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Africa For Kids: Exploring A Vibrant Continent, 19 Activities (For Kids Series)



Synopsis

Africa is brought to life in this imaginative look at the plants, animals, and people that make it such a fascinating continent. Studies of both traditional tribes and modern African cities showcase Africa's diversity, and authentic activities allow kids to dive into the rich culture by making a Maasai bivouac shelter, writing a fable in the African style, working as a field biologist, making a ritual elephant mask, and learning to tie an African Kanga dress. This cross-cultural study also shows kids what challenges Africa faces today while giving them a look at what it is like to live on this interesting continent.

Book Information

Series: For Kids series

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Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #421,989 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #207 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #316 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Travel](#) #5690 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr. 4-7. "Africa is not a jungle of wild animals and wandering tribes of hunter-gatherers." Packed with accurate information, this chatty, authoritative overview confronts primitive stereotypes and speaks to American kids about both the rich diversity and the problems of Africa--past and present, rural and urban. Croze, a world expert on African elephants who lives in Nairobi, Kenya, combines the astonishing history of early civilizations with information about what is happening now, including a look at the exciting wildlife and inspiring leaders, the urgent conservation problem, urban poverty, and the devastating personal experiences of child soldiers and AIDS orphans. The frequent printing

of type on top of geometric designs sometimes makes the words hard to read. That aside, the design encourages browsing; there are lots of color photos and maps accompanying the detailed, hands-on instructions for craft activities, which range from beadwork to recipes. Informal but never condescending, this accessible book provides not only solid fact but also fun. A selected bibliography and lists of additional books and some Web sites are appended. Hazel Rochman
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"Beautifully designed."
•Home Education Magazine
"Fun, vigorous."
•KLIATT
"An in-depth look at indigenous animal behavior."
•Curriculum Review

I work at an African American History Museum, and I purchased this book to include in a traveling trunk that will go out to teachers of all grade levels. Unfortunately, I don't think many teachers will be able to use this book with their students. It's a fantastic resource for information, but is not exactly geared for "kids". It would be wonderful for high school students, as some of the information is a bit advanced for anyone younger than that. If a Boy Scout parent wants to help build a complex project with their child to earn a badge, this is the book you want. But the title is a bit misleading; I'd recommend it only to folks planning to use it with older kids.

I bought this because we were doing a Congo themed VBS, this book gave me some great ideas for activities to do. It also had some great information in it!

Excellent provided; arrived promptly.

Perfect gift for niece Jayla!

Not really what I was hoping it would be...wanted facts over author's opinion.

This book was part of a homeschool curriculum I use for my fourth grade daughter and I found it so informative and insightful that I ended up reading the entire book when she was finished with it. I have never seen a book that was written for kids, yet covered so many sensitive topics so honestly. Yes, there will be many parents who want to protect their children from the knowledge of child slavery, female genital mutilation, and the extreme poverty that is part of Africa today, but I

think many American children can benefit from a healthy dose of reality. Many of the complaints about this book reflect a small portion of the book which is divided into 3 parts: "The African Continent", "African Habitats, Plants, and Animals", and "African People and Places". The text is scattered with interesting and fun projects that cover topics such as music, art, science, and recipes. I cannot recommend this book enough, especially for homeschool families.

This book was included in a home school curriculum and was appalled at what my 9 year old was supposed to read - from female genital mutilation ("of course the girl screams for help, but they do not help her; they hold her down") to facts of child slavery including 'sexual abuse', and life of a street kid, about him getting high on glue and killing his brain cells. That story ends with the phrase "...he may be dead of brain damage or disease before he is 18 or...even killed by the police". A gritty reality that is important to grasp, but not, perhaps, in 4th grade. Another comment about this book is that stories are always broken up by sidebars of an unrelated topic (A section on New Governments broken up by a large illustrated section on how to say 'hello', for instance, and then the next two pages are about Native Art, then, the article on governments continues). So it is a rich book with illustrations, photos, and crafts, but content is for older kids. Also, if you don't like a very busy format with the information chopped up, it may not be your best choice.

As a teacher, I purchased this book for the Hands-on activities. I didn't know it would teach about military training, children forced to kill other children, witnessing children, being hacked to death, beatings, and rape. Why would they mix a children's book designed to offer hands-on "style" of learning with a political agenda designed for High School student or older. Both have their place, but mixed together is a deception.

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