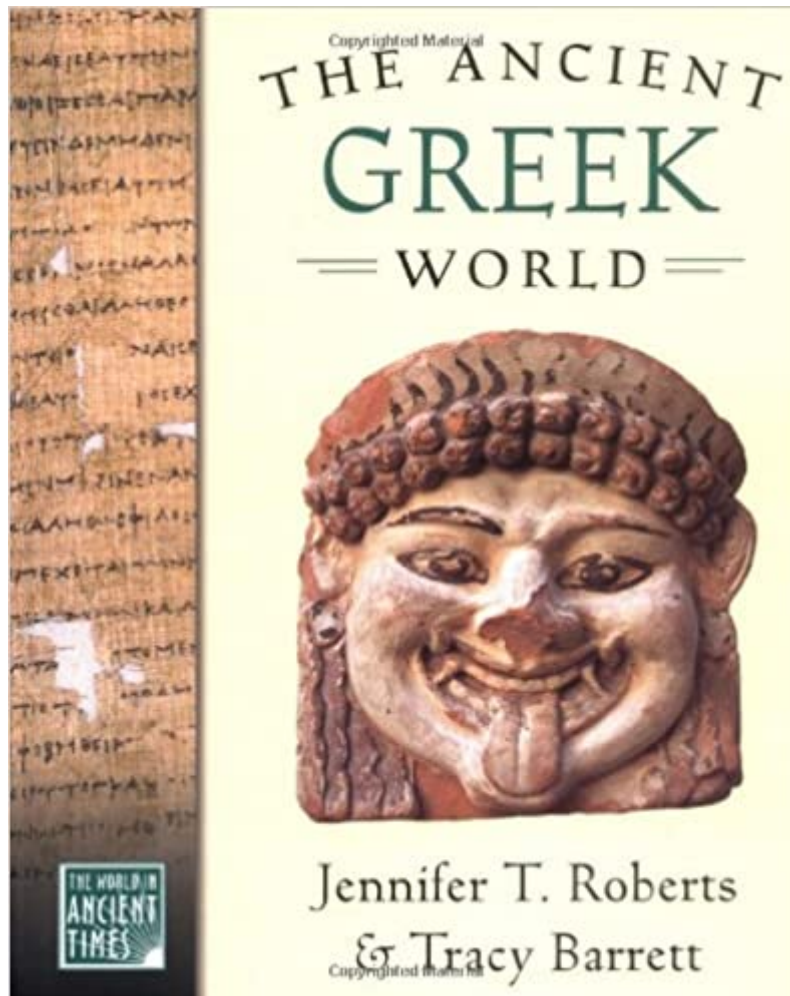




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The Ancient Greek World (The World In Ancient Times)



Synopsis

Jennifer Roberts and Tracy Barrett bring together their respective mastery of scholarship and storytelling to tell the history of a place, a people, and a culture that has left some of the most beautiful art, the greatest stories, and the most magnificent cities and buildings that the world has ever known. *The Ancient Greek World* uses primary sources such as Homer's *Odyssey*, Herodotus' *Histories*, a Minoan drinking cup, and a child's grave epitaph to present a balanced and lively narrative history of ancient Greece. A chronology, cast of characters, maps, pronunciation table, further reading, and index supplement the main text.

Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 15 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10—A thoroughly researched political and cultural history. The writing is lively, often using humorous titles for chapters and sidebars: "Always Look a Gift Horse in the Belly: The Trojan War," "Everybody's Got a Sore Spot" (referring to Achilles). Extensive quotes from primary sources, attractive page layouts, numerous good-quality color photographs of ruins and artifacts, plus the infusion of humor make for a palatable, solid resource for any collection. Included are a time line, a lengthy list for further reading, and Web sites—few are not readily accessible, unfortunately, but those that are, are very useful.

