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World War I For Kids: A History With 21 Activities (For Kids Series)



Synopsis

One hundred years after the start of the “Great War,” World War I for Kids provides an intriguing and comprehensive look at this defining conflict that involved all of the world’s superpowers. Why and how did the war come about? What was daily life like for soldiers in the trenches? What roles did zeppelins, barbed wire, and the passenger ship Lusitania play in the war? Who were Kaiser Wilhelm, the Red Baron, and Edith Cavell? Young history buffs will learn the answers these questions and many others, including why the western front bogged down into a long stalemate; how the war ushered in an era of rapid military, technological, and societal advances; and how the United States’ entry helped end the war. Far from a dry catalog of names, dates, and battles, this richly illustrated book goes in depth into such fascinating topics as turn-of-the-20th-century weaponry and the important roles animals played in the war, and explains connections among events and how the war changed the course of history. Hands-on activities illuminate both the war and the times. Kids can:

- Make a periscope
- Teach a dog to carry messages
- Make a parachute
- Learn a popular World War I song
- Cook Maconochie Stew
- And much more

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1210 (What’s this?)

Series: For Kids series

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press (April 1, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 11.2 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #67,500 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > Modern #32 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe #36 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference >

History > Military & Wars

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 4— In the introduction, the author explains that when studying wars, looking at winners and losers is less crucial than examining the overall effects. This book does so in an organized, thorough, and accessible fashion. It also covers causes, public reaction, war tactics, animals on the battlefield, the role of women and African Americans, the daily life of soldiers, and more. Occasional sidebars highlight tangential information, such as an excerpt from a soldier's letter, a mini-bio of nurse Edith Cavell, and so on. Though there are a variety of related activities described (training a dog to carry messages, making a model gas mask out of cardboard and bubble wrap, reading a World War I-era adventure novel), they are questionable in their educational usefulness, feasibility, or desirability. Throughout, readers will find a plethora of black-and-white archival photographs reflecting the diverse aspects of World War I: battles at sea, in the air, and on the ground; soldiers in trenches; key military men and politicians; and so on. The gruesome nature of a few of the images might be tough viewing for some young readers, such as a photo depicting a dead soldier tangled up in a barbed wire trap. An engaging start for students learning about World War I.—Jennifer Prince, Buncombe County Public Libraries, NC

From the History with 21 Activities series, this wide-format book presents WWI. Rasmussen offers a good overview of the war, a vivid picture of daily life in the trenches, and many examples of how technology changed warfare between 1914 and 1918. Even students who are unenthusiastic about warfare will find themselves intrigued by chapters such as “Animals Go to War,” which spotlights the roles of horses, dogs, and carrier pigeons. In addition to columns of text, the pages also carry sidebars, captioned black-and-white photos, and activities such as “Train a Dog to Carry a Message” and “Make a Model Gas Mask.” While the reading level will be challenging for many middle-school students, those in high school may be put off by the word kids in the title. Still, this makes a useful addition to many collections, and a particularly interesting feature in the back matter is a list of WWI films, from Charlie Chaplin's silent *Shoulder Arms* to the recent *War Horse*. Grades 6-9. --Carolyn Phelan

I was looking for a companion to Susan Wise Bauer's "Story of the World" series to help expand our

study of World War I. Not only is this a fantastic resource for projects, but the text will be a valuable addition to our reading. What a fantastic book!

This book series makes history interesting for children. It takes the horrors of war and puts it on a child's level, teaching them what happened in the war and why we had the war, and what happened to end the war.

I cannot wait to use this with my students next year.

My son loves these books. I love having a textbook aimed at kids.

Very nice book

Good information

very happy

A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com: 'Rasmussen, who has written or edited several books, including Mark Twain for Kids, gives us a very good, well-illustrated introductory work for young readers. He offers a credible outline history of the war in a dozen chapters. Chapters give an even-handed look at the origins of the war, campaigns on various fronts (albeit with the customary biases of English language works), the nature of war on land, at sea, and in the air, the role of animals, the Home Fronts, the U.S. and the War, the end of the conflict, and its consequences. Each chapter includes one or two hands-on activities, such as writing a poem, making a tube periscope or a parachute, cooking Macoochie stew, and even "Search for a Convoy". Rasmussen uses text, maps, side bars, pictures, and more to tell the story of the war, including the death and destruction. While given its nature, it must omit a great deal, this is nevertheless an excellent work.' For the full review, see StrategyPage

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