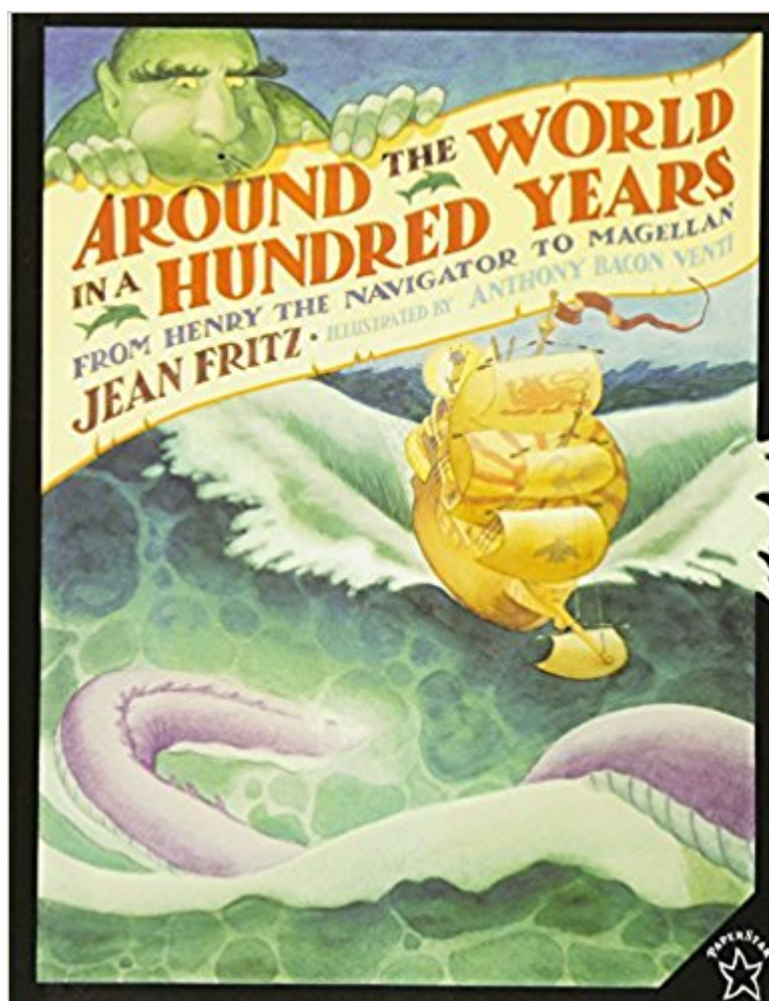


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Around The World In A Hundred Years: From Henry The Navigator To Magellan



Synopsis

Newbery-Honor winning author, Jean Fritz, brings history to life once again in 10 true tales of 15th-century European explorers! True tales of our world's greatest 15th century explorers, from Bartholomew Diaz and Christopher Columbus to Juan Ponce de Leon and Vasco Nunez de Balboa, are fascinatingly portrayed, complimented with the softly shaded pencil illustrations of Anthony Bacon Venti. Readers are led through a one-hundred-year period when Europeans explored the world and mapped the globe, while selfishly feeding their own curiosity and greed along the way. Fritz includes astounding details, which provide young readers with an expanded understanding of events and the idiosyncrasies of these colorful characters. Venti's maps clarify the explorers' routes. Count on Jean Fritz to breathe life into these true tales of the Old World's fifteen most extraordinary explorers. It is history written in a refreshingly new way. "While presenting the salient facts, Fritz approaches them with playful irreverence; accordingly, the frequently traveled material can seem refreshingly new."--Publisher's Weekly

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Noted biographer and historian Fritz (Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt) offers a wickedly funny look at 10 explorers who, between 1421 and 1522, ventured into what contemporaneous mapmakers

called the Unknown. While presenting the salient facts, Fritz approaches them with playful irreverence; accordingly, the frequently traveled material can seem refreshingly new. Discussing Amerigo Vespucci, she writes, "Some give him credit for recognizing a continent when he saw one. Others call him an out-and-out faker." This tone proves especially effective when Fritz addresses such problematic issues as the treatment of native people and the often accidental nature of many of the discoveries. Reflecting the humor of Fritz's text, Venti's lighthearted black-and-white drawings use subtle strokes, as in a picture of Balboa, heavily in debt, stowed away on a ship and peering out from the barrel he'd hidden inside. Readable, attractive maps begin each chapter, providing useful visual references for each voyager's route. Ages 7-11. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Grade 4-7-A look at "the first great wave of European exploration" (1421-1522) through brief portraits of various participants. Fritz does many things well here. She writes with ease and humor, including details that add color and humanity to historical figures, and skillfully incorporates research into her narrative. She presents the heroic aspects of the voyages, as well as evidence of the arrogance, cruelty, and greed many of these men displayed. Despite all the good attributes, the book suffers because of the complexity of the subject matter. By including so many different individuals, the issue becomes complicated; after a while, the Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese names start to run together. Some of the men's lifetimes and discoveries overlap, which makes it even more difficult to sort out who did what... and when. The illustrations are beautiful, entertaining, Renaissance-inspired pencil drawings. They include many amusing touches, such as the island of Porto Santo being overtaken by rabbits, but because they are in black and white and almost too finely drawn, they do not have a great deal of child appeal. A map at the beginning of each chapter shows the explorer's route. An outline of the continents appears on the end papers, but there aren't enough world maps throughout the book to enable readers to get a more complete picture of how the "discovered" countries fit into the world as a whole. The text is not straightforward enough for reports, but interested readers may enjoy perusing these tales of adventure and scientific discovery. Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

My daughter and I enjoyed this book. We read it as part of the Build Your Library curriculum. It was a fantastic resource we would have read even without it being needed for homeschool.