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"A thoroughly researched political and cultural history. The writing is lively, often using humorous titles for chapters and sidebars: Always Look a Gift Horse in the Belly: The Trojan War, Everybodys Got a Sore Spot (referring to Achilles). Extensive quotes from primary sources, attractive page layouts, numerous good-quality color photographs of ruins and artifacts, plus the infusion of humor make for a palatable, solid resource for any collection. Included are a time line, a lengthy list for further reading, and Web sites." -- School Library Journal, August 2004

"In the wake of Joy Hakim's fabulous A History of US, the publishers are pairing historians and novelists for similarly readable, meaty tours of more ancient cultures. Here, paying particular attention to the roles of women and repeatedly noting that the cultural and economic achievements of the Greek citystates rested solidly on the backs of farmers and slaves, the authors trace the rise and fall of Crete, Mycenae, Classical Greece, and Alexander's empire, interspersing topical chapters, illuminating side notes, and even an interview with a working archaeologist. Photos of artifacts and ruins, plus an admixture of carefully identified Renaissance art, support it all nicely....For clarity, scholarship, and readability, it rises easily past the general run of assignment titles." -- Kirkus Reviews

"With the continuing discoveries of archaeologists and researchers, history is constantly changing...and so is learning about history thanks to this series." --Growing Minds

"For fans of Joy Hakim's wonderful History of US series, Oxford University Press is publishing The World in Ancient Times, the multi-volume world history equivalent....This series is a great idea." -- Home Education

This is a great introduction to Greek history for students grades 5-7 in my opinion. It should be used in conjunction with the student guide to get the most out of it. It is sprinkled with primary sources and good vocabulary resources. It is anecdotal and brief, but the cast of characters and timeline in the book are a great jumping off point for exploration in other sources. The fact that it is anecdotal helps in the practice of critical thinking. It is a wonderful way to continue the discussion of fact vs opinion in the older grades.

Though this book was good in a lot of ways, it was not as complete as I had hoped it would. It covered a lot of the territory that my other books covered but I was looking for more information on the Hellenistic World which was influenced and as important as the Classical Period of Greece. That was covered, but I felt like I was reading a Reader's Digest of their times and culture. For those that are just beginning to explore the Ancient World of the Mediterranean, it is good, but does not hold

much for someone like me that has more scholarly interests in mind.

Assigned summer reading is usually crap but this was informative and actually held my attention better than the other summer reading book "The Chosen"(Chaim Potok)

My daughter was lost reading this book for school

fine

I give my granddaughters Barbie dolls for their fun and collection. When I give them I like to provide some background information. This book accompanied Barbie as a Greek Goddess. The pictures provided the most informative fun for them. We had read some Greek myths with good illustrations before we looked at the artifacts and ruins. All in all it was a good experience. I think I probably liked this book more than they did. But I will say that there were a lot of facts and artifacts. For the older child, 13 and up, probably more of an interest.

These textbooks have been purchased for 7th grade class in the school where I teach. As a teacher of the ancient history course, I have been very disappointed by the lack of depth in the information presented for students of this age group. I can't begin to imagine using this textbook for tenth grade students, as recommended by the Library Journal in the book description. I think that the reading level is quite simple and possibly below junior high level. Although it grasps the students attention and they enjoy reading it, I find this is because most of the information given is anecdotal rather than providing information that provides a comprehensive view of the ancient world. I am not able to use this textbook as the framework for our study of ancient history. I need to supplement the information with notes from a more complete source of the historical story of the ancient world. Rather than expecting this book to be the backbone of our ancient history study, I think it is more appropriate as a supplementary source.

This book in general was a good read (or listen) with a few annoying foibles. Chief in my concern is the myopic view of history in perceiving it through our postmodern lenses. Writing this book with less irony, and tedious comments, about women's rights, evils of slavery, and preconceptions of their science, etcetera. It would have been a good change her editors should have made. The author picks and chooses which moral indignation to comment on in an obvious

feminist fashion. For instance: her repeated comments about the lack of documents regarding women in antiquity and how they were relegated to a lower class is quite annoying. And then followed with the rather apologetic comments on infanticide in ancient Greece make you wonder why the author insisted on making a political-moral statements. Minus those obvious biases and inconsistencies, it would be a good read for anyone 7th or 8th grade up.

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