



A History of Just About Everything: 180 Events, People and Inventions That Changed the World

By Elizabeth MacLeod, Frieda Wishinsky

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This fascinating, chronological "walk through history" offers a unique perspective by providing context and connections "to show how we are all part of, and linked to, the past, the present and the future." From the first appearance of humans six million years ago up to the modern day, 180 extensively researched and fact-checked entries describe world-changing events and people through time. The topics covered include scientific discoveries; revolutions (political, industrial and scientific); natural and human-made disasters; important books, plays and art; and the people behind it all. Fully illustrated and written in an engaging, accessible, quick-moving style, the entries capture the essence of what makes each subject noteworthy and why it mattered at the time as well as today. "Learning about history makes you realize that what happens in one place and time can spill over to another," the authors write. "Each event creates a ripple effect. Sometimes we don't know what the ripple will be till years later." They flesh out this cause-and-effect concept in numerous cross-references to other related entries in the book, and in special "Ripples" boxes that further explore the future impacts of the event. Besides the table of contents, which can function also as a time line, the book contains a separate at-a-glance time line broken down by subject, a particularly helpful resource for social studies lessons, and an extensive index. This essential, thorough, one-stop history sourcebook is sure to find continuous use in the classroom or library.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-6—This book's time line encompasses a lot of history, 6,000,000 BCE through 2011 (and beyond), and the 120-odd pages do a great job of briefly introducing 180 important historical events. Touching on landmark events (first humans appear, fire is discovered, language and farming are developed, the wheel is invented, Hitler's rise, the Moon landing, the collapse of communism in Europe, 9/11), this is a good place to start when introducing world history to young students. Cartoon illustrations are a softly hued and slightly humorous distraction at times, but more often they help to clarify the text. Colored sidebars titled "Ripples" offer further information or explication. For example, while readers learn about the Magna Carta, the side box explains that King John had no intention of honoring this agreement, but that it "changed England and much of the world forever." A handy chronology divided by subject areas and a complete index round out the presentation. Compact and surprisingly complete, this volume is a superb introduction.—Anne Chapman Callaghan, Racine Public Library (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

This heavily illustrated title takes readers on a whirlwind tour through historical milestones. The entries range in length; some are brief, taking less than a quarter-page, while more significant ones, such as the rise of the Roman Empire, cover a page. Perhaps the most intriguing additions to many entries are text boxes that show each item's long-lasting impact on history. The appealing format of the book lends to the readability. Arranged chronologically, the entries set off the approximate time or exact year and the titles in large, bold font; wavy lines separate entries or text boxes; and Leng's numerous colored illustrations enliven the text. A time line categorizing the items by heading ("Inventions & Discoveries"; "Science, Mathematics & Medicine"; "Arts, Architecture & Language"; "History, Politics & Religion") places each invention, person, or event in a concise historical context. The detailed index is a useful addition for this title, which will find wide curricular appeal. Grades 4-8. --J. B. Petty

Review

Compact and surprisingly complete, this volume is a superb introduction. *School Library Journal*

This heavily illustrated title takes readers on a whirlwind tour through historical milestones. *Booklist*

The book is easy to navigate and includes fun, colourful illustrations. *Quill & Quire*

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