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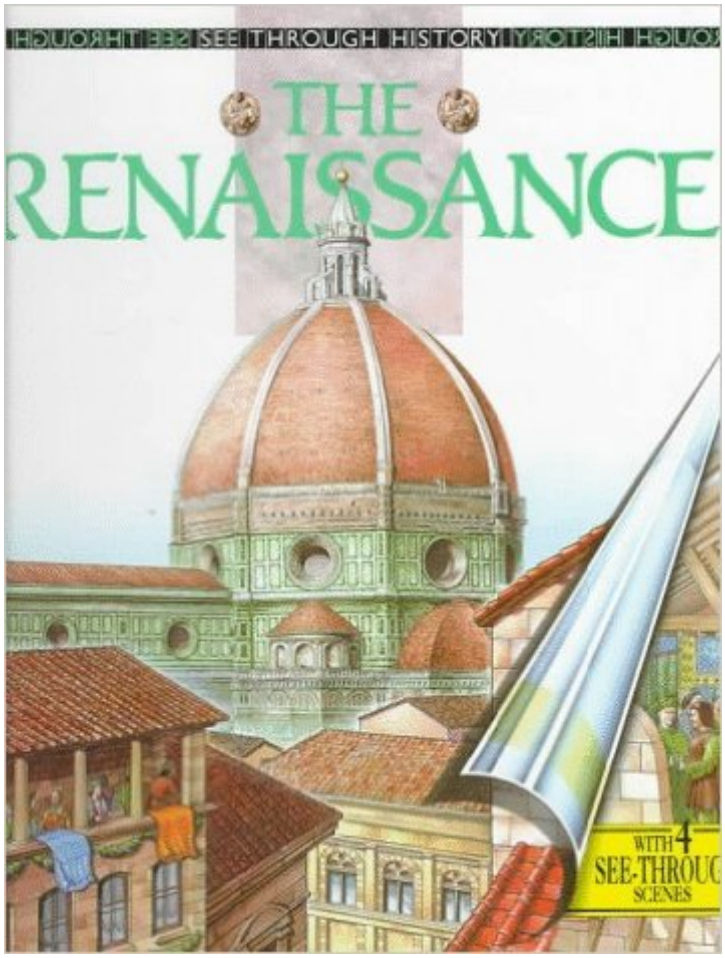
The Renaissance (See Through History)



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Synopsis

Full-color illustrations on acetate can be peeled back to reveal cutaways of the Renaissance interiors of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, a printer’s workshop, a Florentine town house, and Columbus’s Santa Maria.

Book Information

Series: See Through History

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 0.4 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,095,741 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÂ Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > Renaissance #433 inÂ Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe #499 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Renaissance

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

By exploring developments in various fields of study and interest, The Renaissance--part of the See Through History series--presents a broad overview of the events, institutions and technology which shaped its titular era. Proceeding from a brief explanation of the fall of the western Roman Empire and the ensuing Middle Ages, this work addresses a new topic with every opening, breaking each subject down into bold-headed sections, each with a handful of sentences written in a broad informational style. Illustrations are plentiful, and include both representational scenes and contemporary art and maps. Four of the chapters include a full-page illustration of a building with a transparent overlay which reveals the inner structure when the page is turned. Although it is of necessity highly focused on the European experience of the era, and lacks a great deal of analytical depth and detail, this book would make a good introduction to the era for students about to read Machiavelli’sÂ The PrinceÂ or Shakespeare’sÂ The Tragedy of Romeo and JulietÂ orÂ The

Merchant of Venice.

I purchased this book to go with our study of the Renaissance this year. I realize it is intended to be a simple book for children, but don't children deserve an accurate portrayal of the time? I was terribly disappointed to see a number of commonly stated but utterly untrue statements about the middle ages and the Catholic Church throughout the book. The underlying theme here is that the Catholic Church hid knowledge and held back progress. Nothing could be further from the truth. Here are a few of the errors I noticed just going through the book quickly:1. "Many scholars wrongly believed, among other things, that the earth was flat." No one actually believed that by the middle ages according to everything I've read. It's a myth that continues to be believed because it continues to be stated as fact in books like this. Here is some good evidence to the contrary: [...]2. The author states that the Church hid away book in monasteries. Were there books in monasteries? Yes. Was the goal to hide them? Of course not. It was to preserve the knowledge of the ancients and to learn and expand knowledge, which they did. It is true that the vast majority of people who could read were monks and priests, but the idea that the motive was some form of gnosticism is just wrong.3. He states that humanists were at odds with the Church. This was sometimes true but not always and not for the reasons he gives. One of the greatest humanists was St. Thomas More (who is shown in a positive light, to the credit of the author). Note that the same Church that Tim Woods condemns canonized Thomas More.4. He states, "The Church expected everyone to spend his or her time on Earth trying to earn a place in Heaven by obeying God's laws without question." The Church never taught that Christians earn their place in Heaven. The Church did and does teach that one can choose Hell by committing a mortal sin and never repenting of it (that is, choosing to turn utterly against God and knowing it), but it is the free gift of Jesus' death on the Cross that did the earning of Heaven, not anything we can do.5. He states that the work of Copernicus was condemned by the Church, which is not true. Here's an astronomy professor at a university in Ohio explaining it in more detail: [...] Tim Woods makes several errors in regard to Galileo's case as well, which is more complicated but far from as damning of the Church as most make it out to be. Here's a rather long and thorough explanation of Galileo's case: [...]All in all, I was terribly disappointed to read a book so filled with anti-Catholic prejudice and simply repeating without basis the common myths about the relationship between faith and science.

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