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The Parthenon: The Height Of Greek Civilization (Wonders Of The World Book)



Synopsis

The story of an inspired building and an inspirational civilization. The Parthenon is more than a magnificent building. Every marble statue, every graceful column, is an expression of a civilization whose three great values still speak to us today: Democracy. At a time of godlike rulers, ordinary citizens voted to build the Parthenon. Humanism. The Parthenon's art honored Athens' water carriers as well as its gods. Balance. The Parthenon's aesthetic brought lightness and grace to height and mass. The Parthenon tells of the rise of Athens -- from the religion that nurtured it, through the wars that tested it, to the democracy that ennobled it -culminating in the construction of the great temple on the Acropolis. The book not only captures the human stories, but also vividly illustrates the technical details behind the construction, from quarrying of the marbles to carving of the exquisite frieze. To look at the Parthenon is to see Athens. To see Athens, is to see ourselves.

Wonders of the World series The winner of numerous awards, this series is renowned for Elizabeth Mann's ability to convey adventure and excitement while revealing technical information in engaging and easily understood language. The illustrations are lavishly realistic and accurate in detail but do not ignore the human element. Outstanding in the genre, these books are sure to bring even the most indifferent young reader into the worlds of history, geography, and architecture. "One of the ten best non-fiction series for young readers." - Booklist

Book Information

Series: Wonders of the World Book

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Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 8

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6 This visually appealing introduction to the Parthenon also explores the intriguing historical and societal factors that played key roles in its creation. The first half sets the stage, describing the rise of Athens in clear and lively prose. After Pericles convinces the citizens to build a new temple for Athena, the narrative's focus shifts to the actual construction. Full-color paintings show the components of the building with just enough detail. An impressive four-page foldout spread conveys the majesty of the temple and identifies neatly labeled specific components. The illustrations are nicely complemented by black-and-white photographs of some of the temple's remaining sculptures. Descriptions of the architectural challenges presented by the project and of the final artistic accomplishments are very effective. Beyond the architectural information, the author conveys the wide-ranging significance of the building. The Parthenon was an integral part of the city's religion, culture, politics, and even finances, and bringing out these impacts provides readers with a strong feel for the golden age of Athens. Steven Engelfried, Beaverton City Library, OR
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From the Wonders of the World Books series, this informative volume introduces the history of ancient Athens culminating in the building of the Parthenon. Constructed in 15 years under the leadership of Pericles and completed in 432 BCE, the structure honored Athena, whose previous temple on the Acropolis had been destroyed during the Persian Wars. The well-researched and clearly written text discusses Athenian history and culture and the engineering techniques that made the building of the Parthenon possible, the artistic knowledge and sensibility that made the temple beautiful, and the human effort that made it an apt expression of the Greeks' democracy as well as their religious beliefs. The color illustrations include an excellent map of Greece, photos of artifacts and sculptures, and many clearly delineated, large-scale paintings depicting the scenes from ancient Athens and the building of the Acropolis, including an impressive double-wide foldout spread of the temple under construction and its surroundings. A short glossary and a bibliography are appended. Carolyn Phelan
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This book is beautifully done with vivid color photographs and layouts. It would be an excellent book for the visuals alone, but it is also clearly written and introduces the history of it in a way that would interest teens and other budding history fans.

Great book love the pics

Beautifully expanded narrative and illustrated, not just plans and drawings. An excellent addition to MacCawley's architecture drawings and construction methods.

bought for my grandson-13- he was very pleased. excellent designs.

A well-written slice of Greek history, the book begins with a history of Greek gods pertaining to Athena's birth and the establishment of the city of Athens (the Parthenon was Athena's temple). The writing is clear and interesting, and unfamiliar terms are explained seamlessly within the text. Large colorful illustrations (equally as interesting as the text) depict succinctly what the reader is trying to imagine. A center spread includes a double foldout of late stage construction of the Parthenon, and areas are labeled for identification. You will soon understand the difference between metopes and statues! The endpapers are attractive with a delft blue inclusive world map. A timeline, "Parthenon Facts", Parthenon Glossary", Bibliography and "Useful Websites" are helpful for quick reference. Otherwise, get comfy and enjoy this fine story of the people whose fundamental ideas and changing mindset shaped the modern world.

It is a difficult task to introduce Ancient Greece to young children. Most books overwhelm them with too much disparate information. Elizabeth Mann has a great solution to the overload problem by concentrating on one building, The Parthenon. By focusing on one discrete structure, she can introduce children to Greek mythology, history, art and architecture in a more directed fashion. I am a great fan and collector of ancient history books for children. Elizabeth Mann's "Wonders of the World Books" are some of the best history books available for children. Her books contain that wonderful mix of history combined with art and architecture. They are a real pleasure and I look forward to reading the entire series. Highly recommended.

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