Mullenbach, Cheryl

The Industrial Revolution for Kids: The People and Technology that Changed the World, with 21 Activities
2014. 32pp. $16.95 pbk. Chicago Review Press. 978-1-61374-690-5. Grades 5-8

From sweatshops, tenements, and meatpacking plants to the racism faced by new immigrants, this title offers an unvarnished look at the Industrial Revolution that readers are not likely to find in history textbooks. While well-known figures such as Andrew Carnegie and J.D. Rockefeller are noted, much of the book emphasizes the lives of ordinary workers. Photographs and illustrations appear in each chapter along with activities that students can try at home. Source notes provide evidence of the author’s research, and a timeline at the book’s beginning offers a quick reference. Though some unfamiliar vocabulary is defined in the text, the inclusion of a glossary would have been helpful. Librarians would do well to include this book in their collections as a curricular supplement or a resource for student research. Bibliography. Danielle E. Forest, Assistant Professor of Elementary Education/Literacy, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi [Editor’s Note: Available in e-book format.]

RECOMMENDED

O’Brien, Cynthia

Explore with Samuel de Champlain
2014. 32pp. $27.60 hc. Crabtree Publishing Company. 978-0-7787-1256-5. Grades 2-4

This title tells the story of explorer, mapmaker, and navigator Samuel de Champlain and his travels. He became known as the “Father of New France” because of his exploration and settlement in Acadia and his founding of New France and Quebec City. Fact boxes contain historical and interesting information. The color photographs and notes are so interesting that before I read the book I found myself engrossed in them. A map is included to give readers a very clear picture of the St. Lawrence River and the North American coast. Another section of interest includes people who helped Champlain realize his ambition. Other topics covered include the use of astronomy, math, charts, and instruments; his relationship with the Huron and Algonquin First Nations; and farming. This book would be a wonderful first book for learning about explorers. Bibliography. Glossary. Timeline. Websites. Table of Contents. Index. Sue N. Howard, Educational Reviewer, Memphis, Tennessee [Editor’s Note: Available in e-book format and paperback.]

RECOMMENDED

Thompson, Ben

Guts & Glory: The American Civil War

Clearly a Civil War devotee, Thompson approaches the topic with a great deal of enthusiasm and gusto, much of which overshoots the target. His homespun vernacular and colloquial phrases sometimes make the narrative difficult to follow. The book makes good use of photos, sketches, and sidebars as well as factoids about lesser known regiments, heroes, leaders, and spies. For a quick, breezy read about the war, or for fans of the Civil War who may be reluctant readers, this might be a good choice. Bibliography. Laurie Balderson, English/History Teacher, St. Mark Catholic School, Wilmington, North Carolina [Editor’s Note: Available in e-book format.]

ADDITIONAL SELECTION

What Would You Do?
The Alamo: Would You Join the Fight? 978-0-7660-4226-1
Discovering a New World: Would You Sail with Columbus? 978-0-7660-4222-3

Each book in this series covers an event in United States history, with an introductory chapter that gives background information. At the end of each chapter are questions requiring students to make a decision of “What would you do?” The next chapter tells what really happened. This is a fresh approach to historical events that will engage students. Each book includes illustrations, photos, maps, and fact boxes to complement the text. Many Common Core standards could be addressed with these books. Glossary. Timeline. Index. Renee Byers Gentry, EdS, NBCT Media Specialist, Roaring River (North Carolina) Elementary School

RECOMMENDED