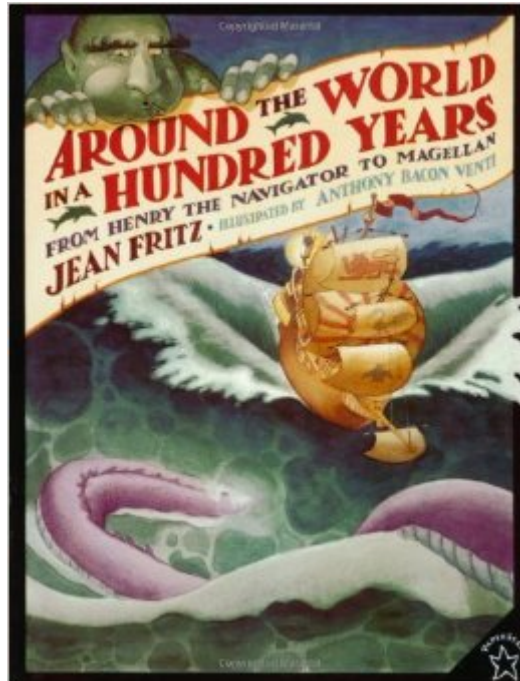


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Around The World In A Hundred Years: From Henry The Navigator To Magellan



Synopsis

Jean Fritz brings history to life once again in 10 true tales of 15th-century European explorers—from Bartholomew Diaz and Christopher Columbus to Juan Ponce de Leon and Vasco Nuñez de Balboa—who changed the map and left behind stories of adventure too good to miss. Fritz approaches the salient facts with playful irreverence; accordingly, the frequently traveled material can seem refreshingly new. Publishers Weekly, starred review. Fritz turns in a fast-paced narrative enriched and enlivened by fascinating stories and details of the sort that rarely appear in standard textbooks. Kirkus Reviews, pointer review. No one is better than Jean Fritz at making history interesting as well as comprehensible. The Horn Book. Jean Fritz lives in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Anthony Bacon Venti lives in Rockland, Maine.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I am trying to make a decision as to whether to use this book or not, for homeschool. The first time around, I was "taken" by the fun and interesting way things were presented, and appreciated the uncomfortable truths that I was not taught in school. When it spoke of "Christians" this, that, and the other - I was not so much bothered because Christians have not been perfect over the centuries. Far from it. As I read my bible, we see that some of the greatest bible heroes had huge blights on their lives. But we learn from that. For example, David's affair. But we see that he was held

accountable, and we see His turning back to God. We see that men fail, but God is redemptive, and Sovereign. So I am not afraid to look at the failings of Christianity, however, this book goes beyond that. In it I see overstatement, bias, and inaccuracies as a result of that bias. I took it out of our library to re-read to my children. They were really too young last time, and are at just the right age now. I got on here and began reading some of the reviews, and looking up some of the excerpts in the book. As I began to review these excerpts, I saw them in a different light. Discomfort I can handle when it deals in truth, but this was more. I began to see gross overstatements. When I researched "Christians burning the library at Alexandria," and found that to be totally inaccurate, it caused me to question how well researched this book was. I do not want to read a book to my children and constantly wonder if it is even accurate. It seems to me that the irresponsibility comes in with the author's own bias. The book needs to be rewritten, facts rechecked beforehand. Jean Fritz is a great writer, which is why I gave it two stars, but I don't trust her research now.

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 its 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 oversimplification 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.

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