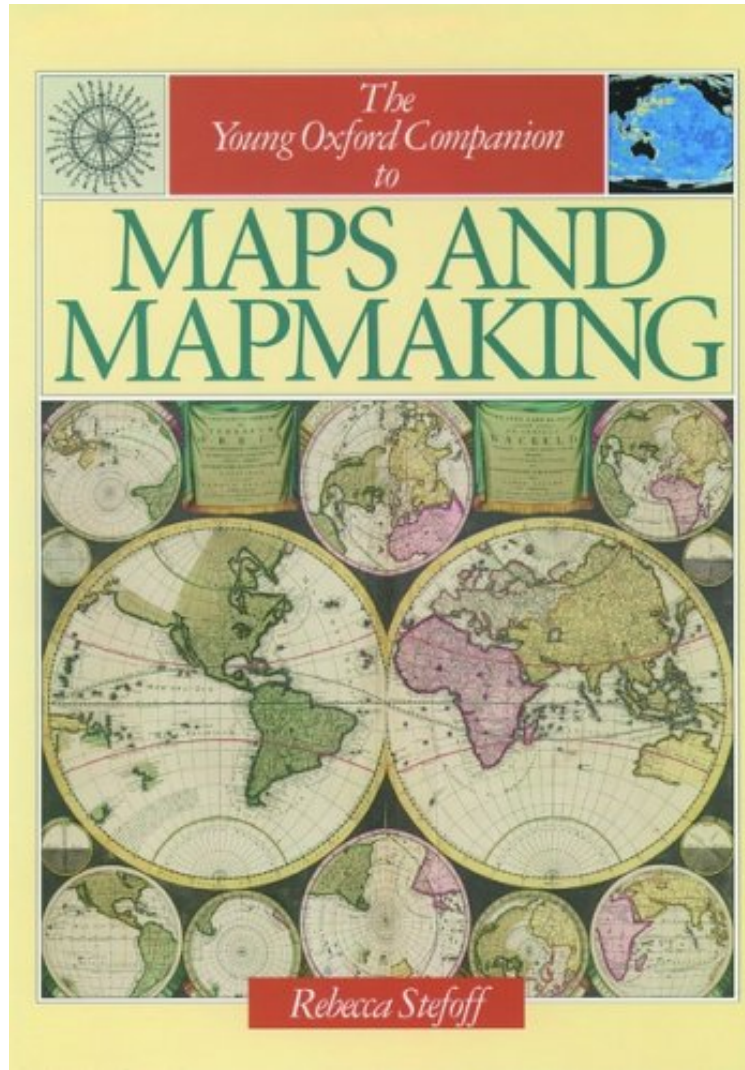


(Download pdf ebook) The Young Oxford Companion to Maps and Mapmaking

The Young Oxford Companion to Maps and Mapmaking

Rebecca Steffoff

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#1790965 in Books 1995-03-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.31 x 1.12 x 8.811, #File Name: 0195080424304 pages | File size: 74.Mb

Rebecca Steffoff : The Young Oxford Companion to Maps and Mapmaking before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Young Oxford Companion to Maps and Mapmaking:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Attractive and UsefulBy A CustomerThis book is one of the Young Oxford Companion series which covers a wide variety of topics. Its 300 pages contain some 350 entries which strive to combine the virtues of a dictionary and an encyclopedia, and produce a cartographic version of a desk encyclopedia for young readers.It is designed for young readers "12 and up." Having bought the book for my own use, I fall into the "and up" category. As someone who reads, writes about, and researches maps, usually in a historic context, I find its alphabetized format useful in spot-checking facts -- much easier than prowling through more linear texts to verify

