

Synopsis

Heroes, traitors, and great thinkers come to life in this activity book, and the concepts of freedom and democracy are celebrated in true accounts of the distinguished officers, wise delegates, rugged riflemen, and hardworking farm wives and children who created the new nation. This collection tells the story of the Revolution, from the hated Stamp Act and the Boston Tea Party to the British surrender at Yorktown and the creation of the United States Constitution. All American students are required to study the Revolution and the Constitution, and these 21 activities make it fun and memorable. Kids create a fringed hunting shirt and a tricorne hat and reenact the Battle of Cowpens. They will learn how to make their voices heard in "I Protest" and how Congress works in "There Ought to Be a Law." A final selection including the Declaration of Independence, a glossary, biographies, and pertinent Web sites makes this book a valuable resource for both students and teachers.

Book Information

Series: For Kids series

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6-Joining the ranks of those books recently published that combine history with crafts and hands-on activities, Herbert's book is one of the best of its kind. Reading it and doing some of the activities, or even just reading the activity directions, brings the character of this period into focus.

Achieving a good balance between textual material, illustration, and projects, the book immerses children in the milieu of these years. The text discusses in detail the causes of the Revolution, the personalities involved, the formation of the new national government, and life in 18th-century America. The activities cover every aspect of revolutionary life, from making clothing, brewing root beer, and coding messages to battle reenactment, games, and dancing the minuet. The directions are detailed enough and adequately illustrated with pencil drawings to make them exciting and easy to follow. Short biographical sketches and portraits bring to life the notable people of the period, both male and female, European and American, and black and white. Numerous sidebars, such as the one analyzing the song "Yankee Doodle," add to the interesting details. Full-page art, as well as smaller illustrations, depict the battle scenes, people, and clothing of the day. The appendix includes the full text of the Declaration of Independence, four pages of thumbnail biographies, Revolutionary War sites to visit, and major Web sites. Whether they are studying the Revolution and need a project idea or are personally curious about this country's origins, children will be fascinated by the scope and detail of this book. Lynda Ritterman, Atco Elementary School, Waterford, NJ
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Gr. 5-8. In a series of brief articles, this appealing book traces the colonists' struggle for independence beginning with initial rebellions against taxation by George III and concluding with the Continental Congress' ratification of the Constitution. Copious photos and biographical sidebars add dimension to the chronologically recorded events. Besides highlighting major historical figures, the biographical entries supply information about groups of unsung heroes, including women, blacks, and frontier warriors. Sidebars introduce related items of cultural and historical significance--the Liberty Bell, Thomas Paine's "Common Sense," and The Electoral College. The book also includes activities, clearly meant for a classroom setting (supervised by an adult), that add a cross-curricular element to the text. From brewing root beer and dancing a minuet to creating rebuses and compiling a community almanac, the 21 projects give young people a hands-on view of colonial life. A time line, a glossary, annotated biographical lists, and a list of Web sites are among appended materials. Roger Leslie
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I use this as additional information in our home school history program. It is interesting enough for my child to read on his own and discuss! He actually asks to work on Social Studies/ history due to this book. Thank you!

Absolutely fantastic book for middle school kids. The experiments are fun and educational. The text is very informative and isn't boring or dull. I'm really glad we read this one before the book on Einstein which... was not fun at all. I highly recommend this book if you're homeschooling or just want to do a unit study on the American Revolution.

A great book for kids who are learning our history in school. It is simply written with just enough information to keep them interested and excited about learning more about our nation. The grandkids (ages 6 to 11) love it!

Great book for our homeschool unit on the American Revolution, lots of info in a kid friendly manner. Perfect for my fifth grader but equally interesting for my kindergartener and first grader!

I bought this book for my 9-year old grandson for his birthday. Kevin wants to be a historian. He absolutely loves everything about this book. On a recent trip to Williamsburg, VA he spouted continuous facts about the Revolutionary War.

Wonderful resource for 5th Grade Social Studies

cool activities! great way to learn together!

good to have

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