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History News: The Roman News



Synopsis

"These entertaining, deftly organized books will make terrific light-hearted additions to curriculum units on ancient civilizations."  Publishers Weekly Stop the presses! What if ancient civilizations had daily newspapers? And they were amusing and compellingly informative? They might just look like this innovative series of historical nonfiction, presented in a unique, kid-friendly format.

Book Information

Series: History News

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up. Browsable reads to whet the appetite. The "editors" (authors) of these two volumes have hit upon a unifying theme to chronicle the accomplishments of the ancients?a newspaper style. The Roman News and The Greek News are not exactly major city dailies; their format is more suggestive of a news magazine or at least a Sunday section highlighting fashion, sports, trade, food, and the military. Each page presents readable articles complete with headlines, boldface, column breaks, illustrations, and, often classifieds: instruments for sale; racing chariots built to order; reusable wax tablets. The front page (book cover) suggests a scope of approximately 1200 years, and the rise and fall of each empire is explained. A publisher's disclaimer also cautions that the ancients did not have newspapers (of course, they didn't even have paper!), but if they had, "they

would have been reading...." Similar comments dart in and out of the news stories so that the entire tone is more human interest than ready reference. Such editorializing, however, only slightly distracts from the facts, which are accurate. Significant dates and events are all newsworthy. "Olympic Games Spoiled," "Caesar Stabbed," and "Hannibal Invades" are typical stories. The slightly oversized pages with decorative borders, sidebars, ads, and cartoons create an interesting layout. Many teachers would probably rejoice with the delivery of The Greek or Roman News as a project for a social-studies or whole-language unit. Kids can adopt this highly readable, albeit slightly sensationalized journalistic style. All in all, serviceable reporting. ?Harriett Farnoli, Great Neck Library, NY Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Read all about it! Now The Roman News presents life in ancient Rome in a the form of a daily newspaper written at the time. Featuring news stories about key events of the period, fascinating articles on daily life, letters to the editor, and even advertisement, this innovative book presents historical nonfiction in a unique child-friendly format. Full color. (Ages 10 and up). -- Synopsis --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I have several of these books and they are great for students. I use this when I teach Julius Caesar and it works as a great supplement to the play. These books put the history of the specific time period in context for the students and add a bit of humor. The art is also very well-done.

Pretty clever.

Eye catching cover - my students wanted to look at these books right away. The format is a creative model for student projects where they put themselves in the time period to report the news.

This was a great addition to the study of ancient Rome. It is engaging for multiple age ranges. I love how theae books are in newspaper format. We have also used The Greek Times and like it as well.

Bought it for someone else.

This thin book is certainly very attractive with its many graphics and easygoing style and probably in the end does stimulate interest for younger readers to try to find out more. It would have been nice

however if some controversial conclusions about Roman history were not presented as fact. For example, it is not universally agreed that Romulus was an historical person or that 753 BC is the actual date of the founding of the city. While I fully realize that the conceit of the book is that it is supposed to be a view of the world as the Romans themselves saw it, that does not excuse giving wrong information. Anyway, the Romans certainly did not use the term BC which is freely used here. And these are not the only cases. It would have been nice if the Colosseum were also given its proper name for example, the Flavian Amphitheater. It is surprising to see Diocletian criticized for dividing the empire as this is not universally considered harmful by historians. And so on. I'm not entirely sure I agree with the ordering of the book either. Initially it goes in chronological order and then this is totally abandoned as one skips ahead to Constantine, then back to Vespasian, forward to Hadrian, etc. Overall, the book is worth buying, but an annotated guide to go with it would be quite helpful.

I liked this book and think kids will have fun with it. It contains very good information, much of it I didn't know and tells it in a fun way. It makes Roman History come alive and not be so distant.

This book imitates the typical newspaper format. An index indicates the various events that were pivotal for the development of Roman culture and government. The events portion is set up chronologically, but the other sections cover societal topics such as sports, political life, women's pages, food pages. The graphics are colorful and include illustrations, charts, and maps in imitation of modern newspapers and magazines. It was interesting to us and it is our belief that the similarity to modern print media will intrigue students.

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