dates, check definitions, etc. It may be youth-oriented but takes its accuracy very seriously. Its limitations for the adult reader are its strengths for the young reader -- brevity, simplicity, novice level. It is amply illustrated, although I wish it made wider use of color than it does. This work should be very useful in cultivating good research habits in middle school students and belongs in school libraries. Its format is attractive and easy to use. Whether a reader "12 and up" would find it interesting to just pick up and read on its own depends more on him/her than the book. Those already given to dipping into encyclopedia or dictionaries will find it fascinating. Others will be put off by the lack of starting point and continuity. The portion titled "How to Use This Book" is helpful, but a basic essay or outline would help the beginner create a context into which he/she could place the alphabetical fragments. The list of key dates in mapmaking (Appendix One) falls short of this. Having said this, I like the book, would give it to a young student, use it often myself, and wish someone would produce an adult version. If you know someone in its age range who shows a disposition toward geography, get them the book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It's Not Just For Kids! By C. Ryan I love this book! I'm an adult and I have even have a university degree in geography, but I found Maps and Mapmaking so interesting and useful that I bought a copy for myself. It doesn't come across as being written specifically for "young people", but, rather, Ms. Steffoff's writing is just plain straight forward, well crafted and to-the-point (apparently she's not an Academic). This is a great reference source of 1) "mini-biographies" (all most of really want to know) of famous personalities in mapmaking, exploring, etc., 2) explanations of technical mapmaking and geographic terms (bathymetric maps, antipodes, etc) and 3) mini-essays on topics such as the history of mapmaking in Japan. Topping it off, throughout the volume there are well-reproduced illustrations, many in full color, of old map reproductions, technical diagrams, etc. I can't understand why this great book is not sold more widely. It's fun to read through when you first get and then keep as a reference or to share with others. I recommend you buy this book for yourself or for any student who wants to know more about maps and how they can help explore the great world beyond video screens.

In a single volume, here is everything you need to know to read a map, plus information on why maps are created, who created them in the past, who is making maps now, what instruments and techniques are used, and what we can learn from studying them. Over 350 entries, arranged alphabetically and thoroughly cross-referenced, look at the discovery, exploration, and mapping of each region of the world. Profiles of famous explorers and mapmakers are included, and the terminology of cartography is explained in entries throughout. Nautical maps, historical maps, meteorological maps, even mental maps are defined and described in natural and easy-to-understand language, illustrated by photographs, drawings, diagrams, projections, and ancient and modern maps from all over the world. There has never been a book like this one. It links together history, geography, and economics in an entertaining and informative text and serves as a "road map" to further exploration and study. For ages 10-adult cartography, nautical maps, historical maps, meteorological maps, and even mental maps are defined and described in natural and easy-to-understand language. Photographs, drawings, diagrams, projections, and ancient and modern maps illustrate the articles.

From Booklist Maps add to our fascination with exploration and discovery. This encyclopedia of cartography for children ages 12 and up encourages this interest by describing the technical aspects of mapmaking as well as the historical, social, and cultural influences that have shaped its development. Steffoff, author of Oxford's Extraordinary Explorers series and Chelsea House's World Explorer and Places and Peoples of the World series, covers all aspects of maps in essays that range from several sentences to one or two pages. Some articles provide technical information, such as definitions of cartographic and geographic terms (isogram, antipodes), applications of mapmaking techniques (surveying), or types of maps (quadrangle, projection). Others are biographies of mapmakers and geographers (Ptolemy, Mercator Family) or on such broad topics as Islamic Geographers and Mapmakers. Explorers are also included: Ibn Battuta, Roald Amundsen. There are articles on major expeditions, geographic and cartographic organizations, and entries that summarize the exploration and mapping of various regions (Pacific Ocean, Space). Several articles deal with maps of particular historical or social significance. Reading about seventh-century Japanese Gyogi maps, which virtually ignore any area outside Japan, or the Hereford Map, a medieval map that places Jerusalem at the center of the world, reveals how religious and social conventions influenced the way people saw the world. The articles are accompanied by well-chosen illustrations, both black and white and color. One appendix lists important dates in the history of mapmaking. Another provides addresses and brief descriptions of organizations and publications related to maps, and a third provides a guide to map collections all over the world. A bibliography of primarily adult-level resources and a complete index are also provided. This unique reference will attract researchers and browsers alike. Aimed at middle- and high-school students but equally appealing to adults, this new addition to the Young Oxford Companion series (The Congress of the United States, The Presidency of the United States, The Supreme Court of the United States) should prove popular in school and public libraries. "An outstanding reference source that should be in constant use." --San Mateo County Reading Association "Whether you're looking for a clearly written definition of 'latitude' or an informative introduction to Native American mapmakers, this comprehensive and

intriguing encyclopedia of cartography holds the answer.... An invaluable reference."--School Library Journal"Aimed at middle- and high-school students but equally appealing to adults.... Should prove popular in school and public libraries."--Booklist

About the Author
Rebecca Stefoff has written more than 50 books for young adults, specializing in geography and biography. She earned her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania and lives in Portland, Oregon.