

The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia

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Packed with intriguing facts and invaluable information, this fully revised and updated edition is the key to the past. From the founding of Rome and Byzantine Empire to the first Moon landing and the end of apartheid. Ages 8+.

Kingfisher is an award-winning publisher of non-fiction and fiction for children of all ages. Known around the world for its informative and engaging reference and early learning books, Kingfisher also receives widespread acclaim for its classic anthologies for five- to fourteen-year-olds and original picture books for very young children. Designed to help students ages 8-14 with homework or a school project, this revised and updated book is also an interesting and enjoyable resource to browse. Organized chronologically and then thematically, the encyclopedia divides history into 10 time periods, from "The Ancient World 40,000-500 B.C." to "The Modern World 1950-Present Day." This last section concludes with the "War on Terror" and has information current to 2003.

Each section begins with a two-page spread showing "The World at a Glance," a map, and brief text highlighting events that were occurring on each continent during the period. This is followed by approximately 20 one- or two-page topical entries. Non-Western cultures are represented. For example, "The Renaissance" includes entries on the Aztecs, Safavid Persia, Japan and China, and the Songhay Empire. In addition to text, entries have boxes showing key dates, a running time line at the top of each page, maps, and numerous illustrations, almost all of them in color. Each large chronological section concludes with a series of pages that give overviews of the arts, architecture, and science and technology. A highly useful ready-reference section at the end of the volume provides the names and dates of a variety of rulers (for example, Roman emperors, popes, kings and queens, presidents, prime ministers) and ancient Egyptian and Chinese dynasties. A list of major wars and a brief listing of Web sites are also provided.

Students will find this tool useful and engaging, and adults will enjoy browsing through it as well. School and public libraries will want to purchase this update and circulate older editions. Shauna Yusko

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Other Books

Story Of The World #2 Middle Ages Activity Book. This comprehensive activity book and curriculum guide about the Middle Ages contains comprehension questions and answers, maps and geography activities, coloring pages, lists of additional readings in history and literature, and simple, hands-on activities designed for grades one through four.

Joan of Arc , by Diane Stanley (Morrow Junior Books, 1988). Beautiful full-page illustrations, but more difficult text than most picture books; better for older readers. (RA 1-3, IR4-5) Joan of Arc : The Lily Maid, by Margaret Hodges ..."