Pulse, 1996), and Feed the Children First: Irish Memories of the Great Hunger (Atheneum, 2002).

Some students loved this book because it had, "all sorts of gross stuff," but the teacher loves it because the history is sound, balanced and very, very interesting to eighth grade students. Beware that boys, even those who usually skip assignments, may read ahead in this one. It's a page turner. This is one of the best volumes in the Oxford Ancient series for middle schoolers. Kids love it and teaching it was fun as well.

All the books in THE WORLD IN ANCIENT TIMES series (2005 ed) are excellent--no matter the contributing author. The publisher (Oxford) has envisioned and produced high quality books that present rich content in a pleasing visual and tactile product. There are generally 20-30 chapters of 3 to 10 pages each. Each chapter is thematic that runs more or less chronologically. Photographs and sidebars are dispersed throughout a chapter, and each page has plenty of white space. The only detraction--a little more line spacing would help those children with borderline vision issues. Several maps are incorporated throughout the book, so that purchasing additional specialized maps may not be necessary for the cash-strapped. At the back of the book, there is a Timeline, reading & website list, as well as an index. There is also a single Primary Material and Resource book that supports the whole series for deeper enrichment. Children like the fact that each ancient world volume is library bound in its own text. They are a manageable size. They do not have to lug a heavy tome around for year, that inevitably gets tattered due to its size. I have used these volumes in two rotations and will use them again for third and they appear like new. This series is an excellent investment without having to cost an arm and a leg.

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