Extremely disappointing! As other reviewers have mentioned, the book has many inaccuracies throughout. There is an absolute anti-Christian bias, and oversimplification of events described. On page 11 - "Then suddenly, all this wondering and figuring stopped. Christianity was the new religion, fighting for survival, and in A.D. 391 Christians burned the city of Alexandria and it's famous libraries, which contained, along with many ancient treasures of scholarship, the work of Ptolemy. Christians did not believe in scholarship. They thought it was sacrilegious to be curious." This is a gross over simplification of the burning of the library of Alexandria. It is believed to have been burned by several different groups of people over many decades. And it was not simply "the Christians" who are suspected of the attack of the library in A.D. 391, but rather a Christian man, Coptic Pope Theophilus, who may have ordered a portion known as the Serapeum, burned. As far as "Christianity being a new religion, fighting for survival", the author fails to mention that Christians had been severely persecuted from the time of Christ until A.D. 313 when Emperor Constantine ended Christian persecution. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that "Christians did not like scholarship." The author would have been better to state the facts and not assume a motive which cannot be factually substantiated. On page 17 - "Moreover, people in Spain and the countries along the Atlantic seaboard were feeling hemmed in by the Muslim world which almost surrounded them. They felt threatened by people who had a different religion and customs." This is a gross misrepresentation of events, as the Christians lived in Europe for centuries before the Muslims overtook them by force and the sword, beheading anyone who would not agree to follow their religion. Is this what Jean Fritz refers to as "feeling hemmed in"? Page 20 - "Christians never forgot that they wanted to make the whole world Christian, so of course they considered any war against the Muslims a Holy War and anyone who led it was a hero." The context of this statement was after the Muslim "Holy war" on Christians, and the taking of their land, but yet, this fact is never mentioned in the book. When European slavery is discussed on page 29, the book states, "This was not done peacefully. Force was the only way to do it. But if Prince Henry regretted this, he probably comforted himself that he was "saving souls" by having the natives baptized." Again, the use of the word "probably" here alludes to the author's use of unsubstantiated assumption. Also on page 20, "Europeans took for granted that other people were inferior because they were different, and so Europeans believed (or persuaded themselves) that they could use natives in whatever way that suited them. Once European curiosity was unleashed on the world, so was their cruelty, arrogance and greed." Again, gross assumption of motive and inaccurate and selective use of facts. Cruelty, arrogance, and greed have endured on the earth for all of recorded history, and slavery has existed in nearly every culture and civilization in history as well. I give this book only one star for its gross

assumption of motive, inaccurate information, and selective use of facts. Shame on Scholastic for publishing such rubbish! I will not be using this book with my students.

While I was a bit uncomfortable with the book's first chapter or so (due to Jean's presentation of some material), overall this book was good. It gives a decent snapshot of the major explorers from Marco Polo onward for 100 years.

I know there is a story behind the story, for every story. This takes some getting through, since it is the story of several people. It is well worth the time and the dime.

A must have for home schoolers! Thanks for helping make home schooling our three kids affordable. Great buy! We have already finished this book and are looking forward to buying additional ones from you~

I haven't read more than a couple chapters but what I did read was too anti-catholic for me. We scrapped the book. Wish I hadn't wasted my money on that one!

I rely on Jean Fritz -- I like her style from little-kid biographies (And then what happened, Paul Revere?) to big-kid biographies (Why Not, Lafayette? or Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?) I was tremendously excited to read this book, but what a disappointment. Jean Fritz often has an undertone of irony in her books (which we applaud *and* enjoy), but this book is sarcasm-unleashed. The tone of the book is unpleasantly snarky. It is inappropriate for my kids... I wanted an instructive and entertaining book, not a soliloquy founded on Jean Fritz's simmering hostility to Western civilization. Only the excellent illustrations save it from a one-star rating. Instead of this book, try Marc Aronson's book "The World Made New."  The World Made New: Why the Age of Exploration Happened and How It Changed the World (Timelines of American History)

I have read several of the Jean Fritz books before and was always pleased with the content. However, this one was an unpleasant surprise. There were many far reaching assumptions made in the historical accounts. I went back and re-read some of her previous books to look for a similar pattern of bias. This book left me wondering if Ms. Fritz actually wrote it or if it was just published with her name. I'm not going to discard the book but incorporate it as part of our Logic and

reasoning class to sharpen my students skills of discerning fact vs. opinion/conjecture. Use your Thinking Tool Box!

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