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Oh, Yikes!: History's Grossest Wackiest Moments



Synopsis

Gross is back and viler than ever! From the author of *Oh, Yuck!* the perennial bestseller about science with over 610,000 copies in print, comes *OH, YIKES!*, an illustrated encyclopedia of history's messiest, dumbest, grossest, wackiest, and weirdest moments. If kids think pus and gas are fun, wait until they hear the lowdown on the real Dracula, samurai, gladiators, guillotines and vomitoriums, pirates, Vikings, witch trials, and the world's poxiest plagues. Impeccably researched, deliciously wry, and subversively educational (check out the toilet-paper timeline), *OH, YIKES!* covers people, events, institutions, and really bad ideas, alphabetically from April Fool's Day to zany Zoos. Here are the Aztecs, sacrificing 250,000 people a year for the gods' and for food. Fearsome Attila the Hun, scourge of the steppes whose spinning eyes terrified his friends and whose mastery of horses terrorized his enemies (how does someone so evil die? Nosebleed!). Saur, the 11th-century dog-king of Norway (and not too bad as kings go). Henry VIII and his marital problems, the story of the Abominable Snowman and the Loch Ness Monster, why sailors in the old days preferred eating in the dark (hint: you can't see what's crawling in your food), and the answer to the question, "How did knights in armor go to the bathroom?" • Topped off with hundreds of illustrations and photographs along with hands-on activities that bring the past to life, *OH, YIKES!* puts the juice in history in a way that makes it irresistible.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Customer Reviews

I have translated the book for publishing in another language, so I got a very detailed knowledge of it and double-checked many facts the author uses. I liked the idea of the book - it sells history to kids in a way that certainly will appeal to them. However, it has a number a bloopers and outright flaws. I will list all incorrect data I've encountered, so that you be aware. some of them are trivial factoids, yet others are more serious stuff, in need to be corrected. I have also discovered that some of the passages match corresponding articles in Wikipedia verbatim. Which inspired which I am not sure, but complemented with several horrible mistakes, these coincidences makes me suspicious.- The guy who invented hard hats was E.D. Bullard, not E.W. as the author states.- In chapter on Dracula she incorrectly mentions years of life of Countess Bathory (1560-1613), while all encyclopedias list 1614 as her death year.- in the article on Edison and light bulbs she calls Wilson Swan William.- wrongly says that Joachimsthaler is named after a city in Germany, while that city is/and was/ actually in Czech Republic.- She ridiculously claims that Napoleon's misfortunes in Russia from the onset resulted from cold/frosty weather there. The guy crossed into Russia on June 24th with months of fair weather ahead of him...- She confused German Saxony with British Wessex in chapter on Queens...- Indian Uprising happened in 1857, not in 1875.- In The Titanic drama she touches on the story of The Empress ship, which, she writes, sank a few weeks after The Titanic. Yet it actually sank 2 YEARS after The Titanic's tragedy! Absence of this proximity makes all further musings on the topic irrelevant.

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